

The Charlottetown Guardian

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CAUGHT NAPPING

It is gratifying to find that after weeks of talk the motion of the Premier for the House to go into Committee on Ways and Means was unanimously agreed to.

There was a late sitting before this happy consummation was reached, and the usual "scene" which the present Leader of the Opposition considers essential in the dying hours of the Budget debate.

Mr. Johnston intervened. He insisted that Mr. Howatt was within his rights and though he too was ruled out of order, defied the Speaker, and attempted to continue his remarks.

Mr. Howatt was ruled out of order, defied the Speaker, and attempted to continue his remarks. But the Government members declined to tolerate such a barefaced attempt to insult the Speaker, and commenced such a commotion that Mr. Johnston was glad to resume his seat.

Mr. Bell tried his hand, or voice, and he too was ruled out of order, as he distinctly and flagrantly was, and like his co-leader he threatened to defy Mr. Speaker, with a like result.

He resolved to balk this little plan of the Opposition and he effectively did so in the simplest, easiest way possible, the Opposition walking into the trap with their eyes half closed in sleep.

Mr. Bell and the other two leaders, in view of the prospect of a long reiteration of Government refutations immediately granted this by retiring to the ante-room followed by the majority of their followers, where they immediately gave themselves over to Morpheus till such time as Mr. McNevin would have got through his voluminous notes.

Mr. McNevin would have got through his voluminous notes. Only Mr. Lea, who is not altogether a persona grata with the Opposition chiefs, remained to bear witness that there was an official Opposition in the House.

BORDEN AND VICTORY

Every cable from Europe deepens the conviction that the war has entered a critical stage, possibly the last phase. The soldiers of the Allies at the front face the test the world has been waiting to see, confident of the final result.

In the British Parliament, the Lloyd George Government has deplored a development of events which might force the Administration to appeal to the people, with consequent disruption of vital national activities.

What of Canada? Is there enough patriotism, enough respect for the best interests of the brave men at the front, evident in this country, to spare the nation the rude experience of a partisan political campaign?

Unfortunately, the signs of the times indicate that Canada contains "a little band of wilful men" capable of exercising the accidental privilege they have in their hands and forcing a general election.

Already, Sir Robert Borden, when tempted to seek an expression of public approval to still the voices of petty, partisan criticism, resisted the temptation out of respect for a phase of the war by no means so critical as the present one.

But the heart of Canada beats true, and in the event of an election there will be such a rally to the support of Sir Robert Borden as will make the welkin ring, "Borden and Victory" will be the slogan.

A PARTY EXONERATED

The Canadian fiscal year which closed on the 31st of March shows the country to be in a prosperous condition and the revenues buoyant. Statistics available indicate that the total revenue of the Dominion from all sources will reach two hundred and thirty million dollars.

It is likely that when all accounts are made up that, after paying all ordinary and capital expenditures, the increased interest charges upon war expenditures, and all pensions, the Government will be able to devote fifty million dollars towards the payment of principal on war cost.

An equally optimistic outlook exists with respect to Canada's trade situation. For the twelve months of the fiscal year just ending the trade of Canada has set a new high water mark.

THE VOICE OF HUMANITY

The London Daily News in an editorial commenting on the tremendous shock which President Wilson's address is likely to produce in Germany and the immense value to the Allies of having at their command the unrivalled inventive genius and industrial energies of the Americans says: "We should, however, convey a wholly false impression if we suggested that the emotion created in this country by the President's speech is due to its bearing on the war."

It is due to something deeper. It was in response to an appeal as noble and as moving as any ever addressed to sons of men. In this great utterance we seem to hear at least the authentic voice of humanity stating the issue, pronouncing judgment and awakening the conscience of the world to the mighty things at stake.

NOTES

The Quebec agitation against conscription begins, significantly enough, with talk that Laurier is about to force an election.

THE INVESTIGATION AT FALCONWOOD

(Continued from Page One.)

Q—How would Byrne make her leave? A—He would show restlessness, uneasiness, trying to get her to leave, incessantly.

Q—What did he actually do? A—Well, he engaged the woman and her daughter in conversation so that it was only a few moments more when she got ready and left altogether.

Q—Did he compel them to leave? A—No. Q—Did he tell them to leave? A—No. Q—Did he tell them to leave? A—No.

Murphy went on to say that the blankets distributed had not been sufficient in cold weather. They were three in number, he said, and were thin in this connection he was examined by the Chairman as follows: Q—When did this happen?

A—Two winters previous. I would say this winter was satisfactory. The bed-clothing this winter was satisfactory; in fact everything had sufficient all round, I guess. There were no complaints. This winter was very satisfactory with the heat and bed-clothing. Everyone was praising it. The man who was making up the beds is a very good-hearted fellow and would always pick up a blanket somewhere when I complained to him about being cold. I never remember complaining to Byrne.

Mr. McLellan: But after complaining they gave you more blankets? Witness: Yes, I would say they did. I must tell the truth. Mr. Bell: Have you anything else to say along this line? Witness: I would say one of the most satisfactory things in the institution is the beds. Of course, they are well kept and clean. The beds are excellent and the rooms are well-kept.

As to the charge that an old man 70 years of age had been permitted to carry on scandalous actions with a deaf and blind girl inmate. Murphy said that a certain old man now dead, was in the habit of coming to town sometimes and taking back with him presents in the shape of candy and kerchiefs which he would give to the girl and would put his arms around her and kiss her. He never saw anything indecent. Asked what was the scandalous action mentioned in the charge, he said that that was what he regarded as scandalous.

