

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

In Charles Dalton, President. J. R. Burnett, Editor and Publisher. D. K. Currie, Associate Editor.

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THE CIVIC CONTEST

The card of Mr. John S. Pierce, a candidate for Ward Four, will be found in this issue. Mr. Pierce is a well known business man, being proprietor of the Charlottetown Selling Agencies, Limited and is a large property owner. On the strength of his personal interest in keeping the expenses of the city within reasonable limits, he appeals for the support of property owners. To the laboring man he promises every possible consideration and will if elected, do all in his power to safeguard the city's best interests giving these the same consideration that he would give to his own business.

MR. CREAR'S "SACRIFICE"

Mr. Crear, the leader of the largest opposition group in the House of Commons has been congratulated on his self-sacrificing abandonment of the leadership of the official opposition which carries with it a salary of \$10,000 a year. The giving up of such a salary would ordinarily entitle one to commendation but when such a man's salary is sacrificed in order to get a bigger one the sacrificial idea takes very perceptibly. Mr. Crear had just before his "sacrifice" been reappointed manager of the United Grain Growers which carries with it a salary of \$15,000 a year and certain other very considerable emoluments. His abandonment of the opposition leadership, therefore, will scarcely assume the complexion of a sacrifice. He would have lost anywhere from five to twenty thousand dollars a year if he had accepted the official leadership of the opposition. Mr. Crear has a good general idea of which side his head is battered on.

KILLING THE GOOSE

Many of us will sympathize with the old lady who at first grudgingly accepted the daily golden goose from her mysterious goose out of the eleven years old, who is threatened with the accumulation of literary aspirations, some of the goose in the foolish belief that she could get the whole store of gold all at once. Of course, she succeeded only in stopping the supply. The story is old but it has been repeated for many generations as a warning to those who are constantly being tempted to do the same thing in their regular businesses.

In this province the golden egg is being laid as regularly and unceasingly as it was in the fable. We depend upon the markets for our daily supply of gold, big or little. We can kill the market just as easily as the old woman cut the head off her goose, by placing upon the market a spurious article or charging a price for it which is out of proportion to its value. Some have done this in years gone by. The bricks were placed in butter tubs and debris were packed into our bales of hay, fowl were packed with things that were not fowl and if the goose that laid the golden eggs was not killed outright it stopped laying. We have learned better since then; we are more careful of the goose and we feed it carefully and this is our only hope.

We are but a small community but it is not an idle boast to say it is one of the most highly favored spots of its size in the world. Our island has become a favorite summer resort. Many people in the inland parts of our own Dominion and in the United States have learned to regard Prince Edward Island as the most delightful summer resting place within reach. We can make the tourist business a source of wealth and pleasure by holding out such inducements

as tourists look for. And we can kill it as easily as the old woman killed her goose; we can bleed our visitors and they will never come again; we can deny them the attention due to visitors and they will shun us forever.

The careful merchant guards his trade and maintains it by using his customers squarely and fairly, by working up a reputation for giving good value for the money he takes. He could kill his goose by extorting from a customer a dishonest charge and his customer would not only cover over, but he would warn others not to do the same.

A well founded reputation is one of the most valuable assets we can possess, a reputation for honest dealing, for courtesy to strangers for giving a full value for reasonable charges in everything. By keeping these things in mind our goose will lay her golden eggs regularly; if we forget them we kill the goose.

SONGS OF FLORIDA

We have received from the publishers, James T. White & Co., New York, a volume of poems entitled "Songs of Florida" by George Graham Currie, native of British Columbia but now a resident of Sunny Florida. This volume consists of several published by the author, is a collection chiefly local, rhyming Florida, its glorious climate, its scenery and its people. The poems show considerable literary genius and originality and have already gone through two editions while a third is in course of preparation. It furnishes good publicity for Florida and as we have no doubt has done much to popularize that delightful country of perpetual sunshine, exquisite rivers and streams and fashionable seaside resorts. Many of the songs are meritorious and all of them make good wholesome reading. The volume is humorously dedicated to the author's "coming" son, later becoming impatient at the slowness of the accumulation of literary aspirations, some of the goose in the foolish belief that she could get the whole store of gold all at once. Of course, she succeeded only in stopping the supply.

