

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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POLITICAL CLAP-TRAP

The cheapest and most nauseating kind of political clap-trap imaginable is that now being so freely indulged in by Mr. MacKenzie King and others of his ilk charging the government with extravagances and waste and combines and mergers, in short charging the government with all that is undesirable and burdensome in Canada today. The debt increased by the war to win which we were at the time prepared to sacrifice "the last man and the last dollar." Mr. MacKenzie King attributes to the government, the high prices for the necessities of life, the low prices for agricultural products, the wealth of some, the poverty of others, the railway burden, all these and more Mr. MacKenzie King cheerfully and oratorically jumbles into his kit bag and lays it at the door of the government. And his remedy for all these troubles is to elect him and his varied supporters, to entrust him and them with the administration of the country's affairs.

How many of those who are the ostensible supporters of Mr. MacKenzie King credit him with more honesty, more capacity and more intelligence than Premier Meighen? How many of those who sit at the feet of Mr. MacKenzie King as with torrid eloquence he makes these inane charges and prescribes the remedy, are prepared to entrust him with the destinies of Canada? He admits he is sailing on an "uncharted sea." What right has he to take charge of the ship of state without a chart and at a time like the present?

He has been in parliament for four years as the representative of Prince County. What has he done as a parliamentarian for Canada? What has he done for Prince County? As parliamentarian he has, been noted only for childish tactics which embarrassed his party; as the representative of Prince County he might as well have been representative of the North Pole. And yet he talks of the "extravagance" of the government and promises to amend all ills if given charge! Let Mr. MacKenzie King devote one evening, only one, during his present maritime trip, to telling how he would liquidate the war debt, how he would restore what has been destroyed by the war, how he would adjust the differences between himself and the Liberals who are supposed to be his followers, and he will find willing listeners, perhaps some who would believe him. Till then Canada will continue to pin her faith to one who has already shown his ability to do things.

DAMMING BELLE ISLE.

The proposal to dam the Strait of Belle Isle is again being revived. A syndicate of British capitalists has had a survey made, the cost ascertained and the feasibility of the project proved on paper. The cost is estimated at ten million dollars and the effect, the transformation of the climate of Newfoundland, the maritime Provinces and New England into that of the Carolinas. The dam would be ten miles long and fifty feet wide and would carry a railway connecting Montreal and St. John's, Newfoundland, along the northern side of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The change of climate, say the promoters, is to be effected by diverting the Arctic Current outward along the Atlantic coast from entering the Strait of Belle Isle as at present. That is the claim. Authorities however inform us that the Arctic Current does not enter Belle Isle Strait as the current is always outward there, the

waters of the great St. Lawrence and its many large tributaries having all they can do to get out to the Atlantic through the two narrow gates, Belle Isle and Cabot Straits. Mr. F. W. Hyndman of this city who spent several summers in those waters on survey work, has written very forcibly on the subject condemning it as both impracticable and dangerous. He argues that instead of excluding the Arctic Current which never enters there it would be the means of holding the gulf ice until it would melt instead of going out into the Atlantic, in which case the maritime climate would be worse than it is now.

Nothing is impossible to modern science; this dam could be built. That it would divert the Arctic Current from its present course is doubtful; that it would dam the gulf ice and hold it throughout the summer is about the only result that we could be assured of. Should this be so the maritime provinces would for all time to come have good reason to curse instead of bless the dam project. The Canadian Government will be well advised to think the matter over very seriously before consenting to or aiding this madcap proposition of speculators.

THE PATRIOT'S BLUFF.

In its yesterday's issue the Patriot dances wildly around the issue and still manages not to touch it. In giving its reasons for standing by the 1919 Liberal platform it expatiates on the benefits that would accrue to the farmers of the province if fertilizers were admitted free, but forgets that these are already on the free list; the benefits to fishermen if fishermen's supplies were admitted free but forgets that these are already admitted free of duty, on the benefits to farmers if agricultural implements were admitted free but forgets to mention the fact that Quebec and Ontario Liberals are opposed to this innovation and that Mr. Mackenzie King himself declares that the manufacturers of Quebec had nothing to fear from what he would do to them. But a matter which concerns our farmers much more deeply than these is the plank in the Liberal platform which declares that all "principal articles of food" shall be admitted free of duty. The Patriot has very nimbly jumped over this plank in all its references to the subject. The farmers however are watching it and they are amazed that the Liberal candidates here should swallow this pill as the Patriot declares they did. The "principal articles of food" include pork, beef, butter, eggs, potatoes, grains. Will the Patriot tell its readers what the effect would be on the price of these articles if the corn fed pork of the western states, the potatoes and grain and butter and eggs of the eastern and northern states were dumped free into our markets as it declares will happen if the Liberals "get there". A farmer buys an agricultural implement, mower, binder, rake, etc., once in ten or twenty years; he sells from half a dozen to a dozen hogs in a year, butter and eggs every day in the year.

What will his chances in these products be when the United States stuff comes in free of duty? This is what the farmers want the Patriot to tell them and what the Patriot is trying to hide behind its capital lettered effusions. Old Mother with something; still



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A LITTLE MORE PATIENCE WITH MOTHER.
Abram Lincoln, the well-known American President, who rose from the ranks of the humble peasantry to the position of leading citizen in the American Republic, confessed, in later life that "all that he was, and hoped to be he owed to his angel mother."

Current Comment

The Patriot, in its Tuesday's issue, has made, or attempted to make a clean breast of it on the tariff question. Of course having no views of its own, and being humbly obedient to the Bureau, it had to speak out, Patriot-like, just what it was taught. Beyond this it knows nothing and seems to care less. The only original part of its article, in full accord with its established campaign principles, deliberately misrepresents the Guardian's attitude on the trade question. It says,—"The Guardian does not agree with Tilley and Tupper that the tariff was only a means to an end, namely, the encouragement of infant industries."

since it came under its present management, and the ONE policy of the Conservative press in every corner of the Dominion. There is no question that these "Old Conservative" statesmen held to the opinion that when native industries became firmly established they would not need nor receive high protection." But the Patriot is without conception as to what is meant by "infant industries," or what is embraced in the words "High Protection. Practically the only industries that have anything like an established foundation in Canada, are those engaged in the manufacture of agricultural implements. This is the natural outcome of the business of a country so largely agricultural. Does it call a 12 1/2 per cent duty on these a "HIGH PROTECTION?" And if it is why did the great free trade Laurier Government INCREASE IT TO A HIGHER RATE, leaving the present Protectionist Government to reduce it to where it now is?
(Continued on page five)

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