

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1912

IRELAND NOW AND CANADA IN 1849.

"The situation in Ireland seems to be a good deal like that of Canada in 1849," says the Montreal Herald. "We had a party here in those days strong, aggressive, determined, and all who belonged to it were convinced that responsible government would never do. They were ready to fight for their belief. They did stone Lord Elgin. They did pursue Mr. Lafontaine to his house, threatening death. They did burn the Parliament buildings, and they were quite sure they were right. The fact that responsible government was universally acceptable to men of the other race seemed to be sufficient to damn it in their eyes, yet the experiment was made, and extended, and so far as any one knows, there is no party against responsible government now." The parallel drawn by The Herald is a convincing one. The federal system has been tried along with local self-government, in many widely separated quarters of the world and has been found to work well. It has not restricted but has enlarged the liberties of the people who have tried it. No one would propose to take away from any of the States or Provinces that have it the right of self-government which they enjoy, nor would any one of them willingly relinquish

it. Yet there are many good people in Ulster who really think that to give Ireland a Parliament and allow her people to make laws for themselves and conduct their own local affairs would be a source of danger to the Empire and would imperil the liberties and rights of the minority in that country. Like the Tories in Lower Canada in 1849, the Ulsterites are fully convinced that they are right and are willing to fight for their cherished belief. But the fact that they are conscientious does not prove that they are right. All history proves that they are mistaken. As in the matter of responsible government in Canada, it seems probable enough that many good people in Ulster will remain unconvinced until the Home Rule bill is put in operation, and it may be till the end of their days. The friends of the measure on their part rely upon the success of the experiment and are confident that if it shall fail to convince its present opponents while they live, it will convince their children and their descendants, so that in a quarter of a century hence the opposition that is now so assertive will be remembered only as we now recall the mistaken notions of the men of 1849.

THE MEETING OF CITIZENS.

Some may have doubts as to the desirability of holding a citizens' meeting on the eve of the city election, but the meeting turned out to be a good one. The speeches of the various candidates were by force of circumstances brief, but they were concise and to the point, as a rule, and were also in the main good-tempered and courteous. A good deal of ground was covered, and although the time limit cut off several speakers while they still had more that they desired to say, all accepted the conditions cheerfully.

To the many citizens who give but little attention to city affairs, much information was imparted that they would not otherwise obtain. And it was satisfactory to find the general opinion of the speakers to be that the city is in an excellent financial position, with valuable assets to balance its moderate debt, while steady progress has been made in improving our streets, sidewalks and the civic equipment generally.

The writer of this article, having lived at various times for terms of years in St. John, Ottawa and Moncton, desires to say that in no city where he has resided has there been less occasion for hostile criticism of civic rulers than in this city. For years past the affairs of Charlottetown have been administered with care, efficiency and honesty, which fact is creditable to those who have done the work and borne the responsibility of civic office.

As was stated at the meeting, the number of candidates and the good attendance and earnest interest of the citizens at the Market Building, bespeaks a healthful interest in city affairs. And there ought not to be any difficulty in selecting from among

the various candidates as good men for the new civic government as the city has had in the past.

The advantage to the citizens of having the various candidates before them and hearing them express their views on civic affairs is obvious. It gives the opportunity for comparison of one with another, face to face. It enables the listening citizen to judge of the candidate's fitness for a position of responsibility, and how he is likely to get along with other men in council, that could never be obtained in the way of the ordinary canvass. There are some men who have good ideas, but who are found to be quite unable to harmonize their views with those of other men. In the public meeting much more could be learned in these respects than could be gathered from the candidates' cards or from their methods in soliciting votes.

Perhaps some day we shall be able to dispense with private canvassing altogether, if not to prohibit it, and rely wholly upon a platform canvass. Something might be gained and little would be lost if this course were adopted.

CANADIAN RAILWAYS.

At the beginning of July, 1911 Canada had 25,000 miles of railway in operation and seven thousand miles in course of construction. By the first of July next it is hoped that 1,900 miles will be added to the 25,000 now in operation, making a total of close upon 27,000 miles. At the date of confederation the total was about 3,000 miles, so that since that date the Canadian people have added about enough railway mileage to girdle the earth at the equator. That of itself is a gigantic task accomplished.

