

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Mr. Charles Dalton, President. J. R. Burnett, Editor and Publisher. D. K. Currie, Associate Editor.

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LIBERALS IN ACTION

According to the Patriot's expurgated report of the two Liberal Conventions in Summerside on Thursday, the Liberal leaders had a regular field day. Mr. Creelman, Mr. Arthur, M. L. A., declared, according to the Patriot, that by had never seen a better convention. Mr. McArthur admitted that there was "some dissatisfaction among the people but he believed once they thoroughly understood the situation they would not object to paying a little additional tax if they got value for their money."

The people are so ignorant, in Mr. McArthur's opinion, that they cannot be expected to understand the situation as he sees it, but he still hopes that under his wise tuition they will yet be induced to see the error of their way and come to his way of thinking. Mr. McArthur is quoted in capital letters by the Patriot as declaring he was "heartily in accord with the policy of the party." This goes without saying, Mr. McArthur has not served his party for nought. The Public Accounts indicate this very clearly but there are other dealers in road making material who are not quite as enthusiastic as Mr. McArthur. There were "problems," Mr. McArthur admitted, in connection with some road projects, but he assured his hearers that he was looking after them and they would all be satisfactorily solved, if not before, then immediately after the election.

The Patriot gives a somewhat vague idea of the speech of Mr. LeRoy Holman, so vague that it is difficult to ascertain whether Mr. Holman is coming or going. Mr. Holman has, according to the Patriot, some suggestions to offer in regard to carrying some of the details of government business, advising a greater distribution of responsibility. Mr. Holman is usually lucid and clear-headed, but if he is correctly reported by the Patriot, he must have been laboring under the spell of Mr. McArthur's enthusiasm. Are we to infer that he insinuated that there should be "greater distribution" of Mr. McArthur's responsibility?

Hon. C. W. Crosby, Commissioner of Public Works, while admitting that it was difficult to please everybody when everybody else was asking for improved roads, the Department was doing its best. It had been decided, he said, to defer operations on the road between Kensington and Malpeque until next year but "upon the strong representation of the Malpeque people," it was decided to go on with it this year. He did not mention that this project lies with in the Third District, in which one of the bye-elections is to be held, or that the election had anything to do with the changed decision but we imagine Mr. Crosby winked significantly as he so graphically explained the government's change of front on this particular project. It remained for the Honourable W. M. Lea to set the electors right on the vexed question of taxation. He explained it as a kind father explains to his innocent children why it is necessary for him to hold their noses while he is giving them their medicine. "He explained clearly," according to the Patriot, "the provisions of the Income Tax." Of course the people whom he was addressing, he had learned from Mr. McArthur, did not understand the situation and Mr. Lea went at them as aforesaid. To show them how un-

sophisticated the Conservatives were in the matter of collecting taxes he told his little hearers a story. There was once a man, he said, who paid only \$30 taxes under the Conservative regime. When the Liberals came into power and passed their new tax act that man paid a tax of \$1600 and is still living! To further illustrate what he called the incompetence of the late government in collecting the taxes he stated that the Liberal party had collected \$40,000 arrears of taxes as compared with \$18,000 collected by the Conservatives. He probably referred to the collection of taxes in 1919 when the Conservatives went out of power in September before any taxes were collected. The Liberals collected the year's taxes and called it arrears of taxes. It made a nice little story for Mr. Lea to regale his hearers with but, notwithstanding Mr. McArthur's complaint, his hearers no doubt understood it and accepted it for what it was worth.

The speeches at this notable convention were no doubt eloquent and elaborate, but it is somewhat disconcerting to have to admit that the former candidate, Mr. McNally, could not be persuaded to try it again. Dr. J. F. McNeill who in the practice of his profession has performed some difficult operations, undertook to carry the Liberal banner, if not to the legislature, at least to the polls. It is disconcerting also after all this eloquence that no man in the Third District could be induced to accept nomination for Councilman. Another effort, we understand, is to be made tonight to secure a Council candidate.

WORKING-UP TO IT.

Our extreme contemporary, the Patriot, is getting up steam for the opening campaign. In its Friday's issue it carried a column of typical vituperation about the Guardian, using many adjectives which had done duty in former campaigns. Parallel with this was a letter alleged to have been written by a visitor but bearing earmarks which indicated that the visitor had not come far. The letter denounced with fervid eloquence the abusive epithets employed in certain newspapers. The Patriot was too intent upon vilifying "The Guardian to see the point!"

