

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

An Independent Journal, aiming to be JUST, IMPARTIAL, RELIABLE, NEWSY, seeking at all times to further the best interests of the people and to recognize and recognize them as such.

THE PEOPLE'S PAPER

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THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 14, 1905.

THE DELAY OF THE MAILS.

For the present with the Island Railway and the Sackville-Tormentine Railway both blocked by snow, and the crossing by the ice-boats at the Capes much interrupted the task of conveying the mails is an extremely difficult one. Tons of mail matter have accumulated at Sackville and Tormentine and on the Island, awaiting transmission. Post-office Inspector Whear, who has been at Sackville for some days looking after our postal interests, yesterday secured a temporary team service to convey the mails from that point to Sackville. This is the best that can be done for the time and in the existing emergency. It also suggests that with the denial of a special train on the Sackville-Tormentine Railway, the team service ought to be continued, as was done in former years.

We fear that party politics is behind the denial of the special train between Sackville and Tormentine. Senator Wood, the principal owner of the road, is willing to put on a special at the usual rates, but he is a Conservative and the Government are apparently unwilling to add to the revenues of his railway. If this is the real cause of the refusal to employ and pay for the needed special it is rather a small piece of business. But in any case we have a right to insist that our mails shall not be needlessly delayed for twenty-four hours between Sackville and Cape Traverse, and that, if a mail special cannot be had a team service shall supply its place. Otherwise an intolerable condition of things will exist even after the roads are cleared of snow. We trust our representatives at Ottawa, when they again hear from us, will further insist that a special train or team service shall be supplied at once and until the steamers can resume their trips.

We abate nothing of what we have before so often urged in behalf of a third winter steamer and through freight rates. These are our just due, and are and have long been an urgent necessity. We do not propose to wait for these things till the tunnel is completed.

A week without trains, a week without mails from the mainland, three weeks without steamer communication between the Island and the mainland. That is the record for Charlottetown to date. Thank Heaven that each revolution of the earth brings the spring time one day nearer.

Many are the evidences of the growing feeling in favor of the tunnel project. Daily we are in receipt of good words from prominent citizens on the subject. The conviction grows that this is the only solution of our great difficulty in regard to winter communication. Messages come by telephone and letter, thanking The Guardian for its advocacy and urging us to "keep it up."

The blocked railway and roads have compelled the postponement for a week of the meeting on winter communication appointed to be held in this city today. The meeting of the Legislature fixed to take place today has also been further postponed by formal prorogation till the 21st. It is indeed remarkable that a second prorogation becomes necessary from this cause. Truly this very stormy winter is giving us some strange experiences.

As with sewerage, the better telegraph service, prohibition and various other moral and material reforms and improvements, The Patriot will no doubt come in with words of approval after the tunnel project is adopted. If our slow-going contemporary would now expend one tenth part of the energy and space in the advocacy of the tunnel which it expended in behalf of the Grand Trunk Pacific, it might do some good. Our people did not want to help pay for that vast railway project which will not benefit us or our children. They do want the tunnel if they can get it, and many believe it necessary to our material salvation as a Province. The Patriot was very ardent for the G.T.P. It has only the cold shoulder for the tunnel. It may be taken up at some future day! The fact is that The Patriot is very eager for the construction of "mighty works" if only they are located outside of this Island.

LET IT WORK BOTH WAYS.

A strong point for the tunnel is made by a prominent member of the Board of Trade. It is this: Our representation has been decreased one third—from six members to four. We are told that the terms of union, the federal compact, which is a sacred thing, requires that representation shall be in proportion to population. The Court of last resort, the Privy Council of the Empire, has so decided. We bow to this. But our terms of union provide that the Dominion shall furnish us with daily steam communication with the mainland. That compact, too, is sacred. Let the Dominion, which takes away our representation, which we thought we had for all time, fulfill the terms of its agreement about winter communication in the only way that is possible, by giving us the tunnel. It is a poor rule that will not work both ways. The Island has been held strictly to the letter of the compact in the matter of representation, to our great loss and detriment. Let the Dominion fulfill the letter of the compact with regard to steam communication.

In another column we print the letter of Mr. Hyndman, recommending a new route for the winter steamers from Charlottetown to Brule. From his nautical experience and qualifications this is a subject on which he is well qualified to speak. And until we get the tunnel any improvement on existing routes and appliances for winter communication that come within the bounds of practicality must challenge our earnest consideration.

We never suspected that Hon. Mr. Emmerson's so called "joke" about shoveling snow was "at the expense of The Guardian," as The Patriot seems to imagine. The sting of the "joke" lies in the fact that while a special train is refused and the mails for the entire Island are delayed twenty-four hours in consequence, the Minister of Railways should, rather heartlessly, suggest that "the Islanders get out and shovel snow." The matter is too serious for joking; the joke, if joke it be, is most untimely, and its obvious purpose is to cover up the refusal of the mail special and raise a laugh among western members at the expense of the Island.

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