THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 7, 1923

QUEBEC ELECTIONS

Canadian Liberalism received a black eye in Monday's elections in Quebec. Liberals had boastfully looked forward to this election assuring all and sundry that there was no decline in Liberal strength in the province. Premier Taschereau felt, or pretended to feel, so confident that he threatened—or promised to resign his seat in the House if ten Conservatives were elected. Twenty two Conservatives were elected and it is now up to the Premier to make good his threat or his promise. For many years Quebec has been overwhelmingly Liberal. At the general election of 1916, of the total membership of 81 the Conservatives elected only six. At the general election of 1919 the Conservatives elected only five and this standing was retained until dissolution. The increase from five to twenty two indicates the general downward progress of Liberalism in its home province, progress which is evidenced in other provinces approaching a general election. Liberalism in New Brunswick, Ontario and Prince Edward Island is admittedly on its last legs. The Conservative gains in Quebec are significant and prophetic.

NOW IS THE TIME

There are now two vacancies in the King Cabinet, the Ministry of Railways, owing to the death of the Hon. W. C. Kennedy, and the Postmaster Generalship owing to the illness of the Hon. Charles Murphy, now in the South for his health. Another, the Ministry of Militia and Defence, is pending. If the Honourable Mr. Mackenzie King has any desire to extend a favour to the province of Prince Edward Island, to which he owes his seat and his premiership—for we gave him a seat when he could not find one anywhere else—this is his opportunity. Why not let Prince Edward Island have one of these portfolios. The Hon. John E. Sinclair, M.P. for Queens, could fill either of these portfolios as well as any other member in the Cabinet. Our province and especially Queen's County would look upon the appointment not merely as a favour but as our due. As to the risk of opening the constituency Mr. Sinclair would stand and infinitely better chance of being returned either as Minister of Railways or Postmaster General than as plain John E. when he faces the next election.

A NEW PUBLICATION

Another periodical, The Oriental Sphynx, has been launched in Charlottetown. It is the official organ of Kirvan Sanctorum, in the Oasis of Charlottetown, in the Sahara of Prince Edward Island," a branch of Odd Fellowship. The initial number, although small in compass, is a very creditable one and its editor, Mr William Schofield, is to be heartily congratulated on his first plunge into journalism.

The Oriental Sphynx is as yet small but has room to grow and will undoubtedly grow if given the patronage is deserves from the public generally and from the Odd Fellows particularly. Generously patronized, as it deserves to be, the Oriental Sphynx will afford additional and much needed publicity for P.E. Island.

WAITING

It has been said that all things come to him who waits." They may come eventually, may come late. It is much more economical and much more practical to go after them and bring them, if they are desirable. In this province at present we have learned to wait, wait for our mails, to wait for business and unfortunately we wait, for something to turn up, like, for something to turn up.

Through neglect or worse, we are letting many opportunities pass by our doors without making any effort to take advantage of them. At present Sir Henry Newbolt, one of the most prominent educationalists in England, probably in the world, is touring Canada in the interests of a national educational conference to be held in Toronto in April. He is at present in the Maritime provinces, having spoken in Fredericton, St. John, Moncton, Truro and Halifax. His addresses are inspirational and are drawing large and interested audiences. We have let him go by, perhaps hoping that he might come of his own volition or perhaps fearing that it might cost something. As to the educational conference itself we have so far taken no steps to arrange for representation.

Recently an interprovincial conference on immigration was held in Ottawa This is a question in which our province is vitally interested. We were not represented at this conference and have allowed the other provinces to make their arrangements to suit themselves.

The Prairie Provinces some time ago held a conference looking to claims in which we are interssted a settlement of the western land to the extent of several millions of dollars, according to Premier Ben when in opposition—but we were not represented and we allowed those fabulous millions to melt into thin air.

"Waiting for something to turn up?" It is nigh time something had turned up. Now, perforce, we must wait for next summer's election.

"An ILL WIND'

"It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good," says an old adage. We have had many winds, ill and otherwise, during the present winter and the most ill of them have blown good to many in city and country. There has been some unemployment in the city, many men on the farms had little profitable work that could be done. Very many of these found employment at a fair wage shovelling snow on the streets and on the railway. Although hard work we have no doubt that many appreciated this opportunity to earn an honest dollar.

