

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1939

Nearing The Day

The election issues are now clearly defined, notwithstanding the innumerable red herrings drawn by the Campbell Government and their supporters across the trail. These issues were admirably presented by Dr. MacMillan in his final broadcast message last night, and it is highly significant that he has made the same challenging statements on public platforms from Tignish to Souris without eliciting satisfactory answers—in many cases without eliciting answers at all—from the Government candidates.

An Unconvincing Conjurer

The only platform Premier Campbell didn't attempt to review in his final broadcast appeal was the one on which he and his followers got into power four years ago. He made no attempt to explain why, if balancing the budget was absolutely necessary in 1935, it was not equally necessary today with an additional Liberal debt increase of two million, plus a million and a quarter bank overdraft and unpaid bills of unknown proportions.

There are many other questions which the electors are asking, and which the Conservative candidates are discussing on every public platform. They all have a bearing on the Government's record against the background of the pledges it made in the last campaign. By some strange mental process, Premier Campbell has arrived at the conclusion that he can ignore these issues completely. He seems to take pride in the agility with which he can produce new promises and policies, like rabbits out of a hat. But it is the same hat out of which he produced the mythical "balanced budget" and that is the unfortunate part of it. The quickness of the hand—this time—isn't quite enough to deceive the eye.

Then And Now

Speaking at Georgetown in an address which the Liberal press described as both eloquent and convincing, Mr. George E. Saville declared: "If the debt goes on increasing, the Island will lose its right of responsible government, and be under a Commission form of government as in Newfoundland. He hoped to see a SURPLUS OVER ORDINARY AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURES."

That, alas, was in 1935! Mr. Saville last week made another political speech at Georgetown. He didn't say anything about the two million dollar increase in debt since 1935. He didn't say anything about the danger of being under a Commission form of government. He didn't say whether he hoped ever to see a surplus over ordinary and capital revenue. He was as dumb as an oyster about the financial situation.

We quote Mr. Saville in this connection not because he is unique, but because his attitude is typical of every member and supporter of the Campbell Government now appealing for re-election. They all deplored the debt in 1935. They all cited Newfoundland as a harrowing example of what we might expect if the debt went on increasing. They all promised, if elected, to put an end to increased debt by reduction of expenditure to balance the budget annually.

Is it any wonder they prefer discussing anything under the sun, except their R. O. P. of failure and incompetency?

Memorable Sayings

Hon. B. W. LePage, President of the Executive Council, etc., in the outgoing Campbell Government, as reported in the Patriot, March 19, 1935:

"The Prohibition Commission are allowing intoxicating beer and liquor to be sold contrary to the provisions of the Act and it is safe to say that the Government and their Commission through their vendor shops in this province are the greatest bootleggers that we have. . . In 1933 they sold under the cloak of 'for medical

purposes' \$142,000 worth of intoxicating liquors. How dare the Government say that they are enforcing the Prohibition Law when conditions of this kind are going on?"

That was four years ago. Gross sales through government vendors' stores in 1938, according to the Public Accounts were \$210,225. Some more gems from our LePage anthology. Patriot, April 5, 1935:

"The time has come when all Governments must balance their budgets and live within their revenue. . . Another matter which I object to is the travelling expenses of the Ministers of the Crown. . ."

"Another matter which I object to is that certain firms which have members in this legislature or Government are hogging the greater part of the patronage. The time has come when the elected representatives must not think they are elected for the purpose of enriching themselves. . ."

On return from his \$1,600 Coronation trip: "We find England, he said, to be the real bulwark of democracy."—Patriot, April 9, 1938.

(That was about the time they applied the screws to the dispossessed property owners.)

"Helping The Fishermen"

What has become of that "direct claim on \$4,000,000 accruing under the Halifax Award, back in 1877", which Hon. J. P. McIntyre in 1935 declared was rightly due the fishermen of these provinces and which our governments, if they had any backbone, would "get busy and collect"?

