

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 1921

THE GOVERNMENT WHINING

The Guardian's criticism of the Bell government has been very disturbing to that aggregation. It has formed the subject of eloquent oratorical denunciation and misrepresentations on the floor of the House and in the columns of the Government organ. Scarcely a speech has been delivered from the Government side of the House but had the Guardian for its text and in almost every instance the mildest and most legitimate criticism of the Guardian have been designated as either "abuse" or "falseness". We have criticized the Bell government and because of our criticism modifications have been effected which otherwise would not have been notably in the abandonment of some of the madnes, originally mapped out in connection with the Agricultural School. We have charged the government with incompetence and the adoption of unlawful methods of collecting taxes and the government has acknowledged the correctness of our charge by passing an act to "cure all defects" in this connection. We have accused them of juggling with the financial situation, and the truth of our accusation is to be found in black and white in their own financial statements. The Premier had claimed that they had reduced the public debt of the province by some \$20,000 and their own published accounts show that the debt was \$28,000 greater on December 31, 1920 than on Dec. 31, 1919. These are but a few instances of incompetence and juggling to which the Guardian has referred, a few instances the correctness of which the Government has been unable to question, except by accusing the Guardian of abusing and falsifying the Government. Premier Bell in an outburst of lofty eloquence declared that such criticism as this is injurious to the Province, and the Patriot echoes that it is damnably injurious. What we are concerned with and what the people throughout the province are concerned with is whether our criticism is justifiable, whether our charges are true. If injury accrue to the Province from telling the truth about the government then surely the fault lies with the government and the remedy also lies with the government. "Let the wicked forsake his way" and no injury will follow. We realize, as the government realizes, that it would smooth the way for the latter and make their path a flower bordered one, if they were permitted to carry on uncriticized, if their incompetence were not exposed, but it would be unfair and unjust to the Province. The Liberal party used a crooked road to come in by, they are now using a crooked road to stay in by and they must not be surprised if they meet with many jolts. Their whining to be left alone is childish and will bring them no sympathy.

THE COST OF PROHIBITION

We have shown that under the Matheson and Arsenault Governments details of the payments made to the officials under the Prohibition Act were placed in the estimates and appeared subsequently in the Public Accounts. We have also pointed out that the present government has departed from this policy and gives no details in either the Public Accounts for the past year or in the estimates. This, we say, is an infringement of the rights of the people through their representatives in the Legislature who have sole jurisdiction in the voting of supplies and collecting revenue. The public vendors are which he considers to be one of the finest governments that ever existed in Canada? It is ungrateful

public revenue. The people's representatives have the right to authorize the necessary expenditures for the administration of the Commission and to say what shall be done with any surplus. If instead of proving a remunerative investment the vendors were unprofitable, would the Legislature be required to provide for the deficit? Decidedly it would. The Consolidated Prohibition Act of 1918 and the amendment of 1919, clearly specifies that the Government in Council shall fix the salaries of the manager, vendors, assistants, inspectors and other officials but the only authority for paying them is the Legislature. No provision is made in the act for the payment of a salary to the Secretary of the Commission, all the provision being that the Commission shall appoint a Secretary (who may be a member of the Board) and Commissioners shall serve without salary or charges for service, but shall be entitled to receive from the PROVINCIAL TREASURER their actual travelling expenses, board and lodging in discharge of their duties. As the Provincial Treasurer has no authority to pay any moneys without the authority of the Legislature it must necessarily follow that such payments and any payment to the Secretary for his services must be authorized by the Legislature and provided for in the estimates. In their platform before the election the Government members gave the solemn pledge that all liquor would be inspected and analyzed and SOLD AT ACTUAL COST. What guarantee have the people or their representatives that they promises are being fulfilled? The only safeguard they possessed is being attempted to be filched from them by the highlanded action in withholding the necessary information from the Public Accounts.

HE TOOK THE BAIT

The debates of the House of Commons at Ottawa, which as a rule are on a dull, drab level, are occasionally relieved by clever little passages of words. One of these occurrences took place on Thursday last when Sir George E. Foster was endeavoring to pilot through the estimates of the Trade and Commerce Department. On an item of \$3,000 for cost of administration of the Petroleum Bounty Act that doughty Liberal and Free Trader, Mr. Andrew R. McMaister of Brone launched into a tirade against the bounty. To use the most moderate terms, he said, "the measure is most unwise." Sir George, once the possessor of the most bitter tongue in Parliament and now a tongue philosopher with an unsuspected fund of humor, had a card up his sleeve and, to enable him to play it properly, he mildly suggested to Mr. McMaster that he might make his condemnation a little stronger. The guileless, Calvinist from Montreal swallowed the bait without seeing the hook, and declared that the bounty was "rank, raging lunacy". Then, Sir George played his card. With a smile lurking in his historic, attenuated whiskers he said: "The interests of my hon. friend himself will be allowed me to intervene for a moment. I have noted the hard language which he has applied to this policy of bonus. Does my hon. friend know that in 1904, that it was re-instituted in 1907 and 1908, that it is there on the statute books by virtue of the concentrated wisdom of the Liberal Government to which my hon. friend said all glance, and revenue. The public vendors are which he considers to be one of the finest governments that ever existed in Canada? It is ungrateful