In this connection it might be suggested that a reasonable relaxation in the economic policy of the civic government would be overlooked by the great majority of our citizens. There are many men out of work, a hardship at any time, but especially hard in winter. There are families to be fed and clothed; there are sick ones who need something more than a bare living. There is abundance of snow on streets and sidewalks, the removal of which, although not pressingly necessary would be an improvement to the city. Why not give employment of this kind to those who need it? Why not even make employment for those whose needs are urgent? It would pay the city to be a little lax in its economy at a time like the present.

OUR CONSOLATION

Whatever else may be said of us we have the supreme satisfaction of knowing that by no possible chance can we be guilty of the heinous offence comprehended in the objurgation: "Woe unto you when all men speak well of you."

EDITORIAL NOTE

A little sand on the sidewalks during these slippery days would be a means of improving or at least stabilizing the morality of the city. There is considerable language used these days by pedestrians.

Notes By The Way

We are having a winter of more than ordinary severity in several respects. The number and rapid succession of drifting snowstorms has been unusual during the last half of the winter and the quantity of snow that has fallen and remains is quite above the average. As a natural result of these causes there has been an exceptional interruption of traffic on our railway, our highways and streets. Trains have been delayed and mails have been irregular, notwithstanding the laudable efforts of those in charge of these services.

Withal there has been a long period of intense cold weather. We must go back to the winter of 1905 to find as heavy a snowfall as we have already had this year, and that winter was not so cold as the present one. Then, as during the present winter, there were but a few days of rain or mild weather to reduce the depth of snow. And yet, despite our present adverse weather conditions, we are in several respects more favorably situated now than we were eighteen years ago. Providence favored us with excellent field crops last year and a benign government gave us the Car Ferry since then!

There was a very short hay crop in 1904. The result was that by the midwinter following, and notwithstanding that much of the live stock had been killed and sold at ruinous prices, many barns were empty of fodder and hay, purchased abroad could not be brought in because of the ice blockade. For a full month not a steamer crossed the Straits. Cattle starved in their stables while hundreds of car loads of hay lined the railway sidings at Pictou, and there remained until the grass was growing green in Prince Edward Island.

It is well that the older and middle aged generation should recall those dark days of eighteen years ago, and it is needful also that our younger men and women who have since grown up to voting age should be informed of the conditions then existing. The Borden Government gave us the Car Ferry. They broke our ice shackles. We know now that the dark winter days which beset our province down to 1918 are gone, never more to return. Is it not worth while even at this late day to think of the debt of gratitude the province owes to the men who gave us the Car Ferry and how that debt has been repaid?

With the Car Ferry came the beginning of the work of broadening our railway track to the standard gauge. That would have been impossible without the Car Ferry. Now we have standard rolling stock, powerful engines and snow fighting equipment on the lines between Charlottetown, Summerside and Borden. These would have been impossible without the Car Ferry. These improvements would have been extended before this from Tignish to Elmira and George town but for two things, first the Great War and secondly the changes of Government at Ottawa and in our own province. The King Government has so far refused to carry on the good work begun by their predecessors in office!

Well, our people made haste just after we got the Car Ferry to turn out the Conservative provincial government in 1919 and the Conservative federal government in 1921. Between them, working together to break our winter shackles and save our province from financial ruin, these two Governments had given us the Ferry Steamer and $100,000 a year additional subsidy. Their reward was an almost immediate slap in the face administered at the first opportunity. It was shown by the election of 25 Opposition members to the Legislature and a solid four of opposision members sent to the House of Commons.

To many persons this has all along been regarded as evidence of base ingratitude. Many others take a milder view and call it a mistake. Obviously the electors in those two elections treated those who had done most for our province very badly and rewarded with offices and honors those who had done least for us. But it was done in haste and in anger and under circumstances such as those which sometimes lead good men and women into regrettable error and wrong doings. It is impossible to believe that the hasty verdicts of 1919 and 1921 represent the settled opinions of the people or that those verdicts will not be reversed when another opportunity is offered.