Canadian railways have cost a vast sum—\$1,523,689,201 in all or about \$55,821 for each mile of road. In the year ended with June, 1911 the sum of \$118,391,514 was added to the capital liability of the railways in Canada. The gross earnings of the railways in 1911 was \$188,738,894, an increase of nearly \$15,000,000 over the previous year.

FEDERAL AND OTHER DEBTS.

The federal debt of Canada is somewhere about \$50 per head of the population. Of course, Canada has vast assets, worth many times the amount of the national debt. Then each of the Provinces has a debt of its own, but also has good assets to balance it. Then the cities and municipalities have also their public debts, with assets also.

The city of St. John, for instance, is reported to have a debt of about five millions of dollars, with assets of still greater amount. On its population of say, 50,000, the city debt would be some \$100 per head, while the provincial and federal debts to-

gether would perhaps amount to as much more. Many Canadian cities have far greater debts than St. John, for that matter and other Provinces are quite as much involved in debt per head as is New Brunswick. The point we wish to make, without regard to any particular city or Province, is this, that with two or three forms of government above the individual, each having the power to saddle him and his fellow citizens with debt, there may be some danger that the volume of added debts may grow uncomfortably large, without being detected or checked in time. Debt, whether it be individual, civic, provincial or federal, means the payment of interest, and this means taxation. Public debt is, after all, a mortgage upon the earnings of each individual in the community, and when it reaches \$200 per head, or \$1,000 per family it has ceased to be a mere trifle.

NOTES

During the election of September last a good many old-time Liberals voted Conservative, not a few of them for the first time. They did so in the belief that the reciprocity pact was not in the interest of Canada, and some of them because they thought it would weaken the British Empire. These men were neither Conservative nor protectionist at heart, and in the natural order of things would have returned to the party from which they were but momentarily estranged. But they are not likely to be restored to their old-time party by applying to them such epithets as "Flag-flappers" and other ill-sounding names as are just now so very much in vogue in a large section of the Liberal press. Perhaps, however, their return is not desired.

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"Astoria Boots \$5.00, for \$3.50, \$4.50 for \$3.25, and \$4.00 for \$3.00 at Goff Bros. 2-8d31.

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The name of Rexall on a preparation that crosses our counter is a binding guarantee that the article contained therein is of superior merit, means that it bears the hearty recommendation and guarantee of over 3,000 druggists scattered over the United States and Canada.

Each one of the 300 different preparations are intended for the curing of only one particular disease that only afflicts mankind and each and every one has worked a wonderful cure in its own class. Among the preparations that are in particular demand are Rexall Kidney Pills, a preparation that for the prompt curing of all kidney disorders is in a class all its own. This preparation gets right down to the seat of the trouble and promptly works out a safe, satisfactory and lasting cure. They are easy to take, are not disagreeable in action and besides strengthening and building up the kidneys they generally increase functional vigor and make your body stronger, healthier and better in body and mind.

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CARD

To the Electors of Ward Three

Having been waited on by a deputation of citizens and presented with a numerous signed requisition asking me to become a candidate for the City Council, I feel it my duty to comply with the request. I shall therefore be a candidate for Ward Three at the forthcoming Civic Election.

Holding as I do strongly to the conviction that the right of electors to vote as they see fit, should not be interfered with, I shall do no personal canvassing. I may say I have no personal ends to serve. I have no promises to make. I believe in civic improvement consistent with true economy. I believe that taxation should be kept at a minimum consistent with the needs of the city. I believe in honest civic government. In short, if you see fit to elect me, I shall feel it my duty to use my energies in promoting the interests of the City, guided always by my best judgment and when possible by the well understood wishes of those whom I represent.

E. D. STERN

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To the Electors of Charlottetown

Ladies and Gentlemen:--I beg to inform you that I have at the solicitation of a number of influential citizens, consented to nominate for the office of Mayor of Charlottetown.

I have always been in favor of the progress and prosperity of our City and all such progressive measures the citizens desire and are deemed consistent with a reasonable expenditure of public money shall have my hearty support. If elected I shall do my utmost to administer this honorable trust to the advancement of the citizens. As the time is short, and especially as civic voting is now conducted by ballot, I shall not be able nor do I deem it necessary to prosecute a personal canvass.

I therefore avail myself of this opportunity to earnestly solicit your votes and influence in the approaching Mayoralty contest.

Thanking you for past favors and confidently anticipating your hearty support.

I remain, ladies and gentlemen, Yours faithfully,

CHAS. LYONS.

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