

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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RIDICULOUS DEFENSE

If it were not for the vital issues involved the Patriot's rhetorical and declamatory defense of the Bell government would be amusing in its ludicrousness. With the same show of holy enthusiasm with which it declares the Bell candidates have kept faith with their supporters, it takes the score of citizens who saw Mr. Landriega's dismissal notice, that "Mr. Landriega was not dismissed". With equal eloquence and assumed zeal for the truth it declares that Col Campbell and Professor Barlow left their positions and their province to better their circumstances. Undaunted by the thousands of protests coming from every portion of the province, it still shouts with "pomp and circumstance" that the people are satisfied with the record of the Bell government; extols the sublime courage with which the Bell candidates threw to the winds their pre-election promises and launched out on a course diametrically opposite to that which they had charted to mislead the electors. The Patriot's reputation for veracity is probably in as fluid a condition as that of the Bell government for consistency and honesty and may not suffer any more damage than the latter in this peculiar defensive campaign but the people have had an excellent opportunity of judging both since the last election. The conclusion arrived at with respect to the government is well known, is not even denied by those who were once its friends and supporters. The Patriot has risked what reputation it ever had in defending what all others have condemned and we feel for the Patriot in its hopeless loneliness. For the members of the Bell party who were misled by their leaders into making promises which could never be fulfilled and which there never was any intention of fulfilling; who were trapped after their election into supporting measures and acts which they had, in pre-election ignorance, disapproved; for those who in evident good faith, passed on to their constituents promises of redress which were never implemented—for these we have every sympathy. We would fain believe they are the unwilling victims of duplicity and deceit for which our legislative history furnishes no parallel. These victims still have their salvation in their own hands, in the past they may have been unwilling victims; to continue the deception will be their own deliberate act and by this they shall be judged.

A HOME FOR AGED PEOPLE

A correspondent asks "Is there a home for aged people on the island? Please answer through your columns". We regret to say we have not with the exception of the infirmary which is intended for those who have no means, and Falconwood Hospital, which is intended only for the insane, there is no such home as our correspondent asks about. This is not to our credit. In a highly favored land like ours, where poverty is a rare thing, where comfort and plenty are the rule, it should not be necessary for aged men and women to become either abjectly poor or insane to find a home in their declining years. There are many men and women in fairly comfortable circumstances, who through the loss of relatives or necessary family readjustments, cannot afford to maintain a home and such help as their loneliness would require. They could pay a reasonable amount in a comfortable and res-

pectable home designed for the purpose where comfort and medical attention and skilled nursing could be had for a nominal fee. Such an institution would not necessarily cost very heavily and once established, it would be practically self-sustaining. We have no doubt that a properly directed move with this object in view would be successful. Charity and generosity in this province, when appealed to have always responded liberally. Like other movements it needs a definite beginning.

THE LAMB AND THE LION

The weather prophets are now trying to figure out whether March came in like a lamb or a lion. In the western part of the province and also in the neighboring provinces its entry was distinctly lion-like. In the eastern section of the Maritime provinces there was a gale of wind accompanied by a deluge of rain. If the exit of the month is to be the antithesis of its entry there is probably little room for hope. In any case the early part of the month has been exceedingly mild and lamb-like and the snow has received a shaking that means the beginning of the end. The backbone of the winter is not only broken but dislodged and, although there are snowstorms and zero weather yet in store for us before planting, we know that Spring is on the way. And we should not become impatient about the coming of Spring. The fertility and fruitfulness of this province is due very largely to its cold and draggy springs, disagreeable as these may be to us in our haste to get to the shore and to the woods. With sufficient cold to hold vegetation in check until Spring is definitely here we have the assurance of rapid growth, of trees and plants uninjured by frosts and of a good fruit crop. When, occasionally, Spring arrives in the latter part of March or the early part of April and the buds swell out and become ready to burst into leaf, the spring frosts get in their work and at least the fruit crop is seriously damaged. Our late springs, although temporarily unpleasant, are a great asset in our vegetation and the lesson of Spring is patience. Summer will come eventually and it will be all the more enjoyable and all the more fruitful and luxuriant and beautiful because of the cold and backward spring.

UNITED STATES PROTECTION

The United States is definitely and unalterably protectionist. That the Fordney Bill will pass through its various stages is now generally anticipated. They want their markets, agricultural and industrial for themselves. What are we Canadians going to do about it? Are we going to let them walk in over our low tariff wall and flood our markets while they forbid us entering theirs? Are we going to support the Liberal platform of 1919 which calls for a general reduction of tariff and a broader free list or are we going to stand by the "protective principle" in the tariff advocated by the Honorable Premier Meighen? Need we ask in the face of what has happened to our markets during the past few weeks?