We know now what the Bell Government and the King Government have done and are doing for us. It has not cheered the hearts even of their once ardent supporters. Rather it has disappointed their hopes. Among thoughtful and fairminded people a revulsion of feeling is taking place. In these days of storm and cold they naturally think of the Car Ferry, what it has done and is doing for us, what could we do without it, and who it was that gave it to us. Such thinking is wholesome and hopeful. It awakens a sense of gratitude that has been too long dormant. It restores memory of the days when governments thought it worth while to keep their promises made to the people. It gives us hope of better things to come when the people are again privileged to speak at the polls.

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.

What Constitutes a Gentleman?

Sir—I have been greatly interested in the various views of the Guardian's correspondents as to what constitutes a lady,—and I have been not a little disgusted by the unkind remarks—beside the mark— of "Old Fogy," "Kensington" and other woman haters. I would have these gentlemen (sic) to know what a true gentleman said, viz, that "a woman has the same human nature that a man has, the same human rights to life liberty and the pursuit of happiness the same human duties, and they are as inalienable in a woman as in a man".

It may, I think, be claimed for the women of Charlottetown and indeed for the whole Island, that they are as fair of face and perfect of figure, as good to look upon as those of any other part of the North American Continent and that they measure up, as a whole, just as closely to the high qualifications of ladies.

Now what I would like to see ventilated in The Guardian are the qualifications of "A gentleman" "What constitutes a gentleman?" Let us have some womanly and some manly definitions of this now vare avis.

I am. Sir, etc,
FAIR PLAY.

The Farm Products

Sir,—I see by the report of the Egg and Poultry Association that Mr. Brodie was paying his attention to the dear departed Billy Kerr, who left the Island some time ago, but why in the name of the Farm Products did he shout across the straits when he could have turned his attention to those who were just as responsible for the down fall of the ill-starred Products? I guess he thought it a good Grit trick to draw a red herring across the trail in the interest of Big John Sinclair. "For ways that are dark, and tricks that are vain," the Grits of this land beat Old Nick. When the Honorable John, "wha folks ca honest," sat in the chair as president of the Farm Products and never failed to tell the members that the question of salary wasn't to be considered so long as they got the right man, he never gave them any hint that he was working for his dear brother-in-law. Honest farmers took him at his word and supplied the money and honest John supplied the man. Its history since has been like a troubled dream. I have met no man yet, who can tell me how the company stood. We are told there are outstanding liabilities which wipe out the assets but that is all we know. If Mr. Brodie is sincere in his protestations and feels he is responsible, when our local Parliament mects he will ask for an investigation and we may still learn "who killed Cock Robin." There have been various opinions expressed why Honest John should load his relative on the Farm Products, and when he stood by the wreck as well as and better than the captain of the good ship Berkinhead, he then turned him loose on the Government.

I would like to say a good deal more but I am afraid my feelings would get the better of me and so I conclude.

I am Sir etc.,
A SHAREHOLDER.

"Nothing the Matter"

Sir,—Replying to letter by "A Farmer" in February 3rd issue of the Guardian. In the first place it is evident that the letter was written by a dealer or a man who is a combination of farmer and dealer. If this assumption is not correct we are ready to admit our mistake when "Farmer" will give his name and prove otherwise.

"Farmer" states that he has seen reports of the Potato Growers' meeting held in Charlottetown containing a great deal of kicking about buying fertilizer from foreign firms ,short weights, etc. We would like "Farmer" to bring these reports to the Secretary of the Potato Growers' Association as we have never seen them. In the case of short weights or inferior goods we have the same protect on that any dealer has and can get redress as easily as he can.

We fail to see how buying from the importers ourselves takes more money from the Province than buying from a local dealer, who can buy no cheaper in the larger markets than we can. Our solution is that the growers save the profits that "Farmer" wants to give to the dealer, and several hundred growers give this money better distribution than the dealer could or would.

Another point. Is it not good for everybody that the farmer should produce his crops at as low a cost as possible, and has he not the privilege, and is it not creditable to him to endeavor to do so, as other men do who are engaged in other lines of production.

