

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1920

OUR COUNTRY ROADS

The American editors are to be here on June 12th, next Saturday week, a visit to which the province has been looking forward with pleasure not unmixed with the hope that some advantage might accrue to the province as well as pleasure to the visitors.

The programme for the entertainment of the visitors includes an automobile drive from Borden to Summerside and we are informed by those who have motored over this road, particularly over that part of it between Borden and Doull's Corner, that it is the worst piece of road in the province and scarcely safe to drive over. A deputation consisting of Captain Read, Messrs C. E. McDonald, W. H. F. Montgomery and E. E. Crosby waited upon the government recently and pointed out to them the need of immediate attention to this piece of road, especially in view of the coming visit of the American editors but so far nothing has been done and that section of road, with its ruts and holes and gutters is left as it is to give the distinguished visitors their first impression of Prince Edward Island. Their drive to Summerside over the remaining part of the road will be little better. If good roads are evidences of progress and prosperity then the reverse is the case and our American guests, accustomed as they are in their own country to good smooth roads will conclude that we are not yet far removed from the days of the forest primeval.

This is most regrettable and there is no good reason why it should be so; no good reason, except deliberate neglect, why all the roads in the province that need repairs should not have been repaired during the spring. A gentleman who drove recently from Charlottetown to North Wiltshire informs us that "Larter's Bridge" has all the spring been in such dilapidated condition that the driver is obliged to alight and adjust the planks before driving his car over it. Similar complaints come from other sections of the province and the same reason is given for all, namely, unpardonable neglect.

The roads last fall were, generally speaking, in excellent condition. The spring freshets naturally cut them up in many places and the time to look after these sections is spring. This was not done and conditions are as they are. Any repairs done now will only be temporary but even these should be attended to at once.

It would have meant much to the province, if, in addition to the fertile farms and comfortable homesteads which our visitors will undoubtedly admire, they could refrain from commenting upon the evident unprogressiveness manifested in our neglected roads, but from present appearances this can scarcely be expected from the most forgiving of them. We trust that something will be done, temporarily at least to modify the effects of their first contact with our roads.

SLUMP IN WOOL.

The British Government held two auction sales of wool in Boston recently, one in April and the other last week. At last week's sale only about 25 per cent of the wool offered was sold and at ten to twenty per cent below the prices realized in April.

The cause of the slump is attributed to, first, scarcity of money and high interest rate on loans; second, cancellations received by mills for orders placed and, third, the difficulty of transportation. It is said that many of the large wool houses have called their buyers in and their salesmen as well, pending some definite development in the market.

The present outlook is that wool will be considerably lower than last year, how much lower it is impossible to predict. In the meantime the Department of Agriculture is urging upon farmers to take all possible advantage of co-operative marketing on a graded basis.

THE EVADED QUESTION

The Patriot devotes a two column editorial in its Saturday's issue in dodging the question that has been hurled at it during the past week, not only by the Guardian but by the public generally—WHY DID PREMIER BELL SUPPRESS THE MINORITY REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE and the report of the Provincial Auditor?

The people want to know why the government made certain representations as to the financial position of the province preparatory to levying an exorbitant tax and suppressed the Auditor's report which showed their calculations to be false. Will the Patriot answer.

A DILEMMA

We note that Premier Drury of Ontario has decided that there are two opposition parties in the Ontario Legislature, Conservatives and Liberals. Acting upon this decision he has divided the stipend between the two leaders.

The Dominion Parliament is similarly situated, Mr. Crerar leading the Farmers' party, and Mr. King, the straight Liberals. It will be interesting to watch what course the government will pursue in allotting the opposition leaders salary. In our legislature a similar problem may arise. Mr. Arsenault, leader of the Conservative opposition has refused any remuneration and we presume Mr. Brodie, leader of the Liberal opposition wing, would also decline to accept consideration for his leadership.