A LIVE ISSUE

On the question of Inter-Allied war debt cancellation, J. P. Morgan made this statement in Paris recently: "Those debts should be cancelled. As a practical proposition they can never be paid, but they should be cancelled for another reason. This money was loaned to our allies after we entered the war, at which moment we pledged all our strength and resources to winning it. When we entered the war in April, 1917, we could not send soldiers because we did not have them ready. We sent dollars in the form of loans to our allies. While we were sending dollars, the allies were sending soldiers until ours got there. I look upon these loans as being the same sort of contribution to victory as our sending two million troops, both contributions to victory."

A large body of opinion in the United States, reflected in some of the most influential newspapers, is to like effect. The British note of August first, addressed to the Allied debtor nations, forces the question to the status of a concrete issue.

Notes By The Way

That the Bell Government is "the best" that yet has blessed this Island Province, is the testimony of The Patriot newspaper. As this statement is made by the Honourable Mr. Nash, in a journal which is recognized as the organ and mouthpiece of the Government of which Mr. Nash is a member, it doubtless expresses the opinion, not of himself alone, but of all his colleagues in the Executive Council. It is the opinion of the Premier, the Attorney General, the Commissioners of Works and Agriculture and of their forcible colleagues that they together constitute the best government that ever was in this Island.

Even the wisest and best of men do not always agree in their judgment, but here we have a perfect agreement, and when so many great, good and "honorable" public men agree upon so great a matter their unanimity is truly wonderful. And no one can question the sincerity with which the profound statement is made. The reader is at once convinced that every member of the Government believes that they together and collectively constitute the best government that ever was in this Island if not in all the world. The reader will also note the blushing modesty and the pure disinterestedness in which the statement is made and proclaimed to a waiting public.

If these wise and great men for such they must be to make up collectively the best of governments—have formed a just appraisal of their own worth, the fact cannot be made too widely known. Mackenzie King and Lloyd George, President Harding and Poincare, and all other leaders of civilized governments should be at once informed that here in this little Island of this northern Gulf we have a government more wise, more prudent, more patriotic than now exists or has ever yet existed on this terraqueous globe. It must at once astound and instruct the notables of older nations and of foreign lands to learn of so stupendous a fact. It may cause them to take thought of their own unwisdom and mistakes and so needs to chew the bitter end of meditation.

The great fact should be made known that other lands may learn where to look for administrative wisdom. It is due to our rapidly expanding fame as a Province also that it should be told that here is the great centre of statesmanship and political sarcasm. It is not also due to the leading spirits of this Supreme Council of earthly wisdom that their names, the names of Bell and Johnston and Crosby and Lea shall be engrained upon the scrolls of fame as leaders of the Best of Governments? And still for another reason should all this be done—we mention it with trepidation—for some suspicious and "eccentric" spirits have dared to doubt the supreme wisdom of the Bell government—perish the thought!

Some persons, looking through smoked glass, search for and profess to find dark spots on the face of the sun! The sun shines on, smiles calmly and pursues his course unheeding. May it not be that the wisest and best of governments from its lofty height of superior virtue looks down with lofty disdain upon all ingrates who do not realize the merits of perfect and beneficent rule. Why should the best of governments be expected to keep the law in regard to by-elections and such trivial things. Are they not to be merited above the law, to break it or set it aside at will? What are the duties and obligations of inferiors toward their superiors? Is it not to submit and obey?

In all matters of difference between the governed and their rulers who are most likely to be right the Honourables of a Perfect Government or the proletariat, whom the Government regards as mere children? That the latter do not know what is good for them is the judgment of the Honourable Mr. Lea. Why then not take them by the nose and make them take their medicine? Shall farmers that steal from farmers "and other would be tax dodgers living in a garden of bootleggers set up their judgment against the wise and honorable men who sit enthroned in the Best Government Prince Edward Island ever had? Is it not obvious that only bad men and naughty, naughty women voters would criticize, or oppose, or vote against a Government possessed of all

REMINISCENT

Hon. Edward Whelan—An Appreciation

(By W. L. Cotton.) There are a few names in P. E. Island's story that the people will not willingly let die. One of these is that of Edward Whelan, the man to whom they are heavily indebted for the rudiments of education in this Island. He was a member of the Executive Council and Queen's Printer, and his name is inseparably connected with the various measures which were introduced in respect to the Abolition of Landlordism, and kindred measures for the relief and betterment of conditions in this Island. The people's friend in the fullest and best sense of the term, Mr. Whelan was never a demagogue. He has been remarked that he always prized the interest of the people more highly than their approbation. An easy, graceful and eloquent public speaker, a brilliant and polished writer, possessing a highly cultivated literary office and a well-stored mind, he proved throughout his whole career that he was also a practical man who could frame a parliamentary bill with as much ease as he could prepare a lecture on a literary subject. Apart from his high oratorical powers, in respect to which he had no rival in the Legislature, or out of it, and no equal since his death, the great lever of Public Opinion, no powerful throughout the British dominions, obeyed his masterly hand as often as occasion arose to resort to its agency. His opponents were, however, compelled to acknowledge that he never abused the power of the Press, and that he knew how to combine a singularly consistent political career with conciliatory manners.