If "Farmer" is not satisfied with the way the Potato Growers are operating as an organization and is not a member, by the payment of a small fee he can become a member and have a voice in the affairs, or if he is now a member and has a grievance he should have brought the matter before the meeting when the officials were all present so that explanations and investigations would be made.

The Growers have no objection to dealing with local men providing the same prices and service required can be obtained, also local men had the same opportunity to tender for the business as outside firms.

It is not the object of the organization to injure anybody but instead to foster and improve the great potato industry of this Province, as will be seen from the following copied from the Act of Incorporation:

"The objects of the said Association are to assist in the dissemination of knowledge in methods of standardizing and marketing potatoes and eradicating and controlling diseases and insect pests therein.

"By collecting and disseminating the best available information relating to both the practicable and scientific phases involved in increased yields coupled with a lessened cost."

"By encouraging the cultivation practices in relation to the maintenance of soil fertility through the proper use of fertilizers and by promoting the introduction of modern potato machinery."

"By encouraging the cultivation of pure varieties of potatoes for all commercial purposes."

"By giving special attention to seed improvement and the distribution of standard commercial varieties and by encouraging the elimination of undersirable commercial types.

"By encouraging the community plan of raising desirable varieties (one or two varieties to a community.)"

"By encouraging the grading standardizing and certification of table and seed potatoes."

"By investigating the demands of all available markets and assisting Prince Edward Island Growers to meet such demands."

"By assisting in controlling and eliminating diseases and insect pests and in preventing the introduction of new diseases."

"By investigating methods for the profitable utilization of surplus and cull potatoes."

I am Sir, etc.,
POTATO GROWER.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

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SECOND WIND

When a boy I belonged to an athletic club which had weekly cross country runs of from four to six miles. We jogged along together so that the very poorest runner would be able to keep up with the others and thus the company or club spirit would be maintained. Notwithstanding the slowness of the pace by the time we had covered from a quarter to half a mile I was breathless or "winded". I would then sort of take hold of myself, drop into a walk for a short time, then break gradually into a run, slowly increasing my pace until I overtook my comrades, to finish the run as fresh as any member of the group. In other words I got my second wind and was good for a decent run. Now what is second wind Well, I was a bit younger than the other fellows and was less experienced. To me the run was an event and I was filled with excitement. This excitement of my nerves was reflected by my heart which was trying to pump blood to the lungs too rapidly of the pace asking the heart for more blood. and the rapidity of the heart due to my excitement, the poor lungs were being loaded up with impure blood and were calling aloud for help. Thus I was winded. You see my heart and lungs were not working together, were out of accord as it were. Getting control of myself by walking and the gradual increase of pace was able to regulate the heart ad lungs to one another, and thus secured by "second wind." Don't quit your golf, your walk or even your slow run because you get breathless too soon. Take hold of yourself, decrease your pace, get the partial rest as it were, and your "second wind" will come to you. And its a "glorious feeling" when it does come.

Discoverers of America Long Before Columbus

Prof. J. P. Harrington, ethnologist of the Smithsonian Institute, has marshalled a formidable list of arguments to prove his theory that this continent was discovered by Indians long before the time of Columbus. He fixes the time of their first arrival at 20,000 years ago, and says that they came over from Siberia. Like Columbus, they did not know what they had discovered. Probably they did not know that they had discovered anything. They simply found a land where game was plentiful and where the struggle for existence was easier than it was in Asia, and so they spread all over North and South America. About the only weakness that presents itself when looking over the statements of Prof. Harrington is the assumed fact that there never floated back to Asia any news of what the pioneers had found. In a migration of so many thousands it seems incredible that no traveller returned to tell of the wonders he had seen. However, even if he had done so the Asiatic forefathers of the Indians had no literature, and it is probable that the only record of a return visit would have been in some legend.

