

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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Premier King Soft Pedals

Dr. Manion's criticism of Premier King's opening campaign speech at Brantford, that it was "a mess of platitudes and generalities, a few kernels of wheat in a barrel of chaff," might fittingly have been applied to many of Mr. King's utterances in the Strand Theatre here on Saturday. The Premier went to the length of criticising the Conservative leader for emphasizing in his platform matters so important to this Province as a national policy of highways and old age pensions. He did not state in Charlottetown what he stated emphatically in the House of Commons, namely that the payment of money to the Provinces by the Dominion for highways and old age pensions constituted "a thoroughly vicious principle." On the contrary, he labored to show that he might give these matters consideration if re-elected. But he had no definite assurance to offer, no constructive policy of any kind to set before the people.

It was very evident from the cautious manner in which the Prime Minister approached these subjects, that he was fully aware of the weakness of his position. For if he were favorably disposed to continuing the federal grants for highway construction, how could he explain the fact that he had himself withdrawn these grants and spoken in criticism of them in Parliament? Mr. King's excuse for refusing to make a definite announcement regarding national highways because "he did not believe in holding out to the electors in general as one of the great projects of a particular election something simply to take their minds off the great issues" was, in the circumstances, an insult to the intelligence of his hearers.

The Premier had the temerity to ask the people of Prince Edward Island, in considering the Conservative policy of national old age pensions, not to forget "that an Old Age Pensions law which does not divide up the obligations of the country means more and more in the way of taxation." If he meant to imply, as obviously he did, that Mr. Bennett's policy which would enable this Province to share equally with all the Provinces of Canada in old age pensions was an unfair division of obligations, he was shooting very wide of the mark indeed. The fact is, of course, that the King Government's policy of making the Provinces pay fifty percent of the expenditures under Old Age Pensions effectively shuts out this Province from participating in the scheme, while it utilizes federal taxes imposed in this Province for the payment of old age pensions in other and wealthier provinces.

The Premier boasted that he made Old Age Pensions an election issue in the last campaign. He might have gone further and reminded his hearers that the local Liberal party also made it an election issue in the provincial campaign of 1927. Provincially and federally, Liberal politicians unscrupulously exploited the credulity of the aged poor in this Province on two occasions by leading them to believe that they would be provided for under an Act which was so framed that with the limited revenues at our disposal it was impossible for Prince Edward Island to receive any benefit whatever.

In view of the fact that the Conservative leader proposes definitely to put an end to this unfair discrimination and to allow Prince Edward Island to participate fully in Old Age Pensions, it is difficult to see what consolation Mr. King expected the aged poor of the Province to receive from his statement: "Don't be too sure that Mr. Bennett is going to get back into office and have any chance of putting that law into force!" Again, there was Mr. King's extraordinary explanation of the attitude of his Government towards the New Zealand butter situation. First he dumped this product into Canada at the expense of our own dairy industry must be accepted as an evidence of Canada's prosperity. Then he declared that the Government proposed to terminate the New Zealand trade arrangement, not because it was injurious to Canada but "because our treaty with New Zealand was being misrepresented through the emphasis placed on this New Zealand butter." And finally he promised that when negotiating a fresh agreement "we will take good care to see that it is so drawn that this kind of thing won't happen again if we can possibly prevent it!" The last statement, if made by a prisoner in a court of law, could only be construed as a confession of guilt coupled with a plea for mercy on the ground of ignorance or incompetence.

What The Premier Omitted On the subject of federal aid to agriculture, which is a strong plank in Mr. Bennett's platform, the Prime Minister had nothing whatever to say to his audience in Charlottetown Saturday night. Doubtless he knew too well how any criticism of this measure would be received in a Province such as Prince Edward Island, so largely agricultural and so badly in need of federal assistance. Doubtless, too, he had some qualms of conscience; for it was he, Premier King, who had caused to be discontinued the federal grants for agricultural and technical training which the Conservatives carried on, and which, if returned to power, they will again put into effect.