EDITORIAL NOTES

Yesterday's Patriot declares the "Lunar dwellers had more to do with the putting into operation of the Agricultural School than the Guardian". This is certainly a frank admission. The original scheme for this school was certainly lunatic but it is cruel for the Patriot to admit it so frankly.

CURRENT COMMENT

The Hon. T. A. Crerar has spoken and has shown himself as a first class graduate of the Liberal inconsistency school. On one point he was most emphatic; and that is that Mackenzie King was positively wrong in declaring that Premier Meighen had no mandate from the people to conduct the business of the country till the end of the parliamentary term. He insists that the Government have such a mandate beyond any question. In this Mr. Crerar makes his own position a most untenable one, for the seat which he holds himself was awarded by the exact same mandate from the people who elected him as a member of the same Government, and also to the end of the term. If, as he candidly admits, Premier Meighen has a commission from the people to continue in the government of the country, from where and from whom did Mr. Crerar get his mandate to leave that Government to locate himself in "no man's land" as leader of a newly created Farmers party? His plain and proper course, following all honest parliamentary practice, would have been to resign his seat and go back to his constituents, as Mr. J. H. Burnham did, and ask them to approve his change of policy and party. This would have been consistent, but his heritage of Liberal ethics told him that policy and promise was not a something to be implemented, but only a convenient platform to get in on.

But while the Grain Growers leader most willingly admits that Premier Meighen has a sound mandate to continue at the helm, he declares his intention of voting for the Mackenzie King amendment, not on any known or apparent fact, but on grounds which at the best are only imaginative. He says, "The Government have lost the confidence of the country." Who invested him with the omniscient power to determine what is in the minds of the people of Canada? Because he himself, attracted by the infinitely larger salary of the Grain Growers combine, saw fit to follow the fatter leaves and fishes, and for a sake leader, is that a substantial evidence that his attractions and his ambitions was the voted sentiment of the electorate? Could he read from the four thousand majority of the Minister of Customs in the St. John County election, or in the fifteen hundred plurality of the Minister of Public Works, against a Farmer candidate, in Colchester, or in a sound majority in Yale, this expression of want of confidence by the people, of which he speaks so flippantly? Surely his imagination must have carried him away into strange regions if these facts could have made such a fallacious impression upon him.

Mr. Crerar had a word to say about our own esteemed representative for King's County, whose able presentation of the Government's case as mover of the address has elicited the fullest meed of praise from every quarter. His statement may be taken as an indication of the ease with which his friends can pull his leg.

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. B. Lousen.

TRAVELLERS ALL

We are all travellers in the wilderness of this world, and the best we can hope to find is a friend.

Some years ago I happened to be in a business house when a young man came in. He was a commercial traveler, and it seemed to me that he was rather young to be out on the road. He asked for the head of the firm and, when he appeared, introduced himself. I overheard part of the conversation. "So your father has passed away, and your mother are trying to keep the business going. Well, young man, you may bank on me. Your father in all his dealings with me acted as an honorable business man. You bear his name. That's enough for me." Do you wonder that the quick tears of loving pride sprang to that youth's eyes as he heard such honest words of praise? "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold." What an inheritance that young fellow had received! I do not think that he realized just how much his father's good name meant to him as he started out on that trip; but I cannot help feeling that, after that interview, he would thank God for such a father—a father who did not grasp "filthy lucre, tainted money."

and is no doubt similar in value for the purpose of evidence, as the other cock-and-bull stories from which he draws the conclusion that the Government has lost the "confidence of the people." Mr. Crerar's "advice" were so he declared with all seeming innocence, "that this would be the last Parliament in which that gentleman (Mr. McIsaac) would sit." Perhaps Mr. Crerar imagines that he has a big following of United Farmers, beg pardon—Grain Growers, in King's County who are going to carry his nominee in with a sweep. Perhaps he hasn't even heard that their random quondam President and presumed King's County candidate was supplanted by the bigger Farmers' forces of the Bedoune district. There is one thing certain, and that is that he knows little or nothing of the feeling of our Island people, or if he did he would avoid talking rubbish.

