

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1925

POLITICAL DUPLICITY

It is quite conceivable and even pardonable that a government or any other body of stewards, entrusted with the conduct of public affairs, should "put the best foot forward" in giving an account of their administration. Between "putting the best foot forward" and deliberate misrepresentation, however, there is a wide gulf. In this country today we are in the unfortunate position of being on the misrepresentation side of the gulf. To hold itself in power by any kind of strategy, to make the worst appear the better, to conceal the facts and substitute what are not facts, is the studied and designed and admitted way of the King government.

Take its propaganda efforts for example. The financial condition of the country is declared to be superlatively satisfactory; industry is declared to be reviving; expenditure, it is declared, is being pared to the bone. All this and much more is attributed to the wise guidance and the statesmanship of Premier Mackenzie King.

Without making any comment on the fact that Mr. Mackenzie King is not the master of the administration but is obliged to adopt any policy that the Progressives dictate, let us look for a little at the "satisfactory financial condition."

The main estimates have been brought down. On their face they are designed to deceive. We are told that, as compared with last year, they show an estimated saving of over six million dollars. This has already been heralded as a great estimated saving and, eventually, the figures will be quoted as an actual saving. As a matter of fact expenditures which will probably amount to twenty millions and for payment of which the government is already committed, have been left out to be brought down later in supplementary estimates.

Among these is an item for some ten millions to recoup depositors in the bankrupt Home Bank—the price to be paid by the taxpayers of Canada for winning the West Hastings by-election for the King government. Another little item of \$1,200,000 is to be set aside as a subsidy to an old favorite of the Liberal party on a pretended scheme to reduce ocean freight rates by taxing the people of Canada to make up the difference between regular freight rates and the rates to be charged by the subsidized fleet. And, no doubt there will be other heavy pre-election outlays to help Liberal candidates at the coming election.

Canada is now paying \$131,000,000 in interest on our public debt, an appalling amount for nine millions of people. And we are building railways as bait to induce electors to vote for Liberal candidates. The public debt increasing, borrowing money to pay interest on a debt, the railway deficit nearly double what it was last year, the cost of the civil service and administration increasing, taxes going up and with them the cost of living, revenue down some \$50,000,000, and still building railways for "murmuring constituencies" and everything superlatively satisfactory to the King government! Is it not time for a change at Ottawa?

While human nature is constituted as it is, struggle will be the law of life. Indeed it is and has been the law of life in the lower animal and vegetable world. Animals prey upon animals, plants crowd each other for a foothold on the earth and the fittest, both in animals and plant life, survive.

In the human sphere, we are forever declaiming against aggression, against war, against the crowding and the elbowing of each other out of the way but the aggression and the elbowing continue and by means of these denounced and anatomized vices progress is made, a few at

least reach the goal of their ambition, attain wealth, power, greatness and these contribute their quota to the world's material progress and prosperity. Indirectly also these contribute to the betterment of the world, the amelioration of poverty and pain, to the healing of diseases, to the charities and benevolences of the race.

Progress is the dear-bought harvest of struggle, of struggle that is not always playing the game fairly, of struggle which, often, is "conceived in sin and shapen in iniquity."

The new is forever rising, forever pressing upon the sloping steps of the old and eventually taking its place but the old does not go out without a struggle. The new of yesterday is the old of today and the eternal struggle goes on. It is the unalterable law of progress.

We are moving on, reluctantly leaving the old behind us and taking up, not without misgivings, the new and the presumably better way. In the physical and in the intellectual world alike this climbing upon stepping stones of our dead selves never ceases and cannot cease till stagnation and death supervene. We are part of a living universe where life is forever fighting against death and forever overcoming it and the hope of the world is that in "the divine event" which the whole creation moves" death itself shall be finally overcome.

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Notes By The Way

Premier Ferguson has given Ontario and the Dominion some surprises this year. One of these is his Government's proposal to increase their own pay and that, of the members of the Legislature, the indemnity of the latter is to be increased from \$1,400 each as it has been to \$2,000 each per session. As there are some 110 members whose pay cheques are thus enlarged, it will be seen that many thousands of dollars are involved. Of course the bill will pass with flying colors. Politicians seem always ready to vote money to themselves, and the people have shown a remarkable leniency in regard to such transactions in the past.

Our own Legislature set an example in the reduction of members pay from \$500 to \$400 per session, but the example, which seemed a good one, has not been followed in other provinces, or in the Dominion. Official salaries have been inordinately increased in Canada both in the federal and provincial domains and this has been accompanied by lavish expenditures for other purposes. What hope is there for a return of old-time economy? Taxation mounts higher from year to year. Will nothing short of national bankruptcy enforce the lesson of economy and retrenchment?