The Guardian which has proven such a thorn in the flesh, and the emblem of so much danger to the Bell Government, might also under that threatened confinement, by the Patriot, under the Criminal Code, prove to be equally dangerous prisoners and most difficult to handle. With this consideration before us it might be well to take time by the fore-lock and suggest a stiffening up of prison conditions to ensure their safe keeping. Apart from the Guardian there are quite a large number of people, both in town and country, who have declared that they will not be bluffed or imposed upon, by the Artful Dodgers, and history records as a fact that many people have entered the portals and endured the cold walls of the prison as champions for principle and right. It is therefore possible that our friend the Patriot, and the "powers behind" may require more than the ordinary jail accommodation in the months to come. The estimates as presented have not been enlarged to provide for this nor even as far as we can see for the extra food which an increased number of public offenders will most surely consume. Are we to interpret it that non-taxpaying prisoners are not to be supplied with the ordinary prison fare?

But graver still than all this is the want of security, and safe keeping in which our jail has already an established reputation, and in the laxity of the Justice Department in the matter of escaped prisoners. It will surely instill no great degree of terror in the negligent taxpayer to threaten him with confinement in a jail from which the egress is as easy as water from an Indian basket. The Patriot declared that "the Department of Justice would be recreant to its duty if it permitted such contempt for our laws". Now it might be that the people have got onto the idea that this "Justice Department" is inclined to be recreant in its duty that they are inclined to view with contempt, both it and its interpretations of law. They have a remembrance of two escaped prisoners, last summer, who, through the good offices of a justice loving farmer, were recaptured and replaced in the Government basket. But the experience of the former escape taught them no lesson, and the men walked out again TAKING A THIRD PRISONER WITH THEM.

And the laxity continued with the prisoners still at liberty. There might have been a chance to have caught them again, but for the first time in their existence the Government, or the Justice Department, was seized with a sudden fit of economy. The cost of the telephone message, advising the authorities of the whereabouts of the refugees, amounting to about a quarter of a dollar, was so reports say, charged up to the farmer, and payment refused by the Government. When the escaped prisoners therefore arrived at the same rendezvous, at a later date, and this time with reinforcement, it was not unnatural that the farmer should refuse to bother about them for a government that were too negligent to hold them when they got them, and too small to pay the cost of the telephone message. In the light of these things the Patriot will have to conjure up some kind of a more formidable bogey than the Justice Department, if it wants to frighten the Guardian; or even the poor citizen whom it would scare into paying any unreasonable or unlawful demand. Most of the people in this country know how to walk through a barn door, or even to jump through a window, and a jail conducted under this fashion, let us assure our romantic evening friend, has no terror for the average prospective occupant.

In the language of the immortal Samantha Allen we would say that "the anger of the Patriot was roused". It has abandoned its refuge in the Justice Department, and its dependence on the Criminal Code, and has not even invoked the "beautiful sunshine" and returned to its first love of "sland", but come and Billingsgate. It reviveth that old yankee sentiment that you can't fool all the people all of the time" so pathetically in its mournful dirge as to indicate its pain at the discovery. The Patriot's day for fooling the people is past, and therein is the pain and the worry. It worries because "The Guardian has never given the Government the semblance of fair play, or the merest JUSTICE in its columns. That depends on what our excited friend calls "justice". When the thief is committed to prison, or the murderer hanged, in the common acceptance of terms he has received "justice" in its proper measure. When a government attains to power under the banners of false promise and by false pretense and when they continue these offices in the same manner after they get possession, and continue to deceive and mislead, then the press that exposes their duplicity and brings to light their misdoings, IS ONLY HANDING OUT TO THEM THAT PULL AND FAIR MEASURE OF JUSTICE TO WHICH THEIR CONDUCT ENTITLES THEM. And in duty to the people we have done this.

Then our simple friend says: "Here are some generalities, nothing specified, but a great deal luscinated." Most people think that there was a very great lot specified. In fact it was the "specified" things that caused the Patriot and the friends behind, so much worry and anxiety. And what made it still worse was the fact that they were correct transcriptions from their own accounts, to which they could not take exception. The figures may be wrong possibly they are, but they are their own, which they must either accept or repudiate. Of course the External Auditor didn't make them tally up so prettily for the Government, but as a leading banker with a reputation to protect

of my hon. friend after all the prominence that his party has given to it to stand up behind his aged and revered leader (Mr. Fielding) and tax him with introducing a policy of rank and unadulterated lunacy."

