

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THE NEW CITY COUNCIL

Revised figures give Mr. R. H. Jenkins a majority of 302 in the Majority Election on Wednesday. This is a very substantial majority over such a popular competitor as Mr. L. B. Miller, who ran second. Mr. McKinnon, who was at the bottom of the poll, made no exertion for votes on his behalf, beyond placing his claims before the electors in his card in the newspapers, and his address at the public meeting.

The City Council as chosen will have ample opportunity of demonstrating its ability to finance the City during the next two years. This is a critical time, when a certain amount of Civic improvements must be carried out to complete those already begun, and at the same time the utmost economy consistent with efficiency must be observed in public expenditure.

THE NEXT INTEREST

Now that the civic election is over and the destiny of the City assured for the next two years, public attention is turning again to the larger political issues. The provincial legislative session is looming in sight and the Federal House of Commons under its new leadership and new party is due to assemble on March 5th. In both there are many interesting features in prospect.

The local legislature this year will sit under the shadow of the "hungry" budget. It will be minus five representatives because of that bungling, much of its time will be occupied in repairing its past errors and, in all probability, doing things which future sessions will be required to waste more time in undoing. The coming session promises little except remedial legislation, remedies for past errors. An evidently inspired article in the local government organ indicates the uneasiness existing within the charmed circle and the growing consciousness that something radical must be done immediately to save the remnant. It hints that the representation may be cut down by half and that the franchise may be extended to women. The reduction in representation would, it is claimed, cut down the sessional indemnities from \$15,000 to \$7,500. The fact that the Bell government increased the sessional indemnities from \$7,500 to \$15,000 and now wants to make amends by abolishing half the seats, leaving the survivors to enjoy the glory and the emolument looks fishy. Many of the aggregation would gladly revert to the "As you were" before their election but there is too much territory to cover; there have already been too many "abolitions" of officials and refillings by other for the people to enthrone much over any promised reductions in expenditure. If there are going to be any constitutional changes the people would prefer that they should come through other hands than those who before their election had promised so much and after their election had done the opposite of what they had promised. The only bond the people of the province now look to the Bell government for is dissolution and preparation for a general election at the earliest possible moment. This, in view of all that has happened, in view of the broken promises and the continuous bungling. In view of the frequent demands made upon the government to resign, the people are justly entitled

The federal session also is full of promise and of probable complications. Already it has been intimated that matters which were "vitally important" before the election will be deferred. The tariff, which constituted the chief plank in the Liberal platform has assumed a different complexion. The immediate "revision downward" which was to take place as soon as the party came into power is assuming a new shape. There are differences of opinion in the ranks of the dominant party. Arguments which did duty before the election are being reversed, as was the case in our own provincial legislature. At the annual banquet of the Canadian Boot and Shoe Manufacturers' Association in Montreal the other day Sir Lomer Gouin informed the assembled shoe manufacturers that their natural desire for a reasonable measure of protection had his warm support and he elaborated the theme with arguments used freely during the election campaign by the Honourable Arthur Meighen and other Conservatives, showing the desirability of building up Canadian industries. Other prominent Quebec Liberals have expressed similar views since the election. Just how the other wings of the Liberal party who had pinned their faith to and won their election on a revision downward of the duty on boots and shoes will take this is a matter for the session to disclose. The Quebec Liberals are generally speaking in the body of men and whether they can convert their benevolent humanitarianism into species or be convicted by them remains to be seen. The Liberal party now consists of two wings, the "Progressive Liberals" under Mr. Crean, the "Autocratic Liberals" under Gouin and Lemieux. If the former prevail we shall have a substantial reduction in the tariff and a fairly large free list and a British preference; if the latter prevail, we shall have protection, and doing things which future sessions will be required to waste more time in undoing. The coming session promises little except remedial legislation, remedies for past errors. An evidently inspired article in the local government organ indicates the uneasiness existing within the charmed circle and the growing consciousness that something radical must be done immediately to save the remnant. It hints that the representation may be cut down by half and that the franchise may be extended to women. The reduction in representation would, it is claimed, cut down the sessional indemnities from \$15,000 to \$7,500. The fact that the Bell government increased the sessional indemnities from \$7,500 to \$15,000 and now wants to make amends by abolishing half the seats, leaving the survivors to enjoy the glory and the emolument looks fishy. Many of the aggregation would gladly revert to the "As you were" before their election but there is too much territory to cover; there have already been too many "abolitions" of officials and refillings by other for the people to enthrone much over any promised reductions in expenditure. If there are going to be any constitutional changes the people would prefer that they should come through other hands than those who before their election had promised so much and after their election had done the opposite of what they had promised. The only bond the people of the province now look to the Bell government for is dissolution and preparation for a general election at the earliest possible moment. This, in view of all that has happened, in view of the broken promises and the continuous bungling. In view of the frequent demands made upon the government to resign, the people are justly entitled

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VALENTINE DAY

As our readers know, the fourteenth day of February is Valentine Day, and many of our young readers and not a few of the older ones are already preparing their contributions, artistic and otherwise, for the occasion. Those of them who purpose taking Saint Valentine seriously may be interested in knowing what little there is to know of the origin of the Valentine custom.