It is melancholy to reflect that this singularly gifted man was compelled, as long as he lived, to look after the details of work in his printing office. I have myself seen him in the office of the Islander, arranging with the foreman there for the "exchange of matter." It is melancholy also to know that after having borne a leading part in the early reforms brought about for the benefit of the people of this Island, and after having faithfully served his constituents for twenty consecutive years, he was at the last "turned down," defeated at the polls, because he advocated, reasonably and moderately, the Union of this Island with British North America in the Dominion of Canada. He died on the 10th of December, 1897, in the forty-third year of his

Others' View Points

TALKING TO ANIMALS

(London Spectator) The Times has of late been delighting us with animal stories. This week we have had not only the enchanting tale of the Bear in the Minaret and the Baby Tortoise, but the tale of the lazy Zoo Elephant, or the Manout's Lessons in Obedience. It appears that the lady Indian elephant presented to the Zoo by the Maharajah of Cochin Behar two years ago entirely got the better of the English keepers this spring. She showed no trace of vice, or of disposition to run away, but refused to work. She would not stand between the new riding steps, and when the old wooden steps were replaced she was equally obdurate, and in the end declined not only to be saddled but even to leave the elephant yard. Ultimately a mahout was cabled for to deal with the situation. "He is a Mahomedan from Assam, a tall, finely-built young man, with a bright and friendly expression."

The account goes on: "One Monday morning he was taken to the Elephant House, and at once entered the enclosure and formally saluted the animal, standing first at her head, and then at her tail. Next he took off his shoes, knotted a rope loosely round the elephant's neck, which he afterwards used as a kind of stirrup. With little difficulty he persuaded her to kneel and mounted her neck. In less than two minutes, soothing patting, and talking volubly to her in Hindustani, he had got on good terms, took her round to the elephant ride, and apparently had her almost in complete control. Phrases of his admonitions, freely translated, were as follows: "I am told that you eat your food, and will not work; it is wrong; Allah enjoins on us all that we must work if we would eat." "You are cheating your masters, and it is unworthy of you." "I am only a black man, and you must not mind me." "Put fear out of your mind; take it from your heart, and throw it out." The elephant certainly seemed to understand, and now obeys every order. The mahout's virtues? And still there are some benighted souls who, dare to think otherwise.

KEEPS HIS EYES ON THE HEAVENS

(Bystander, in Toronto Globe) John Stanley Plaskett is that type of scientist who should delight the soul of Mr. H. G. Wells. The eminent astronomer delights in science for science's sake, and looks to no commercial advantage from his discoveries; searching for truth, seeking after knowledge, with no gainful end in view. His recent discovery of twin stars of tremendous magnitude and awful intensity, will in no way, it is conceded by authorities, influence the life of this globe. But our store of knowledge is so much the greater, and a realization of the true meaning of the magnitude of these newly discovered heavenly bodies and the tremendous immensities of space must serve to lower the pompous mind and humble the proud to a fitter sense of the human place in the vastness of the universe.

BRITAIN'S SUPREMACY IN SHIPS

(From the Ottawa Journal) During the closing years of the war, as well as for some time thereafter, we were told a great deal about the growth of American shipping. The fact was emphasized that the United States had for outstripped Great Britain in the construction of new tonnage, and was in a fair way of challenging Britain's position as the master carrier on the seas. This was quite naturally comforting to our neigh-

bored, and they did not forbear to blow their trumpet lustily. Today their large expectations are turned to ashes. Their ships have cost too much on construction account, and they cannot be operated as cheaply as can British ships. The Americans are learning the bitter lesson that they are not a maritime people. The British are natural sailors and ship operators—the Americans are not. That makes all the difference in the world. The result is the United States merchant marine is lying rusting at out-of-the-way ports, simply because no one can be found to operate the vessels. The overhead is so high, and working expenses so large, that lessees will not take them at any price. Mr. Robert Dollar, a Canadian who has won a high place in the Canadian shipping trade on the American side of the line, puts the case very convincingly in the last issue of The Nation's Business, the official organ of the United States Chamber of Commerce. He points out that a ship which costs \$700,000 in the United States can be built in Great Britain for \$250,000. In American hands it would cost \$30,000 more on operating account than in British hands. Under such conditions patriotism must bow to prudence. Mr. Dollar also makes it clear that American ships are invariably manned by aliens. The native American does not take to the sea. Laws have been passed in large numbers to regulate the shipping trade and to protect American seamen. Mr. Dollar points out that what is good in these laws is not enforced, and their general effect is to add very materially to the cost of operation. The net result is to place American shipping at a disadvantage as compared with British shipping, which is regulated by sound laws and rests on a foundation centuries old. You cannot make a sailor out of a natural landsman, and the modern American is a landsman. At sea he is out of his element.