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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.

LETTER FROM "THE CHILDREN'S FRIEND"

Sir,—I receive many letters from P. E. Island, principally from children. Some of them address me after the word Cuba. This causes delay in delivery besides some of my mail goes astray when these letters are added, because Cuba is not in the U. S. A., and does not belong to it but is an independent republic and is separated from the U. S. A. by the ocean. I frequently get letters that have been forwarded from a small village in the northwest part of the state of New York called Cuba and I presume many more go astray when these letters are added. Therefore I wish to inform my little friends that if they will omit these letters and put a five cent stamp on the letters to Cuba I will be likely to receive them and I will certainly answer all of them and no one will be disappointed. I am, Sir, etc. J. D. O'CONNELL.

fit of economy. The cost of the telephone message, advising the authorities of the whereabouts of the refugees, amounting to about a quarter of a dollar, was so reports say, charged up to the farmer, and payment refused by the Government. When the escaped prisoners therefore arrived at the same rendezvous, at a later date, and this time with reinforcement, it was not unnatural that the farmer should refuse to bother about them for a government that were too negligent to hold them when they got them, and too small to pay the cost of the telephone message. In the light of these things the Patriot will have to conjure up some kind of a more formidable bogey than the Justice Department, if it wants to frighten the Guardian; or even the poor citizen whom it would scare into paying any unreasonable or unlawful demand. Most of the people in this country know how to walk through a barn door, or even to jump through a window, and a jail conducted under this fashion, let us assure our romantic evening friend, has no terror for the average prospective occupant.

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Happenings of the Week

There's a stack of glad tomorrows round the corner over there. And Miss Spring is getting ready, tying blossoms in her hair. Though I've had my share of trouble and full reason to complain. There's a lot of joy before me when the warm days come again.

Oh, I'll soon be free to wander wheresoever I may please. And listen to the singing of the birds in all the trees: There are days that I'll go fishing with a faithful friend or two. Or play the idle rover in the way I used to do.

There's a lot of fun before me, and I'm standing at my door Counting eagerly the pleasures which the Springtime has in store: Though some days were long and dreary, I am living now to see The woods in all their splendor and the blue skies over me.

There are times I've been discouraged, times I've thought; life's charm had fled. There were even times I've whispered that I might as well be dead: But the sun is getting higher, and the buds break on the bough. And with Springtime getting nearer, there's a lot to live for now.

His Honor, Lieut. Governor McKinnon entertained the members of the Legislature at dinner on Thursday evening, covers being laid for thirty-two in the charmingly arranged dining room, where soft light and quantities of yellow daffodils were used with good effect. The Governor was assisted in receiving his guests by Mrs. McKinnon.

Col. Willis was among the important visitors here this week coming over from Halifax for cadet inspection.

Mrs. Herbert Shaw of Montreal, who came home for the funeral of her father is returning to Montreal this morning.

Lady Pope, of Ottawa, who retired this week as regent of the Municipal Chapter, I.O.D.E., was presented with a National I.O.D.E. life membership and a bouquet of roses by the members in Ottawa. Lady Kingsmill and Mrs. N.C. Smille made the presentations.

Mr. J.E.B. MacCreedy was receiving birthday congratulations on Monday last.

Among the passengers sailing on the Empress of Britain Thursday was Lady Drummond of Montreal, a member of the National Executive of the Canadian Red Cross, who is on her way to England. Previous to sailing Lady Drummond discussed very briefly the Red Cross affairs and particularly the work of the Red Cross in time of peace. Lady Drummond paid a tribute to the splendid work done by the Red Cross caravans last year in the Maritime Provinces.

Miss Helen Warburton was among the visitors who remained in Summerside this week.

One of the most enjoyable dances was given by the Bank of Commerce staff last evening in the Women's Club. Mrs. Miles, Mrs. Malcolm and Mrs. J. O. Hyndman gracefully performing the duties of chaperons.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Gordon have arrived home from a trip to Montreal and Toronto.

The annual meeting of the Ladies' Branch of the Golf Club was held in the Women's Club Room on Wednesday morning. President, Mrs. F. L. Hazard presided. The reports showed that much interest had been taken in Golf during the past season. Following are the officers elected for the season of 1921: President, Mrs. J. S. Baginall; Vice-President, Mrs. Victor Gordon; Secretary, Treasurer, Miss Helen A. Grant (re-elected). House Committee—Mrs. C. L. Miles, Mrs. A. G. Peake, Mrs. J. E. O'Donnell, Miss Mary Hazard. Greens Committee—Mrs. H. R. Stewart, Miss Edith Rogers, Miss Rose Langworth.