EDITORIAL NOTES

An exchange remarks, perhaps somewhat obviously, that Ottawa hockey fans appear to be "getting a good deal for their money." One body was hit on the nose with a puck, had a tooth knocked out and as easily as the old woman cut the head off her goose, by placing all within the first twenty minute period? Is not one of the great attractions of hockey the expectation, hoped or dreaded, that some other fellow will get hit on the nose by a puck or hockey stick? Danger plays a bigger part in games than many of us care to admit even to ourselves but it is always the danger to the other fellow.

The question of reducing freight rates on the Canadian railways, is becoming acute. There is a general demand from farmers, manufacturers, fishermen and all who depend upon the railways for the carrying on of their business for an all-round reduction. The rates were increased to meet the increased cost of labor and coal and the result has been to reduce very considerably the quantity of freight carried. It is argued and with good reason that a reduction in freight rates would result in an increase of traffic and consequently an increase in revenue. The experiment would be well worth trying.

Our West Indian Holiday

BEING DESCRIPTION OF A DELIGHTFUL WINTER CRUISE IN THE WEST INDIES

By SIR CHARLES DALTON

TRINIDAD.

This island is a British possession, and a distance of 384 miles from La Guaira. The run in an easterly direction, was uneventful. We passed the island of St. Margaret, one of the Venezuelan possessions, where the industry of pearl fishing gives employment to the people. We arrived off Port of Spain, the capital, on Monday the 8th. On account of the shallow water in the Bay, we anchored four miles off shore. We had a stay here of 46 hours, and had continuous half hour tender service to the city.

TRINIDAD.

Trinidad is the end of the West Indies, the tip of the long bow that begins at the west point of Cuba, and terminates in the shores of this far southern island of the mouth of the Orinoco River.

The influence of South America is felt here as nowhere else among the islands. Indeed, the Island of Trinidad itself owes its most fruitful soil to the alluvial deposits of the great river, brought down by it from the rich vegetable store houses of the interior jungles of the southern continent. The effect of the river is noted even in the color of the water as the ship nears the island, for in place of the sparkling clear blue of the deeper seas that wash the shores of the outer West Indian Islands, it has a grayish brown hue, due to discoloration from the outflow of the Orinoco.

Between the island and distant South American shore is the Gulf of Paria, a relatively shallow though broad bay, with difficult entrances, through channels known as the "Bocas," or Mouths, one being called the Dragon's Mouth, another the Serpent's Mouth, and so on.

Many writers have described the approach to Trinidad, none better perhaps, than the novelist Kingsley, who wrote of it thus: "We ran through the channel amid low wooded islands, it may be for a mile, and then saw before us a vast plain of muddy water. No shore was visible to the westward. To the eastward the north end hills of Trinidad, forest clad, sank to the water; to the south lay a long line of coast, generally level with the water's edge, and green with mangroves or dotted with cocoa palms. That is the Gulf of Paria, and Trinidad."

Port of Spain is a large, modern in the general effect of its architecture, and sheltering a polyglot population such as may be found nowhere else in the West Indies. Here East meets West, for Chinese, East Indians, and descendants of African slaves seem quite as numerous as European or West Indians.

This mixture of races from widely separated parts of the earth is traceable to the importation of labor in times past to carry on the island's industries. One recent visitor to Port of Spain describes its population as a "melange of races," and pictures with "colorful variety and often highly representative of its different nationalities."

"Port of Spain is the premier city of the West Indies," says a local authority. "It is well laid out with broad, nicely kept streets, many cool squares and public recreation grounds, the largest of which, the Savannah, comprises about 120 acres. Handsome public and private buildings line its thoroughfares."

Lying at the mouth of the Orinoco River, Trinidad is the gateway leading to the interior of the marvellously rich South American continent, and a flourishing trade is done with the many ports of the adjacent republic of Venezuela. Besides the capital city, the island has a good number of thriving towns, scattered along its coast and in the interior, which is a succession of rich valleys cultivated in sugar and groves of cocoa trees.

The greatest length of the island is 60 miles and the greatest breadth 50 miles. The vegetation is peculiarly rich to the eye and floral and bird life are abundant. In the language of the aborigines Trinidad was "here, land of the humming bird."