CURRENT COMMENT

Will Premier Bell take notice. His personal organ, the Pioneer, takes a remarkably intelligent and correct view of a constitutional question. Its language is clear and its argument incisive. It says,—"Men with self respect and real regard for public press do not need to be told to step aside when they recognize that their services are no longer wanted or required." A plain intimation from the best of advisers, its own press, that the Government can only preserve its "self respect" by following the constitutional "step aside" course. They know that they have outlived their mandate, transgressed the laws of responsible government, and trampled upon the people's rights. And they know full well that their duty is to get out.

It further remarks,—"Unless they are assured of the confidence of those whom they essay to represent they scorn to cling to office." The Bell combination are fully "assured" that they have not the "confidence of those who they essay to represent." That assurance was first given on the day of their election, when the electors gave them the mandate to pursue a course directly opposite to the one they have adopted. It has further been given in various public meetings in different parts of the province, and by the private personal advice of their strongest political friends, whom Premier Bell himself declared on the floor of the House, had advised him "to throw up the sponge."

The Pioneer continues,—"To them nothing is more repulsive—MORE CONTEMPTIBLE—THAN THE PRESUMPTUOUS SELFISHNESS WHICH PERSISTS IN FASTENING ITSELF UPON AN UNWILLING AND EXASPERATED PEOPLE." Could any language be stronger, more applicable and more to the point? The Bell Government knows that their "selfishness" "persists in fastening itself upon an unwilling and exasperated people," and the Premier's own organ denounces this conduct, as "REPULSIVE," "CONTEMPTIBLE" and "PRESUMPTUOUS." With such a wholesome and correct interpretation of their duty, from so friendly a source, will the Government do the only right thing, and allow the people to rule their own country, in their own way?

The double-edged two-faced tactics of Liberalism has been getting some cold cracks at Ottawa of late. Mr. Edwards, of Frontenac, makes things uncomfortable by his practice of quoting former speeches and exposing the two faced character of Grit puritans. Commencing with Sir Wilfrid Laurier, before the election of 1896, he quotes "If the Liberals are successful they will cut off the head of protection absolutely and trample upon its body." Then after the election, the same Sir Wilfrid said, "We have been very careful even when we had to reform, not to disturb conditions then prevailing in relation to the manufacturing interests of the country." Sir Richard Cartwright, prior to 1896 announced their policy of "death to the villainous system of protection," while our own esteemed (now Sir) Louis Davies, pronounced, "This is an accursed system a system accursed by God and man." To which Mr. Edwards rejoined, "It certainly was cursed enough by man at all events prior to 1896."

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. B. LEWSON

NATURE

Who loves and lives with Nature, tolerates Baseness in nothing; high and solemn thoughts Are his; clean deeds and honorable life. —Stoddard.

Of 1,000 species of flowers, 284 are white, 223 yellow, 223 red, 144 blue, 72 violet, 36 green, 12 orange, 4 brown and 2 black.

RESURRECTION

"Every flower that lifts its head After sleeping through the snow, Whispers of the Resurrection, Tells us of our Lord's direction; Every rainbow garden bed, Tells His love for us below.

"Every winter cold and chill, Biting winds and frost of hoar, Draws our thoughts to Calvary, Shows our Saviour's agony; Helps us fight our little ills, Just because he suffered more."

God made the flowers to beautify the earth, And cheer man's careful mood, And he is happiest who hath power to gather wisdom from a flower, And wake his heart in every hour To pleasant gratitude.

JUST BETWEEN OURSELVES

(BY DELLA A. STEWART)

We're very fond of repeating the Golden Rule with an air of self-satisfaction. "Here," we practically say, "is a plan of life which is as nearly perfect as can be." And so it is. Not one of all the world's greatest lawmakers has yet formulated anything half as well calculated to settle vexed questions and settle them permanently because the decisions will be just to all concerned. Not many of us would question this when we soberly think of the matter. But in action, how different our mood! We call names, become sarcastic and cynical, twist the truth until it comes very near the line of falsehood, scold and ferment—and then with the greatest of inconsistency blame our personal opponents—and they do exactly the same. It's laughable isn't it? Or is it sorrowful? "Oh, well," we exclaim impatiently, "the Golden Rule is all

right in theory, but in real life it won't do. It's too idealistic. Others won't meet us halfway. We'd never win out if we used it."