Saint Valentine was a bishop and was martyred on February 14, A. D., 270. Several explanations are given as to the origin of the familiar custom of sending anonymous love-tokens, cards of greeting and the like, on Valentine Day. One theory, and the most plausible one, is that Saint Valentine was accustomed to go around from house to house among the poor and leaving food upon the doorsteps and that the custom of sending anonymous greetings originated from this charitable custom.

Another theory connects the modern celebration with the observance of the Roman festival Lupercalia which occurred on February 15. At this time each of the young men celebrating the festival drew from a box the name of a lady to whom he was to be a faithful friend for the ensuing year. It is supposed that this custom is the origin of some of the sentimental features of Saint Valentine's Day. The caricature feature of Valentine Day appears to be of modern origin and has developed into a meaningless and sometimes obnoxious custom.

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.

Migratory Bird Convention Act

Sir,—In your issue of February 3rd, I noticed an editorial headed "Migratory Game Laws." I presume you referred to the "Migratory Bird Convention Act," which is the outcome of the "Migratory Bird Treaty" between the United States and Great Britain, which was signed on the 16th, August, 1896. In your article there are one or two things which might lead to mistaken ideas of this Treaty of Act to a large number of your readers. You state that our sportsmen are of the opinion that the "Yankee" put one over us principally in the matter of open season of the Canada Goose. Let me give you the open seasons for Geese, Ducks and Brant in each Province and State from New Brunswick to Florida.

- New Brunswick—Sept. 15 to Dec. 31.
Nova Scotia—Oct. 15 to Jan. 31.
P. E. Island—Sept. 1 to Dec. 31.
Maine—Sept. 16 to Dec. 31.
New Hampshire—Sept. 16 to Dec. 31.
Vermont—Sept. 16 to Dec. 31.
Massachusetts—Sept. 16 to Dec. 31.
Rhode Island—Aug. 16 to Nov. 30.
Connecticut—Oct. 1 to Jan. 15.
New York (Long Island)—Oct. 16 to Jan. 31.
Pennsylvania—Sept. 16 to Dec. 31.
Virginia—Nov. 1 to Jan. 31.
West Virginia—Oct. 1 to Dec. 31.
North Carolina—Nov. 1 to Jan. 31.
South Carolina—Nov. 1 to Jan. 31.
Georgia—Nov. 1 to Jan. 31.
Alabama—Nov. 1 to Jan. 31.
Florida—Nov. 20 to Jan. 31.

You will notice by these open seasons that no favors are shown any particular Province or State on the whole Atlantic Coast. The same is true of other parts of Canada and the United States and under the latest dates for shooting Geese, Ducks and Brant, over the whole line is 21st January, so that the idea that the "Americans" shoot the migratory birds in the Spring is erroneous.

It is true that while each State had the right to make their own law in regard to these birds thousands of them were slaughtered at all seasons by market sportsmen. But today the sale of Migratory Game Birds is prohibited over the whole of United States. To arrive at any definite way to protect these birds from becoming extinct as others have it was necessary to have an International Agreement, consequently, the "Migratory Bird Treaty."

While I am on this matter, if you wish to draw the attention of the people of P. E. Island to some of the other articles in this Treaty Article it says that the "Close Season" on all Migratory Game Birds shall be in all States bordering on the Atlantic Ocean and the Maritime Provinces, between the 1st of February and the 15th August. It also states that the close season on migratory insectivorous birds shall continue throughout the year. This last clause is most important to all people, especially to the farmers. Take for instance our Robin. This bird was shot and trapped by thousands from Massachusetts south by the Negro and foreign population for food. Now, with this law in effect insectivorous birds which include all our song birds must become more numerous. Pigeons could be written on the benefit that will surely come by the international protection of our birds, but I think this letter is long enough and I hope I have given something of benefit to the public, who may be interested in this matter.

If anyone should like any literature on the subject I would suggest that they write our local Inspector of this act or direct to "Canadian Parks Branch," Department of Interior, Ottawa. I am, Sir, etc. A. R. B. DUCK.