Another surprise dealt out by the Ferguson Government is to double the strength of the beer permitted to be sold in Ontario. A provincial plebiscite last year sustained the Ontario Temperance Act by a majority of 33,900. The O. T. A. is a prohibitory law similar to what we have here. The majority in its favor was made up in the rural districts while Toronto and other cities give large majorities against the Act. It is to satisfy the thirsty ones in the cities that the beer amendment is proposed. The pretext is put forward that it is necessary to thus encourage the sale of strong beer in order to discourage bootlegging and the consumption of whiskey and strong liquors!

It is also claimed by the strong beer advocates that it is necessary to thus amend the Ontario Temperance Act in order to prevent such extensive violations of its provisions as must bring it into contempt and eventually destroy it. This is strange logic. The beer amendment is regarded by the prohibitionists as a direct attack upon the principle of prohibition and which, if enacted, will effectively destroy the Act whose professed object it is to save. Premier Ferguson is strongly censured in temperance circles for having broken his pledge given both before and after the plebiscite to enforce and strengthen the O. T. A. if a majority was found in its favor.

There is a mighty uproar in both church and state in these days throughout the Dominion. Already since the new year came in there have been eclipses of both the sun and moon and even the weather has been revolutionary. These commotions remind one of the forceful lines of the poet Akenside:

"Hence, when lightning fires the arch of Heaven and thunders rock the ground, when furious whirlwinds rend the howling air, and ocean groaning from his lowest bed heaves his tempestuous billows to the sky,—amid the mighty uproar, while below the nations tremble," etc.—

Something like that—the venerable fabric of Presbyterianism, the bulwark of Protestantism, riven asunder from its topost turret to its foundations, a spectacle to Anglicans, Methodists and Baptists; the great federal structure of united Canada shaken by an earthquake of discontent; mutterings of unrest and even of secession voiced by a huge Maritime delegation to Ottawa; wild clamor from the Prairies borne on wintry blasts to the national Capital; and with it all the birds flying northward, panicles blooming in Charlottetown gardens and red lightning blazing over Ontario, followed by an untimely flood of 5 per cent beer,—all in the month of February! What does it all mean?

About that British potato embargo, being merely a measure to keep out the potato bug, there is much doubt among Canadian farmers. Reliable accounts tell that a very destructive bug which looks exactly like ours, has long infested the potato fields of every European country from which Britain imports potatoes and is not unknown on English farms. Over there they contend that it is not the beetle that came to Canada from Colorado in the seventies of last century, but some other kind of a bug—probably a hum-bug! It serves the same purpose as the foot and mouth disease did in the cattle embargo—a disease much more prevalent in Britain than ever it was in Canada.

Peat And Potatoes And Irish Suffering

A cabin of four low, grey stone walls, floored with stone flags or beaten earth and roofed with grass-grown thatch; two or three acres of black potato-bearing soil won from among the rocks; a patch of peat bog—these are the ingredients of life of the Irish peasant of the Atlantic seaboard. Of the three the peat is the most essential. The bare shelter of the cabin must be warmed by the glowing peat fire. On that fire, too, must be cooked the potatoes and must be brewed the black tea which, with butter-milk, make up the diet of the peasant family. The reek of peat smoke is the salient feature of a countryside attractive in its picturesque-ness to the artist and the tourist, but one of the most cruel lands in the world for those who live there. To-day from the chimneys of thousands of cabins in the Gaeltacht, the Irish-speaking western fringe from Malin Head in the north of Bannry in the south, no smoke rises. The worst disaster that can befall the peasants of the west of Ireland has come upon them, says a London correspondent of the New York Herald-Tribune. The fuel supply has failed.

Caused by Rain.

In more than a quarter of the whole area of the Free State, with a population of three-quarters of a million, there is a complete or partial lack of fuel. A third of the area, with a population of around a quarter of a million, already is scheduled officially as a region in which there is "complete lack of fuel and acute distress." Over another third of the area the supply of fuel is about one-third of the normal, and unless there is a considerable spell of dry weather—which is most unlikely in Ireland at this time of year—the same conditions shortly will prevail there also. In the remainder of the area of the western counties of Cork, Kerry, Clare, Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal the people have not more than two-thirds of the normal supply of fuel. The exceptional rains of the last Summer and Autumn have so saturated the earth of these western Irish highlands which catch the Atlantic rain clouds that it has been impossible to cut, still less to dry, the peat which normally is stacked to provide the winter's fuel.

