

THE Charlottetown Guardian

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President A. A. Bartlett
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MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1915.

DUTY OF GOVERNMENT

It is not our intention to devote any considerable attention to the ravings of our contemporary in its vain attempt to wriggle out of the unenviable position in which it has placed itself.

The Executive Committee of the Alliance having itself entered the discussion, as will be seen from our correspondence column, we prefer to discuss the question with it.

In its letter the Executive inquires (1) where, and in what particulars, the Alliance has been attempting to usurp the place of the Administration.

The Committee of the Alliance prepared a codified bill embracing comprehensive amendment of the Prohibition Act. The amendments were so comprehensive that they practically constituted a new Prohibition Act.

Was not that an attempt to usurp the functions of the Government?

But the Executive Committee of the Alliance thought otherwise. It considered the Government should have accepted the bill drafted by it, and was greatly offended that the Government adopted the constitutional means it did in handling the measure.

The Lieutenant-Governor, acting on his own initiative, or acting on the advice of his council, has the right to extend pardon or clemency. In a document circulated by the Field Secretary the Government was condemned for the exercise of this right, although, as was proved by The Guardian in the analysis of all the cases of clemency since the present administration took office, the action of the Governor was amply justified in every instance.

Was not that an attempt to usurp the functions of the Government?

The Executive Committee of the Alliance must bear in mind that it represents but one section, a considerable section it is true, but after all only one section of the community, while the Government is representative of the whole community. Experience teaches that from the practical point of view the most important thing a Government has to remember is that for the general well-being, life must remain a modulation between extremes and that evil is indestructible though not irreducible.

The second question the Executive Alliance puts is whether, if the Alliance be willing to work with the Government, the Government will be prepared to remove obstacles which now prevent a proper and impartial enforcement of the Prohibition Act.

Surely when the Committee finds a Government prepared to strengthen its hands, though it be not prepared, for the reasons we have stated, to go the whole length the most advanced reformers would desire, that Government deserves the sympathy and support of the Committee.

We republish in another column the speech of the Premier when waited upon by the deputation from the Alliance last April, and we feel assured all those reading it will appreciate the views he expressed, and approve the caution

and wisdom with which he approached consideration of the proposed measure.

AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTION

The Agricultural Gazette of Canada begins a new volume in a new and improved form in its January number. The editor, Mr. J. B. Spencer, B. S. A., in a "forecast" announces that the Gazette in its improved form and on the assumption that "education is the motive power of progress" will give greater attention to the advancement of rural science, and invites officials engaged in agricultural instruction to "pass along the good things that come before them in their work both as to methods and results."

Professor Theodore Ross, contributes a well written and informative article on "A Year in Agricultural Instruction in Prince Edward Island, tracing the development of agricultural education from its inception up to the splendid results attained in 1914, dealing in detail with the Short Courses in Agriculture, the class inaugurated in Nature Study and other improvements effected during the past year. In conclusion Professor Ross summarises as follows:

"When the present plan has been completely developed there will be at the Capital the Department of Agriculture with the provincial staff of specialists. In each county there will be stationed a district representative who will be assisted by the agricultural and educational specialists when their services are required. In the rural districts there will be school inspectors (who are at the same time agricultural instructors), and assistant supervisors of women's institutes, working in co-operation with one another and receiving the assistance of the district representatives and the provincial experts. The schools will be taught by teachers who have had a training in nature study and in household science and will have at their call the whole staffs of the Departments of Agriculture and Education. Those who have completed the common school course may continue their studies either in agriculture or in household science at the institutions provided in Charlottetown.

"Such in outline is the New Year, in Agricultural Instruction which has been made possible in Prince Edward Island through the financial assistance provided by the Agricultural Instruction Act.

TO BE AMUSED

Time and again the complaint is heard that frivolity is taking the place of intellectuality. It is notorious not only in Charlottetown but elsewhere, and very generally elsewhere, that the most inane and senseless performances—provided they promise amusement—are usually greeted with full houses, while a meeting called for a serious purpose say a high class theatrical or a lecture on any common sense topic, receives but scant patronage.