On the matter of Maritime subsidies Premier King seemed to be completely at sea. At times he spoke as if he were under the delusion that the final adjustment of subsidies recommended by the Duncan Commission in 1926 as a measure requiring "immediate consideration" had been carried out; as, for example, when he declared that his promise at the last federal election to implement the Commission's findings had been fulfilled. He referred to the very letter and certainly in the spirit in which it was made. It was as if he were under the delusion that he had persuaded ex-Premier Saunders not to press the subsidy claims of this Province until the Western Provinces had been dealt with. Mr. King seemed completely to have forgotten that in 1929, in the House of Commons, he had declared, as a reason why the Maritime claims were not being settled at the same time as the claims of the Western Provinces, that "for some reason or other" these provinces had not come forward with their claims.

Having confessed that he was responsible for the delay in settling the subsidy claims of this Province when Mr. Saunders was pressing these claims, Premier King added: "However, the Audit Board was put to work at once on the financing and that work of necessity has been going on ever since." Surely this statement will have to be construed in a super-Pickwickian sense. The Audit Board was never mentioned until a few months ago. It held one sitting at Ottawa and there was some talk of it coming to the Maritime Provinces. Its duties with respect to our claims were admittedly of a preliminary nature and its work was so tardily performed that it was unable to present even a preliminary report at the last session of Parliament.

Premier King, according to the local Liberal organ, is "the one dominant figure in Canadian public life today." And Premier King found it necessary to caution a Liberal audience in Charlottetown Saturday night not to be "too sure" that Mr. Bennett would have an opportunity of putting the Conservative policies to effect after the election.

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Notes By The Way

The British people are not fools. They stand ready, we believe—Mr. Baldwin has clearly said so—to give preference for preference, to make mutually beneficial arrangements, but does anybody suppose that the British, the oldest and greatest traders in the world, are such easy simpletons as to be fooled by a fake preference, by a preference whose true character may be judged by the absurd gesture of removing the duty on hay? That, with scores of other items like it, was an insult to British intelligence. The cheapest sort of political trick.

Why can the American manufacturer pay higher wages than any of his competitors? Simply because he has all the protection he needs. The party opponents of the politicians who write the American tariffs always charge that they are dictated by the manufacturers. And there is a certain amount of truth in the charge. The manufacturer surely knows best what he must have if he is to be in a position to pay fair dividends and big wages.

Facts sometimes become an unbearable burden and dreams a restful relief. And yet, there are dreams, good and bad, and the latter are possibly much worse than facts.

It will be remembered that early in 1929 an interesting discovery was made by Inspector Jay while patrolling the district from Dundas Harbor to Melville Island in the Eastern Arctic district of Canada when at Depot Point he found, a cairn in which was a cylinder containing relics left by Captain William Parry. It was Captain Parry who discovered the first traces of the Erebus and Terror, the two lost ships of the lost Franklin expedition. Among the relics were manuscript notes which later were deposited with the Dominion Archivist at Ottawa. From time to time other relics of this Franklin expedition have been discovered in the northern hinterland of the Dominion, some of which are now in the Royal Naval Museum at Greenwich. These relics and other interesting associations with the Arctic—Captain Bernier for instance—are among the reasons why Arctic Canada should be represented at the Polar Exhibition shortly to be held in London. She should call her section "Our Lady of the Snows" without offence to anyone.

What the business world has yet to learn is that more and more production is useless without more and more consumption, and consumption can only come from the spending of the workers.

As Premier of Saskatchewan, not very long ago, Mr. Dunning introduced his famous "Free Trade—Damn Protection" resolution in the Provincial Legislature over which he presided.

On May 1st, 1930, the same Mr. Dunning as Minister of Finance introduced higher iron and steel schedules, employing this language: "The Government had first in mind the national necessity of maintaining a sufficient and self-reliant iron and steel industry."

