

THE CHARLOTTE TOWN GUARDIAN

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1925

THE LOWERED TONE

Whatever opinion there may be as to the result of the election from a party point of view it will be very generally and regretfully admitted that the tone in Canadian politics has fallen far below normal in the past few years. "Bribery and corruption" is an expression that has done duty in many previous campaigns, often with good reason but never so palpably and painfully evident as during the recent campaign. The uncertainty hold upon life of the late government gave excuse but certainly no justification for the low and vulgar efforts made to hang on to that life. Bribery on a scale hitherto unheard of and undreamed of was openly and flagrantly attempted in many cases it succeeded. Branch railways, public works, senatorships, cabinet positions were openly dangled before the eyes of electors and the price as openly set support for the King government. The efforts to "save Quebec" for Liberalism were simply appalling in their vulgarity and contemptibleness.

The Hon. E. L. Patenaude, who was big enough to preach the gospel of reconciliation to his fellow countrymen, to ask them to forget the past and to go forward with the rest of Canada, was attacked as a criminal and a traitor. He was held up by the Liberal press as aspiring to the leadership of the Conservative party in order to estrange the friends of Mr. Meighen. Premier King, at a public meeting in his constituency of North York made this statement and it was absolutely false. "He (Mr. Meighen) had to go through Quebec to the Maritimes, but think of having to pull down the blinds on the train when going through Quebec." This from the premier of Canada, a premier who preached unification and racial comity! The boast, as false as it was contemptible, that there was a province of the dominion so solidly Liberal that the Conservative leader did not dare set his foot on Quebec soil came with bad grace from the Prime Minister of the dominion. And the Prime Minister had kindred allies in this nefarious prostitution. From headquarters of the Liberal party at Ottawa went forth to the Liberal press throughout Canada propaganda literature in screaming capital letters to the effect that Mr. Meighen had handed over "the leadership in the pivotal province of Canada to a Nationalist of the old Bourassa school." "Meighen will not dare to place his foot in Quebec."

On such stuff as this and with appeals to race prejudice, by poisoning the minds of the people in certain quarters of Quebec against the man, Meighen, whose "fingers are dripping with the blood of your sons, they 'saved Quebec' for Liberalism but, Patenaude's appeal for a broader vision, for a Canadianized Quebec, was not without fruit.

We do not claim immaculateness for the Conservative party but this we claim, the leader, the Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen never appealed on low, selfish, office-seeking grounds. He stated his policy in the east, in the centre in the west; he said in Quebec what he said in Ontario; he held out no bribes for constituencies and he preached Canada for the Canadians. Moreover Mr. Meighen is a statesman, a man of indomitable courage and there is not a spot in Canada in which he "dares not set a foot." He has set an example in campaigning which Canadian politicians of all parties would do well to follow, an example which Canada must follow if it is to become the great nation it ought to be. That nation it never can be come if its political life is to be fashioned on low appeals to pre-

judice and ignorance and selfishness. This low note was sounded during the campaign just ended as never before in the history of Canada and Mr. Mackenzie King, as Canada's premier, led the tune. We must touch a higher key in our national life and we have a right to look to our leaders for an example.

SHALL KING CARRY ON?

Shall King carry on? This is the question that is interesting many in Canada today. At present he is in a somewhat similar position to the boy who gave as his excuse for staying away from school that he was catching rats. When asked how many he had caught he said, "When I get this one that I'm after now and two more I'll have three." When Mr. King gets the Progressives, the Labour and the Independents, he will have a working majority. There are doubts, however, as to whether he can get them. The Toronto Globe, the chief Liberal organ in Ontario says editorially.

"The hostile attitude of Mr. Forke, the Progressive Leader in his recent reference to the older parties leaves little hope for any rapprochement from that quarter which would aid the Liberals. The late cabinet itself is in a wrecked condition with the Premier and eight of his colleagues without seats. Who is to resign and provide places for all or any of these men? The moral effect of nine ministers being defeated cannot be ignored and places a serious handicap on the late ministry should it seek to continue in office."