No? Maybe we wouldn't. But whence comes the idea that the very biggest thing in life is to win our cause? Is it? Isn't it still bigger to be willing to fail, if in so doing we have been perfectly honest, strictly ethical in our business methods?

The crux of the whole matter lies in that other objection: "It's too idealistic." Why have we failed so in business and in professional honesty, in family relations, in political dealings, in these latter days? Isn't it because we have allowed our idealism to become dimmed? Isn't it because we have clung to lower standards of action? Of course, it's comforting, in a way, to thus excuse our dealings. But it's not strictly true.

ANOTHER COMPLIMENT TO EDITOR COTTON

June 1, 1920

To W. L. Cotton, Editor Examiner Charlottetown

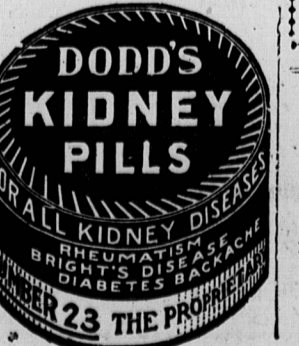
My Dear Mr. Cotton:—Permit me to offer you my sincere congratulations on the forty-seventh anniversary of your editorial management of The Examiner. It is worthy of notice that your assumption of The Editorial Chair synchronized with one of the most important events in the history of our province—its entrance, on July 1, 1873, into the Canadian Confederation. I am aware that you were for some years previous to that great event connected with Island journalism, on the staff of The Islander, a leading and influential publication of the confederation days. Thus you became identified with, and an advocate of, two of the most important and beneficial measures that ever engaged the attention of our people: the building of a railway from Casampec to Georgetown, and what made us part and parcel of the Canadian Confederacy. Who, in these days, would dream of going back to the hum-drum existence which prevailed before the railway came a reality, or to the narrowness and isolation which were ours in the pre-confederation period? It is certainly an honor and much to your credit, and for you as a matter of some pride that you were privileged to aid in the accomplishment of these two great events which promised and meant so much for the people of this province. We have certainly made great strides since then, both in material prosperity and in the growth of those broadening and liberalizing influences which connection with the Government of half a continent had rendered possible. When these great movements occupied the political stage, the battle for their accomplishment was so keen and fierce that it could not fail to stir the dullest intellect and most inactive imagination.

I do not forget that your faith was so strong and your courage so great as to induce you, in the year 1877,—only four years after taking charge of The Examiner,—to lead the way in this province in the successful inauguration of a daily newspaper. As a journalist yours has been a long and honorable career, and it must be to you, I am sure a matter of great satisfaction that your paper has ever been the advocate of every measure that tender for the progress and prosperity, not only of our own province, but of the whole Dominion. You have ever been fearless and independent,—and never a mere party hack. I heartily congratulate you on your journalistic career, and sincerely hope that your remaining years may be full of that enjoyment and satisfaction which come to those who have fought a good fight, who have kept the faith, and served the public long and faithfully.

I beg to remain, Yours faithfully, W. S. STEWART

German Seaports Change Command

BERLIN, June 2.—From today the new naval commanders appointed by the Government are taking over control of Kiel, Wilhelmshaven, and other North Sea and Baltic stations.



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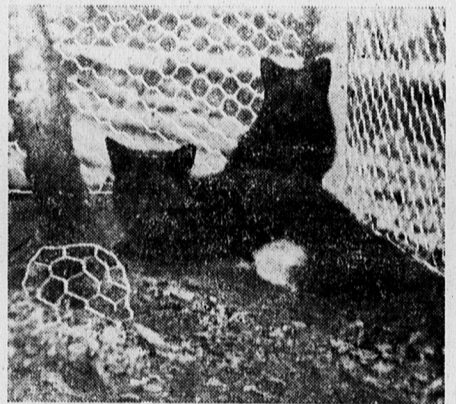
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