Was there ever a more flagrant example of a statesman swallowing himself for party purposes, The Arch Free Trader admits the Conservative contention that the maintenance of a sufficient and self-reliant steel industry is a national necessity. That is what members of the present Opposition have been urging ever since they introduced the National Policy in 1878.

The rousing reception accorded the Hon. R. B. Bennett recently in Winnipeg may be taken, says the Montreal Star, as fairly indicative of the trend of public opinion as the campaign opens, even in the hitherto almost solidly Liberal-Progressive West. Mr. Bennett was clearly not in any "enemy's country." He was surrounded by a huge audience which cheered him again and again as he pilloried the King Government for its betrayal of historic principles and as he gave pledges for Conservative performances of his party.

"I conducted the Government of New Brunswick so as not to mix Federal and Provincial affairs," said Premier Baxter after Thursday's election returns were announced. "But a Minister of the Crown and three Senators took part in the campaign with the sole object of introducing Federal politics into our Provincial concerns. They have had their answer."



That Body of Ours

By James W. Barton, M.D. HEALTH AT MIDDLE AGE.

You are reading almost daily about the way some families, some communities, some nations, seem to resist various ailments. There is no question but that some families have more cases of tuberculosis than do others; some have more cases of heart disease; others more cases of apoplexy and so forth. Then there will be other families who have fewer cases of any one of these ailments, than the average for the community or nation. Some families will show a number of members, generation after generation, who have attained the age of 85 to 95 years of age.

The explanation given is that some families have passed through all these different types of ailments, and the ones who did not die established a resistance toward them that has been passed down to their succeeding generations. Measles on an island that has never known measles cause a tremendous number of deaths, but where measles has existed for centuries, the death rate is low.

And so as you approach the middle age period you may be wondering what is likely to be your lot in life from the health standpoint. Now the above facts cannot be thrown aside because heredity is a big factor in all life, but after all, it is only one factor. Another factor equally important is your circumstances, your surroundings, and your knowledge that was unknown to generations that have passed on.

You will remember the man of 72 who was asked why he was the only member of his family that had attained such an age, all the others had died before 50 years of age of apoplexy, heart and kidney ailments. His reply was "Well you know I always had a poor appetite."

Almost 4 out of every 10 children formerly died at birth or before they reached the age of 12 months, and now only 1 in 10 dies, because of care given them—they are certainly no stronger than the babies of previous years. Similarly with you, if you approach middle age using care not to eat too much, care to sleep enough, and care to get outdoors as much as possible, with a little light exercise, your life can be prolonged just as have the lives of the children, despite any hereditary or "germ plasma" tendencies in your family.

The very fact that there are "tendencies" should really be of help to you in retaining good health.

The Poet's Corner AMOR VITAE I love the warm bare earth and all That works and dreams thereon: I love the seasons yet to fall: I love the ages gone.

The valleys with the sheeted grain, The river's smiling might, The merry wind, the rustling rain, The vastness of the night.

I love the morning's flame, the steep Where down the vapour clings: I love the clouds that float and sleep, And every bird that sings

I love the purple shower that pours On far-off fields at even: I love the pine-wood dusk whose floors Are like the courts of heaven

I love the heaven's azure span, The grass beneath my feet: I love the face of every man Whose thought is swift and sweet.

I let the wrangling world go by, And like an idle breath Its echoes and its phantoms fly: I care no jot for death.

Time like a Titan bright and strong Spreads one enchanted gleam: Each hour is but a fluted song, And life a lofty dream. —Archibald Lampman.

THE LAND WE LOVE By FRANK LEIGH BLACKFOOT INDIANS A. The Blackfoot Indians is a Western confederacy of Siksika stock. They are first described in the journals much more often nowadays, and on a much larger scale, than it ever did before.

The Public Forum This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. This Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

THE PREMIER'S OMISSIONS Sir—The Great Kings visit to this province Saturday night was not very creditable to our Liberal Clubs. There was no torch-light procession—no band—no prominent speakers from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, or Nova Scotia—no not one from abroad to do him reverence. And while we admit his ability as a speaker, his speech consisting mainly of feeble explanations and platitudes was disappointing almost to the point of depression.