Mr. McIntyre was then a member of the Opposition. He was insistent that "pressure" should be put on the Dominion Government to have this \$4,000,000 "distributed equally" among our fishermen—not in the shape of doles or loans, but as money to which they were entitled and which was being wrongfully withheld from them. His speech on this subject appears in the Patriot of March 20, 1935, and makes interesting reading today.

That four million dollars must be still at Ottawa, but has Mr. McIntyre and his colleagues made any attempt to get it?

Showing Their Gratitude

The following statement appears in the reports tabled in the Legislature last year:

"The year under review, 1937, marks a milestone in the history of the Department of Public Health in P. E. Island. This young organization was conceived and brought into being by our generous benefactors, the Canadian Life Assurance Officers Association, in 1931. For the succeeding five years the Association contributed approximately 50 per cent of the cost of operation, and climaxed its generosity with a further gift of \$5,000 for the year ending June 30, 1937. On July 1st the Department, as it were, reached maturity and, unassisted from outside sources, has launched out into the realm of disease prevention. . ."

To show their gratitude for "our generous benefactors" the Campbell Government jacked up the tax by 100 per cent on life insurance companies.

Was it any wonder they had then to proceed "unassisted from outside sources" in the realm of disease prevention?

Editorial Notes

Two days to election. * * * * *

The Fishmongers Company formed in London this date, 1284. * * * * *

Japan has offered to mediate between Germany and Poland over Danzig. "Come into my parlor" etc. * * * * *

The delay in the arrival of the King and Queen is disappointing to Quebec, Montreal and Ottawa, but much more to Their Majesties. * * * * *

The estimated number of poultry on farms in Canada as revealed in the survey of June 1, 1938, was 57,237,000, a decline of 273,100 from the estimates for the same date of the preceding year. * * * * *

Russia has requested the League of Nations to delay meeting for a week. We were under the impression that Prime Minister King had helped to kill the League—that it was no longer in existence. * * * * *

Under the amendments to the Probate Act, heirs to property of \$2,000 and under will be placed in the same category as millionaires, and have to pay the cost of probate, instead of getting off with mere regulation of wills as at present. * * * * *

Is there any depth to which the Campbell outfit will not descend in order to obtain votes? Here we have the President of Council driving a 100 h. p. motor through the Election Act in order to intimidate and bribe the fishermen to vote for his colleagues on the Fishery Board. But what else is to be expected from men who deprive their fellows of the hitherto inalienable right and privilege of appeal to the Courts of Justice? * * * * *

Speaking of the Treasury Board Mr. J. Walter Jones, Liberal candidate for Belfast, stated that it was made up of five members; neither of the Belfast members were on that Board and he said those members comprising the Board "took most of the plums for the districts they represented and therefore Belfast probably did not get as much as they should have." The Government which he represented had passed many bills and that one could hardly read them all. Fine testimonial to present to the electors in favour of re-electing the same Government and Treasury Board of "whole hoggers."

NOTES BY THE WAY

A letter received from Milwaukee by the steamship passenger department, Montreal, seems to indicate that Diogenes' famous search is at an end. The letter said: "Enclosed one dollar U.S. currency—to pay for four (4) coalstagers (taken from one of your passenger cabins by sender. It may be a small matter, but sender feels better to pay for it. Now, if we could receive a few more such letters about blankets, trunks, silverware and 'conductor-dodging' Canadian Pacific Bulletin."

Shipping's present plight endangers our future. The merchant marine is smaller by about 2,000 ships than that of 1914 which hardly sufficed in the war to bring enough food for a smaller population. Merchant seamen near number 50,000 fewer than before the war. Since then we have reduced the capacity of our yards for building ships by a third and the number of shipyard workers to a quarter. What can we look forward to but disaster if this process goes on? To other nations which foster their shipping and shipbuilding at enormous cost to the State, such industries as a matter of prestige. To our island country and our sea-sundered British Commonwealth a great merchant fleet is a condition of survival.—Belfast Telegraph.