The Toronto Globe used to have some weight with Liberals but the King brand of Liberals is a "horse of another colour." In this case the Globe speaks of "moral effect." Moral effects do not worry Mr. Mackenzie King. Whether he can rule morally or immorally matters little to him so long as he gets there. The "moral effect" upon Canada of another such regime as that of the past four years is a matter which serious Canadians are cogitating at present. If Canada and not King were Mr. King's objective he would not hesitate a moment about handing in his resignation nor would his faithful allies of the press be so anxious to have him again lined up with opposing groups just for the sake of claiming an empty and meaningless victory and carrying on a government that will have less opportunity to function than the late government. Premier King explained the inaction of his government by claiming he had not a sufficient majority. He has twenty fewer followers now than he had last term. This surely will not better his position but it will give him a better excuse for inaction than he had for the doings and undoings of the last parliament. We do not know, and he has not deigned to take the public into his confidence, whether he shall attempt to carry on but we do know that he should not.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is a pleasure to those with literary tastes to find the Caledonian Club to the front again with a splendid programme of lectures. The opening address by Rev. W. Bruce Muir tonight promises to be both a literary and dramatic masterpiece.

It was mentioned yesterday that tickets would be issued for the series of Caledonian Club lectures. It should be explained that these are not obligatory being merely for those who wish to contribute something towards defraying expenses. Admission to the lectures is as heretofore, free.

Notes By The Way

Premier King is being urged by his stalwart supporters to cling to office as long as he can and is also being reminded by the Liberal press that it is possible to hold on till Parliament meets if not longer. He is also possessed of the idea that he can postpone the calling of Parliament until next May if he likes. There is a provision in the British North America Act which makes it necessary that the next session shall begin within a year after the last prorogation.

But the current financial year for which supplies have been voted will end with March next and further supplies must be voted before that date. March is therefore the latest month within which the session can be expected to begin. In the meantime the Premier and his defeated colleagues, or others selected in their stead, must face the task of finding seats in which they can hope to be elected. The task may not be an easy one.

The Toronto Globe intimates that "Mr. King may decide that he cannot carry on in face of the vote which places his group more than a score below that of the Conservative bloc" and hints at "the hostile attitude of the Progressive leader as leaving little hope for any rapprochement from that quarter which would aid the Liberals." The Globe adds that "the late Cabinet is itself in a wrecked condition with the Premier and eight of his colleagues without seats. Who is to resign and provide places for any or all of these men? The moral effect of the defeat of nine ministers cannot be ignored and places a serious handicap on the late ministry should it seek to continue in office." Rather cold comfort this, from the Liberal Bible!

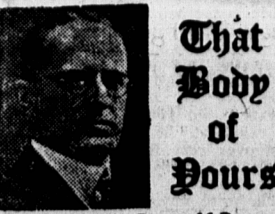
The London Times says "the Conservatives of Canada have every right to look on the election as a victory, that the Liberals have had a rough passage and their high command has practically disappeared." The Times is evidently of the opinion that Mr. King's leadership is ended and questions whether Mr. Dunning may not become the leader of a Liberal-Farmer group. Thus do a leading exponent of public opinion in England and the chief organ of Liberal opinion in Canada regard the political situation here at the present time.

Mr. Forke who at one time led a party of 65 members clearly had it in his power to have defeated the King Government at any time and as the Saint John Telegraph says, probably now wishes he had done so. Down to 1923 the United Farmers were a party to be reckoned with. They held control of Ontario, with Mr. Drury as Premier and also had provincial control in the Prairie Provinces and some foothold in the Maritimes and in British Columbia. It is now evident that they owe their swift decline in numbers and influence in large measure to illicit relations with the King Government and with Liberal Provincial leaders.

There is a measure of poetic justice in the fate that has now befallen them. Drury has a second time suffered defeat at from a Conservative opponent, the Maritimes have quite abandoned the third party and the group system as has British Columbia. Dunning has practically driven them from their stronghold in Saskatchewan and Rogers and Rogers have shattered their strength in Manitoba. Even Miss MacPhail has publicly disowned the Forke leadership. Mr. Forke becomes angry and hostile but it is all too late. Irretrievable damage has been done which Mr. Forke and his followers could easily have prevented.

A general election in the Commonwealth of Australia is shortly to take place. This time the election will be under the new law which requires every qualified voter whose name is on the list to go to the poll and record his vote unless prevented by some valid excuse. Those who neglect or refuse to vote will be liable to a penalty of \$10 each. The experiment of compulsory voting has been under trial in Queensland during ten years past and is said to have operated successfully in the state elections there. Now it is to be tried for the first time in federal elections.