Another of those unfortunate self-implicating references was when he styled the Speech from the Throne as "like unto the financial statement of a house about to go into bankruptcy." As a member of the Government which created the big war debts that now confront the country, he should have had decency enough to withhold reflections upon those who are now grappling with the task of meeting the liabilities which he assisted to create. On the trade question he hedged considerably from his original formula, but in one particular he was unchanged, and that is that "WE MUST BUY IN THE AMERICAN MARKETS, where we sell our produce." Here must be no "truck or trade" with Canadian manufacturers, at least not if he and his combine can prevent it. The workmen of our Dominion can trek to the United States, if they want employment under any Crerar policy of development. Of the leaders, Premier Meighen and Mackenzie King he condensed their speeches into the declaration one that "I want you to get out" and of the other "I intend to stay in" as long as the people want me. His extreme modesty resigned him from telling the truth in regard to himself, which was, that he was exceedingly anxious to add the Premier's stipend to his already very large Grain Growers salary, and that apart from this ambition he had absolutely no grounds of complaint against the Government, and no other reason for voting against them.

Probably the worst bombshell sent into their ranks was the announcement that the Government were going to appoint a commission to investigate the grain question in the west. This is to be done in the interests of the western farmers, whose treatment by the big operating combines is the subject of many suspicions and of much complaint. Of course, this is being resented and will be vigorously opposed by the political operators masquerading as the farmers party, but, if all reports are correct, more fittingly described as the Farmer feeling combine. The Farmer members of the House are already smelling the brimstone, and complaining that the movement is political "devised in the hope that something will be effected which will have the effect of casting discredit upon the farmer party, AND PARTICULARLY UPON HON. T. A. CHEREAR, who is president of the largest Grain dealing company in Canada." Premier Meighen, who was once president of the largest of western milling companies, is well versed in the methods of grain speculators, is fully competent to sift and riddle their practices, of which he is no doubt well informed. Besides this Mr. H. H. Stevens of Vancouver and other western supporters are onto the job and pressing for investigation. Mr. Henderson, who has recently gone over to the Government is also following the matter up.

So that all things considered Mr. Crerar and his party have not a sea of glassy calm to sail, but something of a character to bring a sensation of unpleasant chill creeping down the back. Added to this there will be the double advantage of relieving the unsuspecting farmers of the prairies of these leaches who have attached themselves to their business and are milking them, to the very strappings, of the profits of their calling; to which they have the first just right. Henceforth these political Agrarians will have more employment in defending themselves, and less time in which to offend.

Our Ottawa Letter

OTTAWA, Feb. 26.—1921.—After the Prime Minister and the leader of the official and Agrarian oppositions had paid suitable tribute to the memory of the late Thomas Owens who for 33 years was a member of the Hansard staff and after Mr. Gordon of West Peterborough, the revival of hopes for the Liberal party, was introduced with a great deal of hurrah, the debate on the Address was proceeded with, the Hon. Mr. Crerar having the floor. His speech was looked forward to with a good deal of expectancy, principally as to his attitude on the amendment proposed by Mr. King, and in that respect he developed a rather remarkable reason for supporting it. He whacked Mackenzie King all the way through much harder than he did the Premier whose candid and frank statements of policy he professed to admire, and he declared very positively that he did not agree with the grounds upon which Mr. King based his amendment, namely, that the government had usurped power, but nevertheless he would support it on the ground that the government had lost the confidence of the country as indicated in by-elections in other words, he placed himself in the equivocal position of voting for a declaration of the terms of which he states are all wrong. It was all very evident that two parties, professedly divergent in many respects and especially on the tariff, which Mr. Crerar has made the predominant issue of the Middle West, are seeking a union. The farmers of Canada have been made to believe that the old party have been inimical to their interests and they have been induced to organize in protest and to create a new order of things and now under guise of defeating the Government in power they are to be handed over body and bones principles and all, to the leader of the Opposition whose regular following is professedly one favorable to protection. Mr. Crerar did not argue yesterday against a tariff. He differentiated between a tariff for revenue and a tariff whose principle was protective as well. He said the two things were contradiction and irreconcilable and argued with peculiar free trade sophism that if you wanted revenue from a tariff it could not be got by one which was protective in principle, because the object of the latter was to keep out goods. In this he is arguing against facts

Advertisement for Crown Brand Syrup. Includes text: "GIVES a wonderfully fresh flavour to every kind of cake, pie and pudding... The Canada Starch Co., Limited Montreal." Features an illustration of a woman pouring syrup and a tin of 'Crown Brand Syrup'.

Large advertisement for Robin Hood Flour. Includes text: "Scones—Gee! They're nice, too". "Mother knows that growing children need the extra nutrition of the hard western wheat...". "Robin Hood Flour is stronger, more uniform in granulation and absolutely free from flour-dust which means a better and a larger baking every time." Features illustrations of a woman and a child eating scones, and a tin of Robin Hood Flour.