With regard to the charge "allowing foolish inmates to carry victuals to a blind man." Murphy was asked whom he saw carrying food in this name. He mentioned one man named Lawler whose work he said it was to carry trays containing food to helpless men. "What complaint is there about him?" he was asked by Mr. Bell. "Is he not a fit person to do that?" The witness replied: "Well, he was peculiar enough in that, of course." He said however that Lawler was of a quarrelsome disposition. Mr. McLellan asked the question: "Is that the only reason why you think he was unfit? Did he ever strike anyone?" Witness: "No. He was constantly quarrelling with everyone at every meal except myself, of course."

The next charge was then taken up, that of "opening windows and letting in cold wind on the men in bed or in wheel chairs." Murphy said that the windows were allowed to remain open all day throughout the institution, the smoking room as well, adding that Dr. Goodwill had stated that "they would live five years longer if they would leave the windows open" and get fresh air. "Of course, I don't complain about that," said the witness. Charge No. 9 was next dealt with. This charge alleged that patients' effects, such as clothing, money, tobacco, matches, etc. were allowed to be stolen. Murphy stated that suitcases, etc., of patients who came in (and who were caused to take a bath and change their clothing on entering the Infirmary) had been stolen, as well as silver and notes. He was asked whether he knew this of his own knowledge, and he replied: "Of course, I must say that it is all coming from others. It is all what you might call hearsay." He said that when he had entered the Infirmary he had a suitcase and a hat which had been given him by his sister in the West. He said that shortly after his arrival at the institution he wanted the hat to go to Souris to a tea-party and could not find it, while, as regards the suitcase, he had seen a certain patient going to the consumptive hospital with a suitcase resembling his. He could not say that the suitcase was his own. He had never lost any money.

In regard to the statement contained in the petition that Dr. Goodwill had been discharged from the Infirmary and that attendant had been reinstated, Mr. McLellan asked the witness whether he could substantiate that allegation, whereupon he would swear to it. Witness replied that it was "just a floating rumour with everybody here; not from any person's own knowledge; it is from others' statements; that is the foundation for that."

Mr. McLellan: You founded that charge on rumour? Witness: It was just a rumour. I can't make a positive statement. In regard to a statement made by Murphy that he had seen one inmate striking another, he was asked whether Byrne the attendant saw or knew of it and he replied that he did not know anything about it; Byrne was not present when this incident occurred.

The witness was then asked by Mr. McLellan whether he had ever been in any other institution, and he replied that he had been for two years in a hospital in Calgary. Asked as to the reason for his leaving that institution, he said that he had had a quarrel as the result of having lost a lot of effects out there, money out of my pockets, and I told the sisters about it. I was there two years," continued the witness, "and found life hard enough. It was not very promising although it was a beautiful home and we were well fed. I told the Superior and she did not make things better and I had a kind of quarrel. I was discharged."

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Q—Did you make a statement there, making general charges, general complaints? T—Yes, I wrote a letter to the Superior; a private letter to herself and she read it.

Q—There was a sort of investigation? T—Two policemen took you away? A—Yes.

Q—Two mounted policemen? A—Yes, I will admit that. Q—And they gave you your fare to take you out of the country? A—I had money of my own.

Q—But they offered you your fare? A—The Superior asked me if I needed money and I told her I had my own.

Q—They were anxious to get clear of you? A—It might be that. It was nearly six o'clock when the Committee adjourned to 10 o'clock this morning.

A FARMER'S PLEA

Sir—In regard to the auto question, allow me, through the columns of your paper, to express my opinion, as to the attitude of our people, to this modern method of travel. I notice that a great many of those, who so strongly oppose the auto, are people living near towns, or railway stations and in some cases not engaged in agricultural pursuits and therefore not really interested in the problems which confront the man living a long distance from business centres. What we want, is to look at this question from a farmer's point of view, and especially those far removed from railway facilities. I think we will all agree that, owing to the scarcity of hired help, a farmer's time is more valuable than it has ever been. Now if we are to reach the highest point of production, along agricultural lines, our first object is to economize as to our time. A man to-day cannot afford to spend six hours on the road to travel say forty miles, when he can cover the same distance in two, ten acre field of grain with a scythe, when he might have a self-binder. Two years ago, I had the privilege of seeing for myself the uses of the auto on the farms of the West. Upon inquiry from many practical farmers, where conditions as to roads, etc. are in many cases similar to our own, I became thoroughly convinced that in this twentieth century, the use of motor power on the farm, and as a means of conveyance on the public highway, is almost indispensable, and this not for pleasure, but because of their utility. I understand there is to be a motor truck service between Hunter River and North Rustico, and will be greatly appreciated by both farmers and fishermen in this locality.

In conclusion I would advocate the opening up of the roads of our Province for motor traffic, under proper restrictions and that on every day of the week.

I am, Sir, etc.

HAMMOND J. TOOMBS.

North Rustico.

BRITAIN AND U. S. MAY CO-OPERATE IN COMMERCE

WASHINGTON, April 10—America's commercial relations with the Allies and with the Central Powers are being studied by a government committee to determine whether trade legislation is made necessary by the declaration of war with Germany. Britain's trading with the enemy, and the Allies trade co-operation measures are under investigation.

Although no move has been made yet toward commercial co-operation with the Allies there is every reason to believe the United States will decide to co-operate as fully in trade matters as in military affairs. The government probably immediately will invite the new commercial committee from the Allies to visit Washington. America's declaration of war has changed the whole fabric of trade relations of this country.

The United States will aid Britain, too, in rationing the northern European neutrals, through which countries heretofore a vast amount of supplies has reached Germany from the United States.

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