Port of Spain has several buildings of interest to the visitor. It has a chamber of commerce, an agricultural society, a public library, six social clubs, and 12 clubs devoted to outdoor sports. There

are three hotels and three banks. The currency is British, but accounts are usually kept in dollars and cents.

One of the chief exports of this island is asphalt, which is sent to all parts of the world, for use chiefly as paving or in rolling cements. In fact, Trinidad is known to the world as "the island of asphalt."

There appears to be a large shipping trade at this Port, as there were 15 ships at anchor. Loading is done by scows which are always busy. Oil is one of the principal exports, and on account of a scam of oil on the water, we were warned not to throw lighted matches in the water. The town is neatly and cleanly kept. Tobacco stores are also kept in good style which shows that the people take pride in their nice city. All the products of the tropical countries are in abundance, sugar, cotton, bananas, cocoa nuts, as well as the orange, bean. Here, as in other places we visited, the flowers are magnificent. Every large tree of 20 to 40 feet in height are found in full bloom with the most beautiful flowers.

We had the good fortune to be introduced to the representative of two papers published in the city, Mr. Leo FitzWilliams and gave us lots of information concerning the island, a did also Mr. Anand, Both these gentlemen speak English, Spanish and French fluently and I have to thank them for their courtesy.

This being Sunday was the first privilege we had of attending church, as our Captain at my solicitation had a special tender ready for the Catholic party to attend service. They have a grand Cathedral situated in a prominent part of the city, facing a beautiful boulevard in which grows lovely flowers and trees. The congregation was made up of all races, and all the choir men and boys, as well as the other attendants were black, and really looked attractive in the contrast of their pure white surplices with their black features. The negro people as well as the others are very neat in dress, and possessed of considerable taste in their attire.

We drove through plantations of cocoa nuts, where we saw carloads of the fruit on the ground, ready for shipment. At noon, Sunday, we set sail for La Bria, one of the natural wonders of Trinidad, and at a distance of about 20 miles we anchored, to see what they call the "Pitch Lake." About a half mile from the wharf, and walking up a slight elevation, we came to the "Pitch Lake." It consists of about 100 acres surrounded by a moderate rise of ground, and is filled with asphalt. It is moderately soft, although quite hard enough to walk over. It is perfectly level except some slight creases which are filled with water, and strange to say, we saw several small fishes in these places, and a person will naturally ask how did they get there.

There is a large reducing plant near the lake, and a narrow gauge railway running from it out to the lake. The sleepers are laid on the pitch. Small cars of about a ton each, are run out, and men are digging up the pitch in junks of about 20 lbs. or so, and throwing it in the cars, for which they get 7 cents for each car, at this wage they make about \$2.00 a day. They never dig down more than 18 inches, and in two days time, this depression has again filled in. They dig out about 350 barrels a day are run on trolley lines on a descent to the ship at the wharf. One strange feature of this asphalt we noticed, was the presence of some shells of sea fish imbedded in the pitch.

BARBADOS.

Barbados is mountainous in part, but is has extensive area of alluvial soil, which is famous for its productivity. The island is 13 degrees 4 minutes north latitude. It is 21 miles long by 14 miles wide, with an area of 166 square miles, and a population of about 175,000 persons. Of these about 1,500 reside at Bridgetown, the capital.

Barbados is of coral formation and is surrounded by coral reefs, which in places extend, three miles from the shore. It takes its name from the Portuguese voyagers who first landed here in 1536 and who noting the moss on the trees compared it to the beards of old men, and called the place "Los Barbados."

The island was settled by the British in 1605, when a party of pioneers landed on its shores from

Notes By The Way

(From The Examiner.)

Let us admit for the moment that the "Tories," as the valued Patriot calls them, are a bad lot, and that they gave us splash-ava, dash-ava, rotten and extravagant government. The Patriot has so decreed it, and the "Bell Government has endorsed it as a true bill. Let us also give the Bell Government due credit for its manifold efforts to reduce taxation, save the people's money, and establish economy? They began the noble work two years ago.