The Daughters of the Empire are devoting Monday afternoon of each week to sewing for their annual bazaar on St. George's Day.

Wednesdays and Fridays are the popular calling days just now and the ladies are busy getting over these important social duties.

Many love notes and informal invitations are flying through the mails these spring days. And what ravishing paper they're written on! The blue of the sky, the petals of the primrose and the gold of the sunset must have given their colors to tint and line these lovely missives. But newer than the colors of the new letter paper is the shape and size. It is large because, of course, the fashionable hand-writing is large. The big square looking envelopes are six inches long and almost as deep. The letter paper is the regulation two-fold, and the note paper, instead of being smaller in size, is merely a letter sheet cut in half crosswise, fitting the same

SILK For that Other Spring Gown New coloring in Crepes and Taffetas. Luminous satins and Paillettes For frocks, for blouses, for skirts, for sashes and millinery. These, in particular today: Crepe de Chines in Navy, Taupe, Rose, Nigger, Pink, Apricot, Mais, Jade, Sand, Paon Blue, White and Black at \$1.95 and \$2.35 per yard. Duchess and Paillette Silks in all the popular shades at \$3.00 and \$2.00. Black Silks from \$2.15 to \$4.50. White Charmeuse, Crepe de Chene and Duchess Satin for the Spring Bride from \$1.95 to \$4.50. Patons Ltd.

King's attempt to play politics suggested by his motion to introduce old intercolonial patronage methods in the administration of the National lines, is almost universally condemned, even many in the Opposition taking the ground that such a retrograde step cannot be considered. On the other hand the idea of a parliamentary committee to discuss matters of general policy and provide a link between Parliament and the management, is being well received. The plain truth is that the situation is of such grave importance that very few in the House, a few incorrigible partisans excepted, are inclined to do other but help out any proposal that has even a remote chance of success.

Our Ottawa Letter

OTTAWA March 30th, 1921.—After a brief Easter recess Parliament is again in motion a noticeable effort being made to retrieve some of the time wasted at the beginning of the session. Estimates of the various Departments are being voted with a fair measure of rapidity, purely academic discussions are being shunned, and the Budget always the big event of the session, is expected shortly. There is a possibility that tariff revision may not be proceeded with. The matter has not been officially decided, but there are a number of very sufficient reasons to warn delay. First of all, and almost sufficient in itself, is the fact that many hundreds of schemes, involving thousands of interests in all parts of the country, cannot be dealt with hastily. Industry and capital are very sensitive things, and no Government with the slightest regard for the prosperity or stability of the country would launch lightly upon changes liable to affect them materially. There is necessity for the most thorough investigation and balancing of all the possible results before changes can be made; hence the undesirability of rushing a revision to the House. Then, again, there is no vital reason for speed. The existing tariff, taken all in all, is not oppressive. It corresponds with the fiscal principle which has formed the basis of all Canadian tariffs since 1878, affords but moderate protection, and no interest will suffer greatly if it is not immediately changed. Finally, there is the danger of interfering with the tariff at all a time when revenue is so vital. No one expects, of course, that whatever revision is contemplated will be of so downward a character as to greatly imperil customs returns, nevertheless there is always the possibility of such a result following tariff readjustments of any kind, and if there is one thing Canada ought to be anxious to avoid at this juncture it is a lessening in revenue. It may, be, of course, that despite all such circumstances, the Government finds itself in a position to proceed with revision; but for the moment the chances favor delay. The railway question continues the main topic of discussion. Mr.

nearly empty. Under such circumstances deficits were inevitable and for them no Government anywhere, and least of all in Canada, can be blamed. The Commission which is to inquire into the operations of the Western grain trade, a demand for which came from practically every interest in the West, will likely be constituted this week. It will be comprised of men of the highest probity, for the Government is anxious to have the investigation impartial as well as fearless. There is no intention of visiting injury upon the Farmers' political movement. If the Grain Growers' Grain Company, of which Mr. Crear the Farmer leader, is the head, has a connection with the grain trade that is legitimate and honest, no inquiry can injure it; and the propriety of the Government's motives in granting the investigation is witnessed by the fact that it offered a place on the commission to no less a person than Mr. Henry Wise Wood, the Agrarian leader in Alberta. Mr. Meighen leaves for England early in June to attend the conference of Dominion Premiers. Before going it is his intention to give the House an opportunity of a full discussion of the agenda of the Conference. Thus he will achieve the double purpose of getting the view of Parliament to guide him while at the Conference and of abolishing the persistent belief that the gathering is for the purpose of suddenly launching the Empire upon some scheme of centralized control.

big square envelope without folding the paper again. It is called "semi-note." The only "correspondence cards" used now are the kind that fold in the middle and have beveled edges and round corners.

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