about was given quarters in another part of the Gardens, but has obtained leave to sleep in the Elephant House, as he says that he wishes to talk to the elephant during the night. He has not yet tried to saddle her, as he wishes to take things slowly, but is confident that he will conquer all her fears and make her permanently obedient. The effect of talking to animals is a most interesting subject. All good horse-masters will tell you to talk to your horse, and Rarey, the great trainer of Victorian days, always "whispered" to vicious horses before he backed them. Has "Telling the Bees," we wonder, any connection with these strange facts?

Daily Selections for Guardian Readers

WHISPERS

(By Pascal D'Angelo) When the azure hives of silence are filled with soft whispers—Whispers of lovers that pass into faint twilight. Whispers from the hazy distances of lakes and purpling palaces, And the last drowsy whisperings of day. And when night half opens her deep, sorrowing eyes—Eyes that gaze but see not save beyond—beyond— And the wind comes like an artist Sculpturing the monolith of silence into a statue of whirling gloom. And the black hives of stillness now quiver with crimson murmurings— Then my subdued heart swoons With the silence of a flower that abandons itself in the embrace of a spring. For—Ah! what use is the jangle of words, or of thoughts, even, When God is whispering

International Spirit Urged By Americans

(SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 13.—Four men prominent in world politics, addressing the California branch of the English-speaking Union, in session here, recommended the aims of the union in seeking to bring the English-speaking nations into closer harmony with a view toward fostering an international spirit of good will. The four—William Howard Taft, Chief Justice of the United States and former President of the United States; Lord Shaw of Dunfermline, member of the British House of Lords; George W. Wickorsham, former attorney general of the United States and John W. Davis, former ambassador of the United States to Great Britain are here for the convention of the American Bar Association which opened today. Lord Shaw expressed a desire to see a wider understanding among English-speaking people. "When we stop," he said, "troubled about our poorer qualities and find the best ones we will all understand," he said. "That is what England has tried to do in Ireland and it is succeeding so well that today I believe that Ireland is on the crest of a wave that will send it on to splendid achievement. Mr. Davis said that "solution of the Irish problem and elimination of the jealousies aroused through the naval strength of Great Britain have removed two of the major threats which beset world peace." He declared that the "Liberation of Ireland did more to assure the world that freedom was not a mockery than any other agency in ages."

Still Settling the U.S. Coal Strike

(NEW YORK, Aug. 13.—A committee of seven railroad executives late today met to draft a reply to President Harding's latest plan for settlement of the rail strike. The committee, headed by Robert S. Lovatt will submit its draft to the 148 members of the American Association of Railway Executives in session here after which it will be dispatched by special wire to Harding. There was indication of the stand the executives would take on Harding's suggestion that the question of seniority rights of the 400,000 striking shipmen be submitted to the United States Railroad Labor Board for settlement. Acceptance or rejection of Harding proposal hinges on this. CLEVELAND, Aug. 11.—Coal will be pouring from the mines into the nations empty bins within a week, John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, predicted today as a joint scale committee met here to draft a wage agreement for the central competitive fields, the joint committee was appointed at the session of the coal peace conference late yesterday. The peace conference went ahead without the operators of Illinois and Indiana. In predicting the workers would march back to the mines under a new and satisfactory wage agreement in a week, Lewis said the outcome of the strike would be a victory for the miners. There is no talk of cutting the wages now he said, and the problem at hand is to draw up a satisfactory wage agreement without putting the operators in a humiliating position.

The Natural Wealth of Canada

(Grain) THE Northwest was a barren waste only forty-odd years ago. Today, in a thousand-mile belt across the three prairie provinces, is one of the greatest grain-producing areas in the world. For the year 1921 the total value of the wheat, oats, barley and rye produced throughout Canada was estimated by the Government at \$432,984,750. The Bank of Montreal has a service adapted to the needs of the farmer and a system of branches reaching to all districts.

Advertisement for Bank of Montreal, featuring a large illustration of a classical building facade with columns and a pediment. Text includes 'The Natural Wealth of Canada', 'Grain', 'BANK OF MONTREAL', and 'Established over 100 years'. On the right side, there are vertical labels: FISHERIES, MINERALS, FUR, GRAIN, FORESTS.

Fire Sale

All shades in stock, sold at half price. \$1.50 to \$1.75 shades for 75c. 3 light fixtures, complete with shades \$7. 2 light fixtures, complete with shades, \$6. S. McIsaac & Sons 168 Queen Street Phone 722-J.

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