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THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN
 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1921

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QUESTION OF EDUCATION
 The subject of education received well merited attention from members during the various discussions in the legislature. We have no doubt that close beside the desire of those members to show that the present government has done great things in connection with our schools lay a genuine desire to see our educational system improved. At the same time we cannot lose sight of the fact that in these days of keen specialization the question of making radical changes in an educational system is one of very grave importance and not to be lightly undertaken by the ordinary rank and file. It is a matter for specialists to deal with.

In our sister provinces great advances have been made in connection with education and the advances are traceable to the counsel and the efforts of men trained for the work. The desire of the rank and file may be thoroughly sincere; the ordinary uneducated individual may be honestly desirous of seeing the best that is possible done for the improvement of our schools but if his common sense is at all commensurate with his honest desire he will leave the making of radical changes to those who have made a study of the question.

Many of our legislators have said some good things on the importance of education in the life and the prosperity of the nation and of the province but underlying all that has been said was the too evident object of persuading the people that the present government has done more for the schools than any other government.

Our schools are in process of evolution. Certain changes have been brought about by the necessities of the case. We are still far short of an ideal system, far short even of what has been achieved in our sister provinces and one obvious reason for this has been the need doubt well meant desire to make our schools "practical" as the word is understood by many uneducated men. The attempt is being made to make our schools and our colleges places in which to train our sons and daughters to become farmers and farmer's wives. This idea is probably the most incongruous fallacy that has crept into our school system. The object of our schools is to lay a foundation for an intelligent life and for an intelligent pursuit of happiness and usefulness in whatever calling the child will take up in after life. We cannot make farmers, carpenters, blacksmiths, clergymen, doctors or lawyers of children in the primary schools. We can give a groundwork upon which to build the calling which their natural bent or inclination will lead them to. We can also through the good offices of a sensible teacher influence the child in the direction of farming or other calling for which he or she evinces an aptitude. We have a Board of Education and one of the first mistakes made in connection with the agricultural and technical school was in taking it out of the hands of the Board of Education and placing it under the direction of a department that does not claim to be an expert on educational matters.

HOW IT STRIKES A STRANGER
 A stranger visiting our legislature on some fine evening would, probably first of all, be impressed with the personal saintliness and the political sagacity of that section of the Assembly that comprises the dominant portion. He would hear member after member rise in his place and declare with legislative solemnity and apparent earnestness that each of the heads of departments, was the best in the history of any country, that the history of any country were being carried on with scrupulous

honesty and fairness; that the present government came into power just in time to save the province from ruin; that the Patriot was a clean, truthful, paper suitable for the home or the Sunday School and generally that the Liberal party now in power was everything that is clean, wholesome, efficient and of good repute. Hours of the present session have been spent in this fulsome mutual admiration, each member alternately blowing his own horn and that of his fellow. Outside of the sacred precincts of the legislature the stranger hears a different story. He hears that the party has been crooked from the beginning; that they came into power on false pretences; that they made promises which they knew could never be fulfilled; that no sooner had they secured their election than they steered a directly opposite course to that which they had promised to follow; that they deliberately misrepresented the public accounts in order to persuade the people that the former government was extravagant and that from the heads of departments down to the humblest back benches they have lost the confidence of the people and that not one of them will ever again warm a seat in the legislature. These are the two opinions held today inside and outside the legislature, or rather the opinions expressed in the House and held throughout the country. It has ever been regarded as suspicious when men "protest overmuch" regarding their honesty and their competence and never in the history of our legislature have men so fulsomely protested their own faultlessness as during the present session. With their evidences of incompetence patched over by "cure-all bills and amendments, their childish declaration that the violation of pre-election promises was an evidence of "courage" and statesmanship, that their suppression and cooking of public accounts and the extravagant expenditure of public money is an evidence of business-like finance, the Bell government have at the present session about completed the digging of their own political grave. Whether the funeral shall take place before the end of the parliamentary term or immediately after, the fact remains that the party is today as dead as Julius Caesar, no matter how loudly they proclaim that they are still alive.

Current Comment

Mr. E. T. Higgs, was somewhat different to the majority of Government speakers on the budget, in that whatever special pleading he resorted to he at least tried to produce some plausible grounds for his reasoning. He interpreted it as a most serious matter to send abroad the statement as published in the Guardian showing the backward condition of our year's transactions to the extent of \$100,000. This was going, on his first impression, to interfere with our credit when we come to float bonds in the financial world, but later he switched around to the conclusion that, after all, investment magnates do not establish their faith on newspaper talk, in which he was right. It is not the articles in the papers that the Bell Government will be up against, but the COLD FACTS OF THE ACTUAL ACCOUNTS, as shown by the blue books and analyzed by a competent external auditor, in which they cannot hoodwink these men as easily as they do their following, both in and out of the House. While the puritan Mr. Higgs was voluble enough as to the effect of this \$100,000 on the leading public, we have yet to hear his denunciation of the big scare headlines and the sensational articles in the Patriot shortly after the Bell Government came into power, falsely claiming a deficit of \$253,000, and with shameful deliberation foisting and defaming the fair name of our Province, and slandering the clean Government that ever controlled its destinies. It makes a vast difference with Mr. Higgs whose ox is gored.

In connection with the promise made by Mr. Higgs at the public meeting in the Market Hall, a year ago, he stated that his veracity had been questioned by the Guardian. This is not correct. The truthfulness of Mr. Higgs' statements have never been impeached by this paper, accepting on the one occasion during the present session when he made a charge against the Guardian, which was positively untrue. We pointed out plainly, not that Mr. Higgs had made the mis-statement, BUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECEIVED HIM, which was the reasonable interpretation at the time. But now Mr. Higgs has put his foot in it in the form of an explanation. He says that "Two days later another caucus was held" at which it was determined instead of reducing the poll tax to \$2, as was publicly promised, they decided to give exemption to returned soldiers for five years. Even here he is incorrect as the change in favor of the returned soldiers was made at the instance of the Opposition whose suggestion was adopted. It was easily within the power of the Government to have kept this PUBLICLY GIVEN PROMISE and to exempt the returned soldiers also. The only real objection would be that it might establish a precedent for keeping of promises, which would be most repugnant to his party.