Although there have been some 90 traffic accidents of one kind or another in the Sault since the first of the year, there has not so far been one in the schools and the police are inclined to give a large share of the credit for this to the school boy patrols which have been organized. There is a heavy traffic where there is a heavy traffic. Citizens who have watched these boys with their distinctive white hats and bells driving traffic, report that even motorists are inclined to give up to ignore a red light bringing their cars to a quick stop when signalled by the youthful officers. And in addition to that the plan has had the effect of making the pupils in the schools more conscious of the need for care.—Sault Ste. Marie Star.

Yet Signor Mussolini is not a stupid man; he must know that if such a war came his Italy (which he loves and we love) will crumble in the Mediterranean as a result of the loss of the dream of Gibraltar, Malta, Suez, Aden, Cairo and Khartoum. Yet he must know that the balance is now tilted against him.—London Spectator.

A proposal has reached the London, Ont., assessment department that dogs should be taxed according to weight. It has been dismissed as impracticable, but there is some sense to it nevertheless. Why a lap-dog which rarely at large should be taxed as a dog, or a pointer which never roams the streets is something that few people are able to understand.—Brockville Recorder and Times.

There is good news for the potato. Sir John Boyd Orr brought it from England; and Sir John is an authority on food. He says the potato is a staple food, and is not fattening. Thus a great load of depression is lifted from the humble "spud"; it may anticipate restoration to its erstwhile pride of place at the table.—Toronto Globe and Mail.

When a band of pygmies in West Africa kills an elephant, they divide their new village to the new meat supply, as being easier than to move the elephant to the village. After reading this is Collier's almost the next headline to meet our eye had to do with the annual report of the City Planning Commission of New York. It read: "Homes Near Water Envisaged in Plan for City of Future. . . After all, some of the mankind's problems do not change greatly from one era of civilization to another.—Christian Science Monitor."

All churchgoers at some time encounter the preacher who groans, who raises his voice aloud and drops it to a whisper. Why some ministers want to dramatize their sermons in that way we do not know. If they would deliver them in an easy conversational style with some emphasis here and there, would be much easier on the listeners and would bring to the nerves. Yet these ministers cast aside the woebegone manner as soon as the service is over and become what might be called normal, but a few minutes longer under the spell into which they cast themselves when in the pulpit. The ordinary churchgoer likes to be reverent, but he dislikes acting in that way. He does not want—and there is no necessity for it—his sermons to be hurled at him as if they were something very disagreeable and deadly. We had a few such preachers who grinned and joked while preaching, and looked around to see if their stories made a hit. That type is not objectionable. Religion is normal to normal people, and services should be normal, too.—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

I was not surprised the other day to hear of a lady who refused to agree with her friends, backing her optimism with "I'm planning my faith to Old Moore; there won't be war. Obviously calculation people will fall back on unreasonable alarms and reassurances. One singular example of this is the recent popularity of astrology. The knowing ones in the press have been quick to see that it may be good business to say that there won't be war this week or next month or that Tuesday is a good day for shopping (the bargain adverts are in the next column) or that Wednesday is the right day for husbands or beavers. All this is only imposture as a symptom of the growing unreason—to be compared with the growth of superstitious cults in Germany before the Nazis made superstition compulsory when it becomes terrifying when one learns (and this is not gossip) that Hitler regularly consults astrologers and acts on their advice. Years ago he learned from his horoscope that March and September were his good months, and that 1940 was dangerous to him. One wishes one also knew whether it is together a good year for him or only a bad one.—I suppose—September. In thinking over non-superstitious forecasts, I am reminded of the shape of things to come in the shape of Wells hits on 1940 as the

Public Forum

GOVERNMENT PARTIALITY

Sir—Can some of your readers tell us why it is that one can walk into a beer parlor any where in the Province, that sells Government stuff without having a passport, without seeing a sentinel on each of the four corners of the booze shanty, and get any thing and as much as he wants and never hear tell of one of these places being raided, or fined or tampered with in any way. While if one goes to a place where home made beer is made and sold in opposition to the Government stuff he finds on approaching the place that the premises are guarded by four sentinels a bull dog and a pass to get in, as well as a guide known to the place, and he or she can gain admittance, and notwithstanding all these precautions he is occasionally caught and fined, or if he doesn't happen to be a good Liberal with no influence may be imprisoned. Whereas the Government beer stuff bar tenders carry on in the open without any fear of being molested in any way. Except some one looking for empty bottles. If any of your readers should give an explanation of this it would be appreciated. I am, Sir, etc.