Of course there was room to economize everywhere after those extravagant Tories. Where should the work of economy begin? Where, indeed, if not right here in Charlottetown, with the Government and the Legislature? Right here let the great fountain of economy be established from which streams of blessings should flow to the east, the west, the north and the south, to enrich a poverty-stricken people, burdened and oppressed by Tory extravagance, banish their fears and inspire them with high hope and confidence.

So they began to economize with the Bell Government itself. That was surely right; let the Government lead off, show the way, set an example, so to speak. The wasteful Tories had three salaries in the Cabinet, yes, sir! Actually three! This could not be tolerated in the new era of economy. The pruning knife must be applied, the mouldering branch must be lopped away. No sooner said than done, and the three portfolios salaries were at once reduced to four!

Those wasteful Tories had insisted on paying the 30 members of the Legislature \$200 each per session, or say about 30 working days, equal to \$6 per day, and amounting in the total to \$6,000. What was it but rampant and riotous waste? It could not be tolerated under the new and economical regime. So they at once reduced the indemnity—their own hard earnings, be it noted—reduced it from \$200 to only \$50 per session, or in other words reduced their own pay from \$6 a day to \$15 a day. And on these mere pittance, with boundless self-denial our able and wise legislators have managed to struggle along for the past two years.

Having thus reduced the number of salaried Departmental heads from three to four, and reduced the pay of members from a total of \$6,000 to a total of only \$15,000 per session, our excellent and economical representatives proceeded as in duty bound to apply the same principles to the official staff at the Capital and throughout the province. Where the wasteful Tories had one or five bloated officials feeding at the Government trough, and eating up the people's substance, the one was promptly reduced to two, and the five were reduced to ten. A sweeping reformation, truly! The new broom was sweeping very clean.

Having thus applied the principles of strict economy to the Government, the Legislature and the official staff, they yet remained the pleasant duty to reduce the people's taxes. This was ingeniously contrived on the general principle that where a taxpayer had paid under autocratic Tory rule \$2 or \$5, or \$10, his burden should be reduced to \$1, or \$5, or \$20 as the case might be. And to this great measure of relief to the taxpayer was added a further relief even to those who had paid nothing before.

To those who had paid nothing, as well as to those who had paid something, covering what may be called the tangible and the intangible classes, a further reduction was made of \$3 per head. Just think of that—three dollars taken off the head of every man, and hence called a poll-tax. It was a new form of take-off, and it afforded great relief, especially to Liberal voters, some of whom at election times had been rather light-headed before. Now their heads were lighter, and their pockets lighter, and they felt airy and jubilant.

And, as the Patriot reminds us occasionally, there people still have the privilege of living in this delightful country. They may actually breathe its air, eat its food and walk its streets and roadways with impunity, rejoicing in the close economy and the reduced burdens of taxation as above set forth. Surely it is but fair and just that this view of the case should be set forth alike to astonish and instruct them.

"Faddy" Appetites. When the digestive organs are out of order you need the help of Mather Seigel's Syrup. The herbal medicinal extracts of which the Syrup is made restore tone and strength to jaded stomachs, make food yield nourishment and save from the many ills which indigestion brings. Mather Seigel's Syrup is now sold in 50c. and \$1.00 bottles at drug stores.

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Daily Selections for Guardian Readers. From the collection of the late Mr. W. S. Louson.

BROTHERHOOD. The first of the world's great good things is brotherhood. For it will bring us forth again. Her long feet pass and turn. Will send new light on every face. A kindly power up if the face. And till it comes, we men are slaves. And travel downward to the dust. Come, close the way, close the way. Blind crosses and kings have had their day. Break the dear business from the north. Our home is in the afterlife. Our home is in the here and now. Starbed to build the world again. To this event the ages run. Make way for brotherhood, make way for man. W. W. Welner Ltd.

A HELPER. If any little child of mine ever makes a life long sorrow. If any little child of mine ever makes a proud the doctor. If any little child of mine ever makes the burden of another. God give me love, and strength and strength to help my fellow. W. W. Welner Ltd.

HULL DRYS WIN. OTTAWA Jan 18. The Citizens League of Hull, which has been waging the fight for better conditions in that city, scored a decisive victory at the polls today when it returned its candidate, Hercules Theron, as mayor for the next two years, defeating ex-mayor Louis Cousineau by a majority of 254 votes.

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