ET TU, BRUTE
 The government and its supporters have devoted a good deal of the time of the House to the denunciation of the alleged shortcomings of the Guardian in reporting the proceedings and discussing the questions at issue. One would have anticipated that such paragraphs of exactitude would have been above the guilt of committing the very offence which they charge against the Guardian. But alas for the frailty of would-be human perfection! The very foremost of the Guardian's critics stands condemned of the very sin which he alleges against us. In yesterday's Patriot, Mr. B. W. LePage is reported to have quoted the ipissima verba of a conversation between himself and a member of the editorial staff of the Guardian. The words quoted were never used by the member of the staff referred to. The most charitable view we can take of Mr. LePage's hallucination is that the wish was father to the thought and that he risked quoting the imaginary conversation to bolster an untenable position.

THE PUBLIC FORUM

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

THE OLD GARDENER SAYS

Amateurs as for that matter professionals often have difficulty in growing peas in little suggestion which may help them. Make the trench one inch deeper than usual and cover the bottom with a heavy layer of sand. Then plant the peas and put another layer of sand on top after which the trench may be filled with regular garden soil. It's a good plan to soak the seeds over night, but they should be planted before they have dried out. The best way to grow peas is to make a trench wide enough for three rows of peas with three inches between the rows.

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Meshes that enhance beauty—meshes that soften facial lines—meshes that give the desired privacy. Marvelous how much a thin Veil can do and be. New kinds—so original in effects—so smart. You're sure to find just the sort you like or need.

BRIGHT COLORS PREDOMINATE THIS YEAR

The robin redbreast has put on his new jacket; the blue-bird is brilliant again; but, first of all in the galaxy of beauty are Miss and Madam "P. E. Islander"—blooming girls and radiant woman who this Spring are doing their shopping at Patons.

SILK PETTICOATS WITH NEW ATTRACTIVENESS

New Spring Styles, as to silks, as to shapes, as to trimmings, as to weight. Taffetas, jerseys, satins—in colorings to meet the requirements of the new fashions. And besides—the new prices are lower.

THE CORSET THAT IS, BUT IS NOT

Such is the fashionable accessory that must support both gown and body, but must not detract one iota from the graceful upliveness of the wearer. The new modes were designed with that thought; selected and brought here for that service. The fitting is most important of all, and for that depend upon us completely.

UNDERWEAR COMFORT FOR LOVELY SPRING DAYS

What a pity to fail to enjoy the finest days of the year because one hasn't ready the light-weight Underwear, to change with the thermometer. Here are the best kinds for now and the near future.

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AN EDUCATIONAL PROBLEM

Sir—An educational problem? I wonder who told us about it first, —was it Aristotle, the old Greek philosopher, or somebody who lived even before the day of this venerable educationalist? Perhaps it was, or was not, no one knows, for the facts to mention the time when men did not discuss the educational problem. Men are still blindly writing and talking on the subject, quite blissfully oblivious to the fact that the real problem has long since been solved, and that the discussion now going on is only the hemming and hawing and sidestepping of those who insist that they will not be convinced by the facts which have been amply verified throughout the years. This has gone on so long and the people have talked to themselves so much that they really believe that they have a tremendous problem on their hands. It is analogous to the case of the German people and the war, and that they were God's chosen people, and that they were in the right, that they really believed it all, only to be undeceived after a series of tremendous surprises and shocks which shook the foundations of their civilization and shattered the superstructure. Prince Edward Island, (and most of the rest of the world as well) needs a series of educational shocks. We discuss the educational problem, but have we not long understood what the trouble is? The question simply reduces to this: What value do we place on the future of ourselves and of our children? Think it over—We know that the purpose of education is to teach people how to live. We know that the education of the child is not all contained in the books that he carries to school, but that perhaps the most important part, the elementary training in how to live, must be given at home. We know that the child must be firmly guided by more mature minds until he has reached the years of education (meaning

education in its broadest sense). We know these things so well; we know what we must do for the best welfare of the child. What are we doing about it? This is what some of us are doing: We are allowing children to take almost unchecked control of the home, instead of guiding them with the firm discipline which we know should be enforced. We are allowing the use of indecent language. We are giving our word and making idle threats, until our children, knowing they are safe from punishment, care nothing for what we say. We are hindering those who would help to train the young, by talking sides against them without proper consideration of the facts. In short, some of us are doing everything that is worst for our children, and which they must inevitably pay for later in life, many of them paying with their wrecked lives. Yet in our hypocrisy we loudly claim to love our children! Parents, these are strong words, but they are indisputable. They should give you food for thought, for in them lies to a very great extent the solution of

the educational problem. Is your love for your children great enough to cause you to do what is best for them? Do you value their future enough to guide them through these first few years? "But," you protest, "we want our children to love us, we cannot treat them as you suggest—they would hate their home, and we would seem to them only monsters to be feared and avoided." Well, suppose it would be as you say; would it not be better for them to hate you these few years than to hate them all the rest of their lives—a living reproach to you, when they look and see where they should have been guided in their early years? We have supposed that it would be as you say, but such is not the case. For proof you may go into the homes of any district in the country. In which homes do you see the most love—in the homes where the parents are in charge, or in those where the children have not been properly brought up? Where do you see the most kindness? Where do you see the most happiness? You know yourself.

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