WONDERFUL FINANCING

Sir—The Liberals boast that through "sound financing" they reduced the average interest rate from 4.74 to 4.04. Yes? How did they do this wonderful trick? Quite easy. It was by borrowing several millions at present low interest rates, and doubling the public debt. Why not borrow a few more millions, which will be inevitable to meet their floating debts, and thus further reduce the average interest rate. In the same juggling way they reduced the expense ratio by collecting many thousands of additional taxes. I am, Sir, etc.

THOSE DEFICITS

Sir—The Patriot tries to excuse the Liberal deficits saying in their last three years, 1936-37-38 they only totalled \$226,000. If this were true, and it is very far from the truth, what would they have accounted for if they had not the \$150,000 secured by the MacMillan Government (which Conservatives did not have) and the \$300,000 a year extra taxes they imposed. If you add these amounts, for their three years, you will find their actual deficits would be about \$1,600,000 instead of the \$226,000 they try to bluster about. I am, Sir, etc.

UNBALANCED BUDGET

Sir—Names of nominators and secondors of Liberal candidates is an index of their abscinded rank and file. Gone over to the Tories. No wonder!

FORLORN HOPE

Sir—The Patriot says: "We would not change the Conservatives with the Liberals. Only articles of value that are stolen, and Conservatives, even if given to theft, would never saunter into a junk store where the contents are awaiting the 15th to be sent to the dump. As to policies, if we look into the history of the past, we will find that in all their records there is not a factor of policy that has proven its value to Liberal Governments, other than those which they deliberately appropriated from Conservative policies. Not a single one of their own creation. No, not one. I am, Sir, etc."

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Sir—Talking to a contractor on the Liberal highways, I asked why our traffic is held up at this most important season, by the Government? His reply was that: "Some of them were built late in fall, in cold weather, and they were afraid to do tasks of them too soon." Then why I noted said the whole business of the Province be held up, including the MacMillan highways of four years proven stability, and even some of the sumptuous McMillan highways, which should have some carrying strength) all held up because of the spoiled late fall highways of Liberal blundering? Of course they will open after the 15th, when cracked and crumbling asphalt will not turn votes against the road builders. I am, Sir, etc.

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A PERSONAL APPEAL

Sir—The Campbell Government, like some of the men they have taken to try to preserve them, themselves in power and to prevent criticism, have proved to be a gigantic hoax. Every indication points to their utter and complete defeat. Mr. MacMillan has laboured assiduously for his party. He has given without stint his time and energy to help in securing the election of his political supporters, even perhaps to the neglect of his own personal interests. I have nothing to say against Mr. MacMillan's political opponent in Charlottetown. In fact, we are warm personal friends. Mr. Trainor, however, will understand that some penalty must be attached to his support of a person who has failed to preserve its integrity and to measure up to the very wonderful and indeed the unique opportunities which were given it four years ago. Mr. Trainor is a fair-minded enough to realize that a defeat at this election would be not so much a defeat for him personally as a defeat for the Government for which he is supporting. I call upon the citizens of the City of Charlottetown to pay a deserved tribute of respect to the personal worth of the MacMillan so that he may be selected to fill the position of Leader of the new Government, which I am convinced will be brought into being as the result of this election. I am, Sir, etc. W. E. BENTLEY.

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New Probate Act

Getting After The Poor Man

The Campbell Government press refuses to give its readers information with regard to the new Probate Act, passed at the last session of the Legislature, under which heavy additional expenses must be incurred in probating estates, however small. Here are the relevant provisions of the Act, as passed on motion of the promoter, Premier Campbell:

Executor Must Take Out Probate:

"45. (1) Every resident of the Province named as executor in any will shall, within thirty days after he is informed that he is so named as executor, cause such will to be proved and filed in the Court, and either apply for Letter of Probate thereto, or file a written declaration of his refusal of such executorship."