An exchange referring to this subject says: "Daly's Theatre in New York, in which not so many years ago Shakespeare was being played to large audiences, and on the boards of which such artists as Ada Rehan and John Drew were appearing nightly, has been turned into a burlesque house at popular prices. Daly's is somewhat removed from the heart of the theatre district, but its location is not alone responsible for the change in the form of entertainment to be provided. The truth is that the general public is showing somewhat of a disinclination for what it calls "highbrow" productions. It wants to be amused, and, turns up its nose and makes rude remarks when anyone comes along with the declaration that he has a mission to uplift the masses through the stage. Culture is apparently at a discount, so far as theatrical fare is concerned.

The result of this attitude is that when a manager insists on going contrary to the popular idea he is faced with a loss of revenue and an empty theatre. In New York the men behind the New Theatre found this out, for although they organized a splendid company and presented good plays they were compelled to close up house before many moons had passed. On this side of the boundary visiting theatrical companies from the Old World, despite the best of actors and the cleverest of plays, have fared poorly on their several visits. Miss Horniman and her Manchester players had a poor reception and that strong-minded lady paid her respects to Canadian intelligence when she returned to England, if press despatches are to be believed. To be fair to her, it must be said that not long ago she soundly scolded the people of her own town, telling them that she would rather see her theatre closed than have it degenerated by musical comedy. Whatever the trend is on the other side of the ocean, it is certainly that the lighter forms of entertainment catch the crowd in America. Some of the present musical comedies are but superior burlesque, and in daring they sometimes go farther than burlesque ever ventured in the days when it was patronized practically by men only. The "revues" that fill the theatres are but old-type burlesque shows brought up-to-date. As for vaudeville, it recalls the work of the "teams" that used to prance and dance, and sing and knock each other about between the two burlettas. Glitter and shouting and whirling about are preferred to the drama. That is the combination that shares the honors with the moving pictures. The people seek cheap amusement and it is a worldly-wise manager that gives them what they want. The theatre is not what it used to be"

IMMIGRATION

The figures of immigration into Canada for the past calendar year show the arrivals to have numbered 168,623, or considerably less than half of the figure of 1913. There were declines from all the chief sources, as the following comparisons of arrivals by countries shows:

Table with 2 columns: Country and Arrivals. Rows: Great Britain (156,984), United States (115,761), Other Countries (146,103), Total (418,838).

The war had a marked effect on the record, the total arrivals in the last four months of 1914 being under 19,000, and only about 1,100 coming from "other countries" than Great Britain and the United States. From the beginning of the year, however, a falling off, compared with 1913 was noted, and from all countries. The cause was probably widespread, like the commercial slowness, and not to be found in Canada alone. The situation is not one that will be cured by anything that may be done, here or now; nor need there be worry over it. Some of the immigration into Canada of recent years has been of men who came to work for a while, intending to go back to their own countries when they had gathered a moderate sum of money each for himself. The stoppage of construction works due to the tightening up of the money market checked their influx and caused not a few of them to return prematurely to their native places. Another class came to make their homes here, some in the cities, but many in the western provinces, where land for farms can be had for what seems to Europeans the price of a song. These have been attracted by long years of efficient work by capable public servants who made known everywhere the solid advantages Canada can offer to the working pioneer. The effect of this work can only be temporarily eclipsed. The tide will not remain long at low water mark.

TEMPERANCE ALLIANCE

Sir,—In speaking editorially this morning you say of Rev. Mr. Marshall that he admits that "not only had the Government met the Alliance fairly but generously, and we make bold to say the Alliance would meet with a similar reception today were it willing to work with the Government instead of attempting to usurp the place of the administration."

Will you be good enough to point out when and where, and in what particular, the Alliance has been "attempting to usurp the place of Administration?"

We notice your suggestion that the Alliance should "be willing to work with the Government." Does this mean that the Government is prepared to remove the obstacles which now prevent a proper and impartial enforcement of the Prohibition Act? If it does the Alliance welcomes the offer and will be glad to see such reform take place, and when it does will most heartily co-operate.