The result will be of great interest in all countries where free institutions are established. There is no doubt that all qualified electors should vote, and it is equally true that thousands neglect this mandatory duty. But if any government in Canada would now enact a compulsory voting law the first election thereafter would probably result in its defeat. People do not like the compulsory laws.



By James W. Barton, M.D. CHANGE IN DISPOSITION

You meet an old friend, who in former days was jovial, with spry step, and find him polite enough, but with no heartiness in voice or manner.

He tells you, if he stops to talk at all, that he is feeling all right but guesses he is getting a little older. You see him a year later and there is a decided improvement in every way. He stops to chat, and when you inform him how well he is looking, he tells you his story.

"I saw that I was slipping and with the little bit of energy I had left I decided to go after myself. I started to take vigorous exercise, but found that I was overdoing it, I began to take strong purgative medicines which seemed to help me for a few days. The home folks were candid enough to tell me that I was becoming almost unbearable around the house I was so irritable and gloomy. They were generous enough to state that I at one time was very different in my disposition. Finally I consulted the family doctor, and told him my troubles. He talked to me about as follows. A few years ago if you had come to me I would have examined your heart and lungs and then slapped you on the back and told you that you were all right, to go home and forget about it. It would have helped your mental attitude for awhile, but you would still have been below par."

Now we can state almost positively that a condition such as yours is due to some poisoning of the system and we begin to look for it. Three times out of four an X Ray of the teeth reveals infection, and with extraction and treatment a cure is effected in a few months. The brightness of the intellect returns, the disposition becomes more sunny, and life is again worth while. Sometimes it is the tonsils or perhaps the gall bladder or intestine that is the scene of the trouble. So he had an X Ray of my teeth, and three of them were in very bad condition and were removed. I saw a difference in two or three weeks, and now I'm my old self again."

The point here is that if you find yourself losing some of your mental alertness, are becoming irritable, unable to concentrate, then get your physician to try and find out what's wrong with you. And then follow his advice.

Daily Selections FOR Guardian Readers

November 5, 1925

DECEASED NOT:—For this is the will of God, . . . that no man defraud his brother in any matter. I. Corinthians 4: 7, 8

PRAYER:—Help us, Lord, to be honest with Thee, and then we cannot be dishonest with ourselves and with others

THE STORY OF LIFE

One of John Godfrey Saxe's Best Poems.

Say, what is life? 'Tis to be born; A helpless babe to greet the light With a sharp wall, as if the morn Foretold a cloudy noon and night; To weep, to sleep, and weep again, With sunny smiles between—and then?

And then apace the infant grows To be a laughing, sprightly boy; Happy despite his little woes, Were he but conscious of his joy! To be, in short, from two to ten, A merry, moody child—and then?

And then in coat and trousers clad, To learn to say the Decalogue, And break it, an unthinking lad, With mirth and mischief all agog! A truant off by field or fen, Ad capture butterflies—and then?

And then, increased in strength and size, To be, anon, a youth full grown; A hero in his mother's eyes, A young Apollo in his own; To imitate the ways of men In fashionable sin—and then?

And then, at last, to be a man, To fall in love, to woo and wed! With seething brain to scheme and plan To gather gold or toil for bread; To sue for fame, with tongue and pen, And gain or lose the prize—and then?

And then in grey and wrinkled old To mourn the speed of life's decline; To praise the scenes our youth beheld, And dwell in memory of lang syne; To dream awhile with darkened ken, To drop into his grave—and then?

Your Birthday NOVEMBER 5.—You have a keen, shrewd brain, and will rise to a good position. You want people to like you, and are fond of society. Your love is demonstra-

Syrian Tribesmen Defy The French

As though France was not having enough trouble with the Riffs, she is now dangerously embroiled with the Druses, another band of desperate fighting men, hitherto even less heard of than the Riffs. Undoubtedly France, which holds a mandate from the League of Nations for the supervision of Syria has acted well within her legal rights in the course of events which has led to the outbreak, but she certainly has not shown her immemorial tact and has once more supported the contention of her critics that she is not a colonizing nation. The present trouble was brought about first by the criminal act of a Druse, and following this by an impolitic effort of France to seize the criminal. The trouble began in 1921 when a bandit fired a shot at Gen. Gouraud, then French High Commissioner in Syria. He escaped the police, but next year it was learned that he had taken refuge in the home of a certain Syrian notability whereupon French troops seized him. In doing so they ignored the ancient Druse law which says that in the circumstances the criminal was entitled to sanctuary. It is probable that at the time few Druses had any sympathy for the bandit, but their religious susceptibilities were shocked when the French disregarded one of their most respected traditions. Had the criminal been arrested on another occasion, there would have been no trouble.