Administrator Must Be Appointed:

"58 (1) When any person dies intestate, upon the application of the wife, husband, or next-of-kin, within thirty days after the death of such intestate, the Judge shall grant letters of administration, in the manner heretofore in use, to such wife, husband, or next-of-kin; and after the said thirty days have elapsed, upon first citing such wife, husband, or next-of-kin, and their refusing to accept the same, the Judge shall grant administration on application to such person or persons as he shall consider most fit."

Compulsory To Advertise:

"59. Every personal representative shall, within one month from the time of the granting of probate or administration, and previous to the payment of debts or distribution of the estate of the deceased, by advertisement in the Gazette, in cases where the estate shall be under eight hundred dollars for one month, and in other cases for three consecutive months, call on all persons who have any demands upon the estate of the deceased to present such demands within six months from the date of the advertisement. Every such demand, when presented, shall be attested by the claimant or his agent by affidavit in form "E"; no account shall be rejected by a Judge in his final decree for any mere informality in the same, or the attestation thereof."

Accounts Must Be Filed:

"64 (1) Every personal representative shall render an account of his administration to the Court within six months from the grant of letters Probate or letters of administration (unless further time be allowed), and after that may be cited to do so on the application of any person financially interested in the estate."

Real Property Goes To Executor, Despite Will:

"103 (1) Real property to which a deceased person was entitled for an interest not ceasing on his death shall on his death, notwithstanding any testamentary disposition, devolve upon and become vested in his personal representative from time to time as if it were personal property vesting in him."

Executor May Sell Property To Pay Debts And Costs:

"109 (1) The personal representative may sell the real property for the purpose not only of paying debts but also of distributing the estate among the persons beneficially entitled thereto, whether there are or are not debts, and it shall not be necessary that the persons beneficially entitled shall concur in any such sale except where it is made for the purpose of distribution only."

Deed Required From Executor:

"111. The personal representative may, with the concurrence of the adult persons beneficially interested, with the approval of the guardian appointed by the Court on behalf of infants, and in the case of a lunatic, with the approval of his Committee appointed by the Court of Chancery, if any infants or lunatics are so interested, divide or partition and convey the real property of the deceased person, or any part thereof, to or among the persons beneficially interested."

It is reported that Liberal campaigners are claiming that the Act, although passed and assented to, may not be enforced.

Sec. 120 provides: "This Act SHALL COME INTO FORCE ON THE 2nd DAY OF OCTOBER, A. D. 1939."

an add for beer bottles. Well all of us have to do to get beer bottles is simply drive along the road, or visit some summer picnic spot, and you can gather up cart loads of beer bottles with the Government seal of approval stamped on them. Many a city boy has bought all his cigarettes, movie picture tickets etc. out of sales of Campbell Government beer bottles, so why waste an add in the Patriot? I am, Sir, etc.

LOVER OF TRUTH

THOSE SING-SONG ROOBACUS Sir—The Liberal sing-songers have been using their Jew-baiting to the tune "Garry-Owen" about "dumping Conservative farmers and candidates in favor of lawyer candidates with the usual total disregard of truth. It blathers about aspirating citizens, who for nomination, the requisite vote for nomination, as having been "dumped."

DUMFOUNDED

SEVEN MILLIONS NOTHING Sir—So Mr. LePage thinks seven millions is nothing? Well, would something like this be near a little amount of \$20,000. Now add that to the 1939 election, an emergency session was called, and a bill passed for \$3,000,000 bond borrowing authority. Two years after it was all spent, so another bill passed session 1937, for a little amount of \$20,000.

ALMOST INTIHANE

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Then add all those unpaid bills, among them one third or perhaps more of wages due since 1938 on that ruined Abedeaud Bridges at Tryon. And innumerable other such unpaid bills. When the people put men there who will do right they will find P. E. I. never nine than seven millions in debt. (Continued on page 9, Col 5)