He carefully avoided telling his audience that last year he was obliged to give out of the Canadian people's money to his pet railway wonder-worker, Sir Henry Thornton, thirty nine millions to keep going his own special palatial train travelling from coast to coast, broadcasting treasure pictures of the inexhaustible resources of Canada's natural resources; and this year sixty one millions more—in a word the C. N. R. under Thornton and King management in two years not only did not pay expenses but worse still required \$100,000,000 to operate. The C. P. R. during this period was paying 10 to 12 per cent dividends.

He did not tell us that the volume of commodities carried by our railroads was less—less mark you—in 1929 than it was any year since 1922, the year he was unfortunately chosen captain of the ship of state. He did not tell us that he planned to grant to a few of his bosom friends the franchise of the Beauharnois project and that these were about to issue stock certificates to the extent of \$380,000,000 to do a job that engineers estimated should not cost over \$50,000,000, and if Mackenzie King is now so solicitous for returned soldiers, why did he not during eight long years move his tongue to ameliorate their condition? He also forgot to tell us that in 1924 the late Mr. Robb left out of the ledger as non-active assets \$483,000,000 of railway bonds for which Canada was and is still liable. Mark you this little item alone would make apparent surpluses of \$50,000,000 for each year Mackenzie King has been in power.

He also forgot to tell that Canada is now governed not by its representatives in parliament but by various commissions, such as the railway, the civil service, the advisory board, etc. What are the nine-tenths heads of government departments doing? Surely each Minister with the aid of his innumerable deputies should be able to manage the affairs of his department.

Then there would be no need for commissioners at princely salaries and the country would save the expense of these costly excrescences. But the poorest exhibit of all was his laboured defense of the New Zealand treaty. One of the worst results of that bad bargain is that in the last two or three years, not less than 150,000 of our best cattle have been sold to U. S. Farmers. It will take Canada at least a decade to get back its dairying industry to where it was five years ago.

These are just a few of the omissions in the Prime Minister's flowery presentation of his government's record. He seemed to consider himself entitled to great credit for reductions in taxation, and he promised if returned that he would blot out of Anthony Hendry, 1754—1755, and again by Matthew Cocking, 1772—1773. They were then known to the Cree as the Archithine. Cocking also gives the following for the five tribes in the Confederacy: Powestico-Athineuwuck or Water-fall Indians; Mitheo-Athineuwuck or Bloody Indians; Koskitow-Wathesitook or Black-footed Indians; Pegonov or Muddy-water Indians; and Sassewuck or Woody-country Indians. Their habitat was then, and until comparatively recent times, in the foot-hills of the Rocky Mountains. They are now nearly all on reservations in Alberta.

"At 4 p.m. I stop" - says one doctor we know - "and take time for a cup of tea" "Glad to get it after a trying day. Any friend or patient with me at the time, gets one too." "It's a valuable refresher - has stood by me for years." RED ROSE TEA "is good tea" Two Qualities - - RED LABEL & ORANGE PINKO

out the last vestige of the sales tax. Another topic he stressed was his imperialism. But who does not remember that at the imperial conference when some one moved the abbreviation of our glorious Majesty's title, Mackenzie King seconded the motion. So much for Mackenzie King's boasted imperialism. I have not time to comment on the folly of allowing our products such as hides, pulp-wood, asbestos, nickel etc. to be manufactured in the United States while our own people are unemployed and starving. Last year Mackenzie King sent thirty Canadian doctors to Europe to examine emigrants before embarking. Where are the emigrants? more anon. I am, Sir etc. JACK CUNNCK THE TARIFF AND FACTORIES Sir—There is a Dominion election nearing, and we are now hearing in this place much about what the King Government has done from a few "died in the wool" Liberals, but little of the great set back they have done for Canada. We can think back, and know what our great statesmen from Sir John McDonald's time, on down to

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