Easy to Cross

One of the strongest arguments in favor of the theory that the original settlers of this continent came over from Siberia by way of Alaska is the undoubted fact that the passage was quite possible. For a long stretch of the Siberian coast the shore and mountains of Alaska are in plain sight across Bearing Strait, which at one place is only 50 miles wide. It is obvious, therefore, that as a matter of seeing alone, this continent was discovered as soon as there were any inhabitants in Siberia. Moreover, the passage is broken by the two small Diomede Islands. Sometimes this strip of water freezes over and a crossing on foot would be quite feasible even if the Siberians were not venturesome enough to put off in boats and it is known that they had boats from the earliest time. It is easier to believe than to disbelieve that these Sibtrian tribes which were nomadic would make an effort to explore the country lying so close to them, especially since Siberia must have left much to be desired as a permanent home.

Atlantis a Myth

Prof. Harrington believes that the discoverers of America took this route and no other. The fact that the Kommandorsky Islands, the westernmost of the Aleutian chain which stretches from Kamchatka to Alaska, were uninhabited when discovered by modern man, as was Iceland, discounts the theory that either the Aleutian chain or Iceland was used. The professor sees no reason to accept the theory that the discoverers came by long jumps across the Pacific. There is no reason to suppose that they guessed the presence of land to the west. These ignorant pioneers must have seen something before venturing forth. He dismisses the theory of the lost continent of Atlantis as a myth, since no relics of Atlantis culture have ever been dredged up from the Atlantic Ocean. Having crossed to Alaska it was natural that the Indians should travel south, since this was the more inviting prospect. The fact that they were always more numerous in the west than in the east is further substantiation of the theory of a discovery from Asia.

Similarity of Languages

Prof Harrington says that in the West and in Mexico, Central America and Peru their culture reached its apex. In support of his theory that the discoverers of America were all of one kind, he cites their physical characteristics, the widespread occurrance of customs and myths found in all tribes and upon a special study of their languages which he made with the kymograph, an instrument for recording the most delicate nuances of sound. There is a unity in all the Indian languages, he finds, which indicate a mother tongue for all, and he estimates the time of the Asiatic invasion at 20,000 years, because in this time there would naturally have arisen the divergences which are found in the various dialects.

Other Theories

Strongest of all Prof. Harrington's arguments, however, is the fact for which he vouches that there are in Siberia today, tribes which resemble in every respect certain Indian tribes. So close is this similarity that were one of these natives stripped and placed beside an American indian, no scientist could tell by the most delicate measurements or other characteristics which was which. Another theory held by some ethnologists is that the Americans were Europeans who acquired their back hair and swarthy skins after arriving on this continent. A still later theory advanced by Dr. Roland B. Dixon, professor of anthropology, of Harvard, is that this continent was populated by four great immigrations; two from Europe, and two from Asia. He comes to this conclusion because he finds the native Indians of North and South America fall into four classes. He agrees with Prof. Harrington, however, that certainly one invasion came by way of Bearing Strait.

WOMAN'S RULE IN TRIPOLI.

Taureg Tribesmen of the state of Tripoli are ruled by their women. By all the laws of the country the man is made obedient to the women. When he goes abroad he must veil his face, and in the presence of a lady of noble birth he is obliged to cover his head and face completely. The woman on the contrary goes unveiled. She knows she is the master and looks the whole world in the eye. The children receive her instructions and are taught to respect and obey her. The poor Taureg husband has no liberty at all and practically no possessions. If his wife is of an overbearing disposition he must submit to be bullied and worried. All the goods, tents, camels and clothing are her property and if for some reason he displeases her she can send him packing with nothing but the stick he carries and a box full of whatever odds and ends she chooses to give him. If with such prospects before him a young man yet wishes to take a wife he must pay a good price for her. His usual employment of rearing camels and carrying goods yields such scanty returns that to raise such a sum he is forced into crime. Urged on by his fair bethrothed and her companions, he with other prospective bridegrooms falls upon some luckless caravan which he robs, returning with the spoil to claim his bride.

A VANISHING ISLAND

Falcon Island in the South Pacific has a record for change which is not surpassed by any other island has a surprising habit of disappearing below the waves and then when everyone thinks it has gone for good—quite suddenly it apepars again. So far as is known its life history up to the present time is as follows: H. M. S. Falcon first saw and charted the Island in 1865. In 1877, another ship cruising in the vicinity found that the island had disappeared though smoke was issueing from the ocean thereabout. The chart was altered accordingly. Eight years later the Island came up again. This time it remained so long that it seemed to have become a permanency and the steamer Egeria in 1889 chartered it once more showing it to be a mile long a mile broad and 15.3 ft. above sea-level at its highest point. By 1894 it had sunk and diminished to a low stretch of narrow rock. Before the year was out it had risen again larger than ever. Apparently this effort to increase in size was more than the island could bear for it vanished once more in 1898.