Notes By The Way

(From The Examiner.)

It is by taking thought in advance that preparations are made for what is coming and the best results come from preparation and readiness. This is true in regard to all the useful activities of life. It is especially true in regard to the promotion of tourist travel to our delightful province, a matter in respect of which we have come very far short of realizing the full fruitage of our existing advantages.

As in winter many tourists seek the sunny south, following the inspiring example of the migratory birds, so in the genial spring and over-heated summer tens of thousands of people from the sweltering inland places seek the seaside resorts, the cool breezes and bracing airs of the northland. They leave behind them millions upon millions of money spent in railway fares, in hotels, in stores, and in the many incidental costs of living, all of which yields profit to the locality in which the visitors' money is expended.

We have failed in the past to reap our due share of the revenue from tourist travel, chiefly from two causes, the lack of preparation to receive and entertain our guests and the lack of advertising to make known the attractions of Prince Edward Island. The great world of tourists as yet knows very little about us or our Island. Not one in a hundred of those who visited us in past years, coming as they did via Pictou and Point du Chene, and often tossed for hours in the rough waters of the Straits, yet know of our great Car Ferry Highway which has reduced the time of crossing from hours to minutes.

This and many other things, should be told them by judicious, timely, and persistent advertising; told them in their present homes, told them in advance of the tour, and season, so that they can make their plans in good time; told them with emphasis and repetition so that the facts may be impressed upon their minds. This has never yet been done as it should be done, and as it has been and is being done by other provinces and cities. And unless we bestir ourselves the failures of past years will be repeated this year.

It is one that advertising costs money. But if judiciously done nothing pays better. What merchant can do business by these days without advertising? Yet we have been trying to do a tourist business without paying anything for need of publicity, and this while our sister provinces and cities by the sea are spending increasing sums from year to year for this purpose. We cannot hope to compete successfully with them if we do not advertise.

It is imperative that both the Provincial Government and the City Council shall be impressed with the importance of this matter, and that in preparing their estimates they shall make provision for advertising both resorts and for the opportunities they offer to home-seekers, investors and business men. Anywhere from two thousand to five thousand dollars by the province and five hundred dollars by the city should be provided for this purpose, and would be money well expended, "bread cast upon the waters" which would return to us in due season with interest thereon. Without sowing and planting we cannot hope for a harvest.

Others' View Points

A Way They Have in Serbia (Providence Journal). At the time of the Armistice the Jews-Slavs had lost nearly all of their livestock to the enemy. They had also lost everything else except courage and the ambition to work. They were, in short, economically insolvent and if it had not been for assistance given by relief organizations thousands of them would have perished. They might have remained in the bread line longer than they did without anything being said. But this is not the Serb way. As soon as they could turn a hand for themselves they went to work—and the result after two and a half years of endeavor, is a prosperity as remarkable as it is real.

Inconsistency.

The Forum. I cannot understand Why God, Who bestowed upon me A lofty mind, Strong hands And solid dreams, Should give me A heart that would break, Helene Mullins.

Traces History Of Domestic Cat

So long as the child's favorite pet is a kitten, and maiden ladies prefer the cat to the dog as a companion, the origin and family history of Felis domestica will be of interest. In the Contemporary Review for January, Aylmer Cecil Strong writes about "The Coming of the Cat." The coming of the dog would be a more difficult subject, for it is probable that as far back as the time when man could bring up and discipline a wild cub there were dogs. The Egyptians made much of cats, protected and worshipped them. But Herodotus says that Egyptian families went into mourning when a dog died. However, Mr. Strong says nothing about that. His subject is the cat. He is inclined to think that if the Egyptians had domesticated the mongoose, that animal would now be sitting on the hearth or sunning itself on the garden walls. He insists that the cat in ancient Egypt was really sacred, not nominally so. Diodorus is cited as an authority for the statement that cats dying in a military campaign were brought home for burial, although the soldiers might be on short rations, enduring frightful privations.

A Royal Home For Cats

After the Romans conquered Egypt, they, with their usual sagacity, tolerated cat love or worship. Diodorus tells the story of a mob tearing a Roman soldier "to pieces" because he had accidentally slain a cat. An office of Keeper of Cats was hereditary. The Turks adopted Felis domestica. In Cairo homeless cats were fed by order of the Kadi. According to Lane, translator of the Arabian Nights, the Sultan Ez-Kanir Bey bars tearing a home for cats in a garden near his mosque. It must be admitted that in Constantinople the consideration for cats was not so tender. There can be no doubt that the Egyptians were a patient and patient people, for we should probably have no domestic cat today if they had not adopted Felis catta, the wild cat of the desert, and trained the progeny for generations. This appears to be settled, although there are scientists who point out that the color of the fur on the under surface of the wild cat's foot is yellow to the heel bone, while that of the domestic cat is generally black.