Potato Crop Fails.

From the same cause the potato crop also has failed over a considerable area, though not so widely as the fuel supply. Always living barely above the subsistence level, the people of the Atlantic seaboard either already have sunk, or are sinking into the extreme of destitution. In the worst areas of Kerry, Galway, Leitrim and Donegal, the counties most seriously affected, there is no peat, and so there is no fire—for the first time in generations, for the custom of the Irish peasant is never to allow the peat fire to go out. Where the potato crop has failed also the staple food has gone, as well. The lack of fuel has deprived the people not only of warmth, but also of the means of making the black

tea which normally always is brewed on the peat fire. There may be no actual starvation, but the privations of the peasants in their chilled stone hovels are scarcely distinguishable from famine. The Free State Government has voted half a million pounds sterling for relief work, which is being expended mostly on roads and drainage undertakings calculated to provide employment and wages for thousands of men.

Political Reactions.

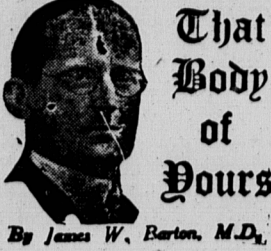
At least three voluntary relief agencies familiar with the west of Ireland conditions also are in the field. Government relief measures include the sending of coal into the impoverished areas. Here, however, there is the difficulty that the cabins of the west are not built for coal fires. There are no grates; the peat fire is burned on the floors of the cabins. These, moreover, have often no chimneys, and while the people are accustomed to peat-smoke, coal smoke is a different proposition. Wood also is being despatched to the west as an alternative fuel, but this is scarce and dear in view of the progressive denuding of Ireland of timber in recent years. The great famine of 1847 led to the Fenian rising in the following year. The famine of 1879 which was the formation of the Land League. The present distress, which may easily be the winter is out produce conditions of suffering and destitution worse than those of 1879, doubtless will have its political reactions also.

They Lose Their Homes

Wholesale transplantation of the small and scattered communities of the barren west to areas where economic holdings are to be had is a solution of a recurrent problem which finds increasing favor. The Free State Land Act of last year gives these communities facilities for migration to other parts of Ireland. But the extreme reluctance of the western peasants to desert their present homes is a formidable barrier to this solution. They migrate freely as harvest laborers to Scotland and Ireland—though distress has been increased this year by the small demand for their labor in these countries, as well as by the storms which have hampered the fishing whereby those who live on the coast itself help to eke out an existence. But to his permanent foothold on the Atlantic seaboard the western peasant clings with the same tenacity of character which alone has enabled him to live there at all.

WHAT IS SUNSHINE?

A little gold amidst the gray—That's sunshine; A little brightness of the way—That's sunshine; O little spreading of the blue—A little heaven breaking through—That's sunshine. A little looking for the light—That's sunshine; A little patience through the night—That's sunshine; A little bowing of the will, A little resting on the hill, A little standing very still—That's sunshine. A little smiling through the tears—That's sunshine; A little faith behind the fears—That's sunshine; A little folding of the hand, A little yielding of demand, A little glance to understand—That's sunshine.



By James W. Barton, M.D.

That Body of Ours

AN UNUSUAL SPRAIN

The championship wrestling bout between "Strangle" Lewis, and Harold Munn, the huge University of Nebraska student, must have been thrilling to the spectators when the student picked up the erstwhile champion, and hurled him to the floor so violently that he was unable to go on with the second bout for at least twenty minutes.

Even then he was helpless and was easily thrown again.

Now the outstanding thing to me in the account of the match, was that the paper stated that Lewis had sprained his sacro-lilac joint, that is the joint that holds the hip bone to the spinal column.

In other words the newspaper these days are talking about a sprain of this joint, just as they would of a sprained ankle, or any other joint.

Now why is this so remarkable? Because it is only a matter of a very few years since it became known that this joint could be sprained. It was taught that there was practically no movement in this joint, and so a sprain was of course out of the question.

However, so many people complaining of backache, or pain over the back of either hip, were able to give a history of having lifted some heavy object, had stooped, had perhaps stopped down stairs where they did not know there was any unevenness on the ground, or any one of a number of accidents had occurred to them. They attempted to "work out" the pain, to have the back massaged, to have vigorous manipulations to get rid of the pain. The pain often extended into hip and down the leg, and caused what is called sciatica. The pain was severe, as this sciatic nerve is the largest nerve in the body.