We are, Sir, etc.
Z. L. FASH,
A. W. STERNS,
F. S. MOORE,
R. C. GOFF,
D. SCHURMAN,
Alliance Committee.

January 23, 1915.
We refer to this letter in our editorial columns, and give below the speech by Premier Mathieson in reply to the deputation that waited upon him in April last.—Ed. G.

THE PREMIER AND THE ALLIANCE

The Premier said that the proposition was a large one which would involve a great deal of consideration. He knew that the gentlemen of the deputation were very strongly impressed not only with the importance of the proposal that they had made but with their urgency. The chairman of the delegation had said that he considered the putting through of that bill was far more important than any other matters that they had been considering at this session of the Legislature.

There is no one universal ancient list of birthstones. The ancient Egyptians connected emerald with May the Greeks were as liable to think malachite or diopside was intended as the green herald of the new year. Every transparent red stone was ruby to them, whether it was zircon, garnet, or corundum. The "venerable" list you quote gives four varieties of the same stone for as many months. It is a growing knowledge of these ancient errors and references which has operated against the replacement business of late and has become an incentive to the jeweller to establish a definite list on a rational basis to supersede the conflicting old ones. And there is little real difference between the old and the new.

BIRTHSTONE LORE IS BROUGHT UP TO DATE

A writer in the New York Times has this to say about those stones supposed to belong particularly to various months of the year: Birthstones are not the invention of men who "gave reasons for the selections they made," but an evolution of superstitions which was gradually formulated in various countries, in different ways, by astrologers, priests and other astrological clients and conferred upon them imaginary powers. Several of these differing formulas survive with us today, notably the Polish and Jewish. Out of these two, a more modern one was made and this is the one "made interesting if not venerable by age."

Absurdities are Forgotten

Superstition is not belief in a fact, but in "an imagination that has no foundation in fact. Those who cling to it will not let go because a few worn-out strands are replaced with new. Ancient superstitions have so far survived all our acquisitions of knowledge, but they have been shorn of their most grotesque absurdities. Birthstones survive, but not so much as influences on life and destiny as kindly remembrances, about which the mist of ancient fancy clings.

SHE KNEW IT.

(From the Philadelphia Telegraph.)
Some time ago a pretty young woman entered a moving picture theatre and took a seat well towards the front. Finally the lights were turned on, revealing a young married couple with whom she was acquainted sitting beside her.

"Why, Clara!" exclaimed the young married woman, noticing that the other was unattended. "What in the world are you doing here?" "I am looking for a husband, dear," was the quiet response of Clara.

"Looking for a husband," returned the married woman wonderingly. "Why, you have a husband!" "Yes, I know," was the sighful rejoinder of the late comer. "That's the one I am looking for."

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say shown by the delegation. I think their case has been as well presented as it could be and your gentlemen can rely upon this: we will do our best and we are glad to accept such assistance as your remarks have given us and the elaborate work you have put into our hands for consideration.

Mr. Bentley pointed out that the clause to which the Premier had made specific reference was incorporated in the Nova Scotia prohibition laws as well as those of the Western States. Mr. Mathieson replied that he thought that such a provision was justified in the conditions that existed in the West, but it was not justified in a civilized community, and the probability was that Nova Scotia had just copied it from the Western provinces, because he could not imagine how a provision of that kind could ever have been introduced in Nova Scotia.

Again thanking the Premier and the members of the Government for their courteous and kind reception given to the deputation, Mr. Marshall and his colleagues withdrew.
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REVOLUTIONARY RUMORS ABOUND IN TURKEY NOW

LONDON, Jan. 22.—The Central News has published a despatch from its Athens correspondent, who declares the authorities at Constantinople are suppressing the news of Turkish defeats in the Caucasus. They have ordered the execution, he says, of anyone spreading unauthorized news reports.

The military rule in Constantinople is stricter today than it was in the strictest days of Sultan Abdul Hamid. Revolutionary rumors are numerous.

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The Guardian Toronto Saturday Night

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