Tamed Wildcats

There are said to be other differences of coloration, but who can say?

FROGS AND SNAILS BECOME POPULAR FOOD IN BRITAIN

LONDON, Feb. 8.—Frogs and snails are becoming popular in England, according to the Westminster Gazette. Officers acquired a taste for these delicacies which they were in France during the war, and after their return requested that the dish be served in their favorite restaurants at home. One restaurant has found it necessary to double its order of 250 frogs and 200 snails which it receives daily by air from France. At the Savoy restaurant a Westminster Gazette representative was shown some snails, which were ready for the table, and M. Grandjean, the famous chef, explained the processes by which they were prepared. The snails, he said, undergo seven or eight processes of cleansing and cooking before they are ready for consumption. They are cooked slowly for fifty minutes in a mixture of white wine, vinegar, sliced carrots, onions, herbs, etc. Six snails constitute one portion. In the case of frogs, only the hind legs and the back are eaten, explained M. Grandjean. The chief advantage of this dish is that it can be served as a fish, entree, or savoury.

Publicity should be given in advance of the opening of the tourist season; money votes to pay the cost of advertising must precede the advertising and estimates must precede the money votes. That is why we are taking time by the forelock to urge this matter upon the present attention of the provincial and civic authorities. Tourist traffic benefits all classes in town and country; railroads, steamships, hotels, boarding houses, cab drivers, telegraph and telephone companies, merchants and farmers.—It brings money into the province, keeps money in circulation, benefits trade. To stimulate such traffic advertising is more necessary now than ever before because of the greater competition. All of which is respectfully submitted to the attention of the proper authorities and to such intelligent readers as have at heart the prosperity and welfare of the community.

believe that the domestic cat was always a tame, orderly and discreet animal, clean in its habits, wise of aspect, and given to philosophical meditation? It is significant that the domestic cat mates with the wild cat in all countries, so that pedigree becomes a baffling problem. In the township of Ludlow, Vt., a woman used to exhibit two wildcat cubs, which she had brought up on the bottle, says the New York Times. Her boy had discovered them in a hollow log in a mountain pasture before their eyes were open. They slept in her lap and submitted to fondling until they were as big as an Airedale dog, but eventually they died of civilization. Evidently the domestic cat was evolved only after a great many generations of intelligent and unremitting care. Mr. Strong finds that the domestic cat did not become a "familiar figure" in Europe until the first century of the Christian era. It was imported from Egypt. When the Romans finally evacuated Britain about A. D. 456 the family cat was performing its toilet on the doorstep. But it was 500 years later before the cat got into the staid book.

Of Dual Descent. In 936 Hywal Dda, Prince of South Wales, had a law enacted for the protection of cats. It seems that the Romans did not hold the animal in high esteem, for while "fragments of horses, dogs and goats" have been found in the ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum, remains of the cat were absent. Dr. A. Nehring's researches are not mentioned by the writer. The Berlin investigator came to the conclusion that the domestic cat is of dual descent, one stock coming from Southeastern Asia and the other from Northwestern Africa. The Persian or Angora cat is nothing like the Egyptian variety, and then there is the Siamese cat of Siam, which Mr. Strong mentions. In course of time there may be a distinct type of domestic cat in America crossed with the Canada lynx. In Paraguay they have a very small cat, three pounds in weight at maturity, which never enters winter.

How Puss Originated.

It is supposed to be descended from the jaguarundi. A cat that does not make right hideous on the tiles by light of the moon would be a valuable acquisition. Breeders should not neglect the Paraguay paragon. Mr. Strong has collected some agreeable etymological data. For instance, the agencies who came from Northwestern India and brought cats with them called the female pisika. "This form" we are told, "seems to tally with the Persian pushok or pushnak," hence puss, the form of our dearest. The old Egyptian name for the cat was mast, "an obvious onomatopoeic." Apparently we owe the word cat to the Romans. They called the animal "catulus," which meant the "knowing one" and the word passed into the Romance languages as chat and gato.

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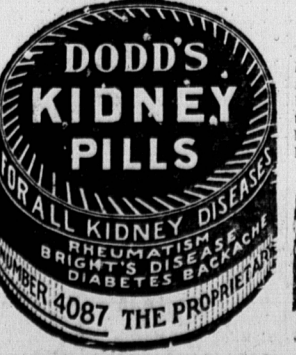


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