A Spirited People

But there are French observers who say that trouble with the Druses was inevitable, and that if it had not broken out when it did, then it would have come later. It is plain that France regarded her Syrian mandate as being largely a military problem since she has chosen her High Commissioners from the ranks of her distinguished soldiers, while her lesser officials have been recruited from her African colonial service. Perhaps she thought she was preparing for trouble when she was really paying the way for it. The Syrians are almost as far removed from the French negro colonials as are the Chinese. They have an ancient civilization which has suited their particular genius and, if in other ways they are behind the times, they are not like coolies to be bullied. It is true that the French have introduced many reforms and that the living conditions of the average Druse have been improved. But they also have been interfered with in many irritating ways, and France seems not to have given due regard to the passion for complete independence that animates many of them if not the majority. A policy of repression does not suit them for of all Arabic-speaking peoples the Syrians are the most advanced. Turkey can testify from long experience as to their fighting qualities.

A Religious Sect

The Druses are a Moslem sect numbering perhaps 150,000, and a religious community they came into existence in the eleventh century, deriving their name from a certain zealot, named Derazi. This priest and another named Hamza prevailed upon the Caliph of the day to declare his divinity, which he did, but with no every gratifying results, since the majority did not accept his claim, and his followers had to withdraw in mysterious circumstances. The priests sought to take advantage of this fact by announcing that he had been translated to Heaven, but again they met skepticism and realizing the difficulty of making fresh converts, the priests announced that the subscription lists were closed, that the death of the Caliph signalled the expiration of grace, and that thereafter there could be no more Druses save those who were born in the cult.

Fought Turkey

For a long time Turkey claimed suzerainty over the Druses, but her authority was largely fanciful, although they submitted to the appointment of Turkish governors until after a massacre in 1860 when the European powers intervened and part of the Druses gained an independence that Turkey was bound to recognize. In 1909 the Turks made an effort to conscript them for the Turkish armies, but though at the time they could muster only 2,000 soldiers, it required a Turkish force of 20,000 to gain an unprofitable victory over them. Throughout the war they occupied themselves with growing of a wheat for which they are famous. As in so many other countries they were a minority of Druses that seized upon the occasion to demand complete independence for all Druses. Turkey sought to put an end to this movement by hanging some fifty of its leaders in 1915, but the fire of nationalism were not quenched and are now burning up against the French as they burned against the Turk.

How France Governs

Among the Druses to-day and for many generations there are three particularly powerful families and the French began by seeking to govern the Druses through their ancient chieftains, Selim Pasha Al Atrash was one of these and the

French appointed him governor of the Damascus region, with a French adviser. It was in his territory that the attacks upon Gen. Gouraud were made. Moreover, it was upon a village of which his cousin was the chief that the French carried out their early reprisals after a party of Druses had almost massacred the French detachment which had arrested the bandit. This made the cousin a sort of local hero although he was obliged to flee and take refuge with the Bedouins. Selim, too, was suspended for the advice he gave the French in the crisis was unpalatable. The powers of other native officials were suddenly restricted and it was announced that a fine of \$500,000 had been imposed on the Druse tribes. Shortly afterward Selim died, and the French relented so far as to appoint another member of his family as a native governor. But his powers were reduced and the Druses felt that he was a mere figurehead for Captain Carbillat, the French military governor. Subsequently the French removed Captain Carbillat, but not before the damage had been done.

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Gets His Divorce (Canadian Press.) EDMONTON, Alta., Nov. 3.—A divorce decree was granted Geo. Kolyk of Edmonton, whose wife Magda, living in Poland, gave him his freedom by written admissions refusing to return. The couple were married in Poland but after living in Canada for three years the wife departed, alleging that she was afraid to undergo an operation.

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