All this treatment was, of course wrong, because a sprain or a strain of a joint is the same everywhere, and the only proper treatment is rest.

Resting in bed for a few days, the application of adhesive tape across the back over the joint from one side to the other, and the wearing of a brace for a few months, usually brings about a complete cure.

The wearing of the brace would be wise in slippery weather, or when any lifting has to be done.

It is which normally always is brewed on the peat fire. There may be no actual starvation, but the privations of the peasants in their chilled stone hovels are scarcely distinguishable from famine. The Free State Government has voted half a million pounds sterling for relief work, which is being expended mostly on roads and drainage undertakings calculated to provide employment and wages for thousands of men.

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WHAT IS SUNSHINE?

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 of correspondents.

CLYDE RIVER VOTE

Sir.—The Rev. Mr. MacNevin is very good in quoting the law when it serves his own purpose to shut out the adherents of Clyde River from voting on Church Union. The adherents in this congregation have done as much, if not more to help in paying for all the church property. They have given of their time labor and money to build up these properties and now when their disposal is a vital matter they are denied absolutely any voice on this issue.

Since this church was built adherents have always voted at congregational meetings and at present the majority of the trustees are adherents yet they cannot vote on the Church Union question. Dr. Scott was right when he said that about all the people can do in the new Union Church is "pay, pray and obey." In Clyde River we don't have to wait until the United Church functions to have only the right to "pay, pray and obey." It is the only right we have now—and it is still over three months till the 10th of June. From now on those who do all the talking and have only the right of voting so have only the right of paying so far as some of the adherents are concerned. It would have been only morally fair and right if the minister and session of Clyde River had followed the custom of the congregation and of Zion Church instead of hiding behind legal technicalities to gain their points. It won't pay in the long run. And is a sad commentary on "this great spiritual movement" which has to follow such methods to succeed.

I am, Sir, etc.

CHURCH UNION

Sir.—The following article from the pen of Rev. A. D. Stirling formerly of Kensington, P. E. I. now of Brookfield, N. S. will be of interest to P. E. I. readers. Please find space for the same in your paper.

I am, Sir, etc.

J. N. PROFITT

[ENCLOSURE]

Brookfield Col. Co. N. S. Dec. 30, 1924

Last week I visited my native county, Pictou. There was only one subject discussed on the train, in the store, on the street, everybody seemed to be talking "Union."

The feeling was as intense as in some instances conducted on as low a plane, I chanced to be in Scotsburn when Rev. McC. Thompson and Colonel Cantley had their meeting. It lasted almost two hours and every argument used, every statement made, and every interpretation of the Act given was misleading; an insult to an intelligent audience. Let me illustrate by three statements:

1st—Both speakers declared that the session under the new Act would be altogether different from the session in the present church and men who are not members of the Church might be elected to the eldership. Any intelligent person reading the Act (see page 29) will see that the power and functions of the session are exactly the same as in our present Church. It is an absurd reading of the Act and unthinkable that anyone but a member of the Church can be elected to the eldership. The language of the new Act is identical with that of the blue book of our Church.

The former reads: "Members of the session shall be chosen by those in full Church membership." The latter reads: "The right of electing elders is vested in the members of the congregation who are in full communion."

2nd—Both speakers said the people could be taxed to raise church funds and this sum might be collected by law. The word "tax" is not used in the Act. It has been the practice of our Church to ask each congregation for a certain sum for Missionary and benevolent purposes, so a certain sum is assessed or allotted to each congregation, which sum may be voluntary or may not be paid. It is purely voluntary; all the Church can do or ever expects to do is to show our people their opportunity and responsibility. It never entered into the wildest thought of anyone to tax the people and collect by law, except in the minds of those who will stop at nothing to hinder this great movement.

3rd—These speakers said the new Church could mortgage the Church property of the people and even mortgage their graveyard. We can have patience with an old man who before his senility wrote in the highest praise of the Basis of Union, but who today

(Continued on Page Six)

C. M. Lampton & Co. 64 Queen Street, London, E.C. 4, England Public Auction Sales of Raw Furs R-presented by Alfred Fraser, 212 Fifth Avenue New York

Advertisement for Billy Atwood's education, including a testimonial from Frank Atwood and details of the North American Life Assurance Company's "Child's Endowment" policy. Includes a coupon for a booklet and a small map of North America.

Large advertisement for Miller Bros. pianos, featuring the headline "A PIANO WELL WORTH BEING PROUD OF" and a testimonial from Lieutenant Governor F. R. Hartz. Includes contact information for Messrs. Miller Bros. in Charlottetown.