For two years it languished beneath the water but in 1900 it began to grow again. It is today a pleasant island covered with palm trees and vegetables, but its reputation is so unenviable that no one will settle upon it.

TIMUR AND THE ANT.

The great Asiatic conqueror, Timur the Tartar, also known as Tamerlane and called the scourge of God, was noted for his perseverance. No difficulties, however great, ever caused him to recede from any undertaking. When circumstances arose which led all around him to despair, he would encourage his associates by relating to them an anecdote of his early life. "I once," he said, "was forced to take shelter from my enemies in a ruined building, where I sat alone many hours. Desiring to divert my mind from my hopeless condition, I fixed my eyes on an ant that was carrying a grain of corn larger than itself, up a high wall. I numbered the efforts it made to accomplish this object. The grain fell 69 times to the ground; but the insect persevered, and the seventieth time it reached the top. This ment, and I never forgot the lesson, and I never forgot the lesson gave me courage at the moson."

Cash and Credit

A person without money or property usually has little credit, even if his integrity is well known.

Credit is based on capital, and capital is the result of saving. Credit is not a gift; it is a growth. It comes through earnest effort long continued. Some day you will need it.

Saving is the first step to good credit.

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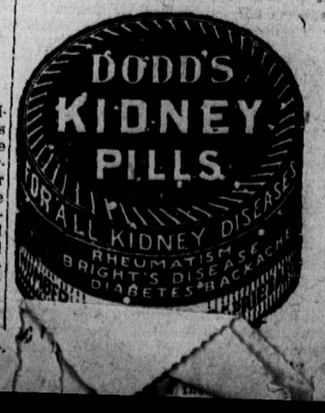
Daily Selections For Guardian Readers

From the W. S. Louson collection

THE WINTER DAY

By Walt Mason

The leaden clouds were blown away, the sun got busy overhead; it was a perfect winter day, without a blemish, critics said. The judges who had passed on days, at many a state and county fair, admitted that we couldn't raise a finer sample, anywhere. I walked nine miles just to inhale the crisp keen air that graced like wine; it seemed to render sound and hale these ancient spavined limbs of mine. And nearly every man I met was grumbling at that perfect day "We do not want spring weather yet—it's bad for us," I heard men say. "Such weather will relax the pores, and leave us open to disease, and when again the tempest roars, we'll have rheumatic in the knees. These balmy days are simply snares, designed to kill off human wrecks, and when again the blizard tears, we'll have lumbago in our necks." I get discouraged often-whiles, there are so many jays on earth who simply won't indulge in smiles, but dish up brien, a jitney's worth. The sun may shine, and breezes sweet as Eden's spicy airs may blow, and still they'll kick with all their feet and make a specality of woe.

LEGEND OF THE MAN IN THE MOON

On a clear night when the moon is full any one who looks for him can see "The Man in the Moon' quite painly. He is a little bent old man, with a bundle of sticks on his back and the story of how he got there is as follows One Sunday morning an old man went to the forest to cut some sticks for firewood. When he had cut the sticks he tied them up into a bundle and put them on his back. As he trudged home an angel met him. "Why do you work?" said the angel. Do you not know that this is Sunday on earth, when all men rest from their labors?" "Sunday on earth or Monday in Heaven, it's all the same to me," said the old man rudely. "Very well," said the angel, "As you do not keep Sunday on earth you shall live in a place where it is Monday (Moon-day) all the time. Your bundle of sticks shall go with you and shall stay on your back until the end of time As soon as the angel had said this the old man felt himself growing very light. He tried to cling to the earth but it was of no use. He rose to the moon and there in the jolly round face of the moon one can still se a great shadow, as of a man with a bundle of sticks on his shoulder. Another story connects him with the man convicted of gatherng sticks on a Sabbath day in Numbers XV.