

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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Friday, March 25th, being Good Friday and a statutory holiday the Morning Guardian will not be published on Saturday morning.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1921

GOOD FRIDAY

And when they were come to the place which is called Calvary there they crucified Him and the malefactors, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father forgive them; for they know not what they do.

EASTER SUNDAY

Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.

"A CURE ALL" BILL

An act was passed in the Dominion Parliament some time ago prohibiting the advertising and sale of any nostrum which claimed on its label to be a "cure all remedy."

Premier Bell on Wednesday last introduced a bill in the local legislature purporting to "CURE ALL DEFECTS" in the Taxation Act of last session. Now the question arises, is Mr. Bell's new bill a contravention of the Dominion Statute? We spent a little time and some valuable newspaper space since the last session of the legislature in showing that the Taxation Act 1920 was so bungled that the taxes it was designed to collect could not be collected legally.

The first clause of the "Cure all bill" which is as follows, is Premier Bell's admission that the Guardian was right in its criticism of the 1920 act.

"Notwithstanding any defect, irregularity or omission in the proceedings taken in the making of the assessments under 'The Taxation Act' in or for the year 1920, either in the preparing or return of the Assessment rolls or in the preparation of the assessment lists or otherwise, or in assessing, rating, levying and charging of taxes, or in the proceedings prior or subsequent thereto, the said assessments, assessment rolls, assessment lists, levies and taxes for the year 1920 under the 'Taxation Act' are here by declared to have been and to be sufficient, valid, effectual and binding to all intents and purposes as if all the provisions of 'The Taxation Act' had been fully and completely complied with and carried out, the intention of this act, being to cure all defects in the proceedings aforesaid, and the validity and legality of said assessments, Assessment rolls, assessment lists, levies and taxes shall not be questioned in any court, suit or proceedings, or on account of any irregularity or defect in said proceedings or on account of any provisions of 'The Taxation Act' not having been complied with in making of said assessments, assessment rolls, and assessment lists, or the assessing, rating, levying and charging of said taxes or in the proceedings prior or subsequent thereto, provided that, in case any taxpayer within the meaning of the said Act shall have given a notice of appeal as provided for in the said Act before the final assessment roll for such tax payers assessors' district was completed, the taxpayer giving such notice shall have the right of having his appeal heard before the Judge of the County Court in the manner provided for in the said Act at the time of the hearing of appeals from the valuations of the assessor's for the year 1921."

It will be observed by the thoughtful law-student and others interested, that this Act has been prepared in the literary style observed in the preparation of the Speech placed in the hands of His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session. He will also observe that the new act provides for the rectification, justification and purification of the old act now and forever and ever and even after that provided it goes through as it stands at present.

The reader will require to make a running jump at it as there is not a period from one end of it to the other at which to pause for breath. We would suggest that the Act, whether it passes or not should be kept in the archives as a legal and literary curiosity.

ANOTHER WEEK WASTED

The present week has been so absolutely wasted in the Provincial Legislature. Apart from a few private bills which, if there had been anything else doing, could have been disposed of within an hour, there was nothing either to awaken interest in or to spend time over during the whole week. Good Friday and Monday are legal holidays and business if any turns up will not be resumed until Tuesday, so the time goes.

Premier Bell promised several days ago to table the Public Accounts during the first of the week. He has not tabled them yet; He claimed that the printers are holding the reports back, a curious and unaccountable thing in face of the fact that all the other reports, larger ones too, given out at the same time, were delivered before the House opened, and in face of the fact too, that the contractors are under a heavy penalty for every day after the limit of time has expired, a penalty which, if exacted would leave but little for the poor printer.

The reason generally accepted for holding back the accounts is to prevent too close a study of them by the Opposition before Premier Bell has an opportunity of applying some rhetorical color to them. The fact is that every move and every pause of the government is viewed with suspicion, a regrettable fact which has its roots in the pre-election misrepresentations and subsequent muddling and can not now be overcome.

WHAT'S THE HITCH?

What is the hitch about the report of the delegation to Ottawa in connection with the Dalton Sanatorium? Premier Bell, in reply to a question the other day, said the delegates representing the Sanatorium Commission had reported but those representing the Government had not. Has the Government something to hide? Now that a precedent as to cost has been found in the Nova Scotia Sanatorium which cost that Province only \$40,000 for the past year when the patients numbered over 600, some idea may be had of the cost of running our much smaller institution. By the way, the Patriot has not yet corrected its misrepresentations of the Nova Scotia institution which it declared the other day cost the Province \$230,000. We published for its benefit the report of the Nova Scotia Sanatorium; it knows the truth; it knows the receipts from patients, or for them from the government, receipts as available to Prince Edward Island as to Nova Scotia; it knows the expenditures and it knows the net cost to the Province was only \$40,652. Why cannot the Patriot tell the truth just for once?

CURRENT COMMENT

The Hon J J Johnston, Attorney General in opening his address unburdened himself first of the idea which was uppermost in his mind in an elaborate dissertation, translating the Hon Mr Arsenault "from the arena of provincial politics to that of Federal politics." We need not enlarge upon the relief that such a removal would produce to the Government, and how devoutly they are wishing for such a consummation, but considering that the Federal elections are about two years in the distance, synchronizing with the latest possible date for the final retirement of the Bell Government, this hoped for relief, if it should come, will be too late to bring to them any advantage. We are in full accord with him in his declaration that "there are men at Ottawa today, in Cabinet positions, who do not measure up in any way to the ability of my hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition 'who' from the time he became Leader of his party and Leader of the House, the standard of debate in this House was elevated by reason of the tact and courtesy of my honorable friend as Leader of the House." Without doubt the Hon Mr Arsenault is eminently qualified to fill any position, local or federal with which the country may honor him.

He then approached the task set for him by the Government a herculean undertaking, and one in which all his previous training in the arts of legal sophistry and special pleading failed in the accomplishment of his purpose. Not one of the Government or its supporters, up to the hour had dared to come within a forty rod distance in a discussion of the finances of the province, and none from the Premier down had dared to let loose a breath on the question of External Audit or in relation to the suppression of the report of the minority of the Public Accounts committee. This job was reserved for the Attorney General in the faint hope that the lawyer's skill in making black appear white and in juggling with spurious fallacies might by some system of ingenuity put them out of this uncomfortable hole. And with breathless interest, the Premier and his followers watched the effort, the best that could be made but with the sting of bitter disappointment as he closed in failure. The one con-terpart which we find on record to the logic of his reasoning is in that immortal burlesque by the novelist Dickens, and embodied in the address of Sergeant Buz-fuz in the celebrated trial of Bardell vs Pickwick.

There was however this difference between the two special pleaders: Sergeant Buz-fuz had simperions for a jury and he knew it, while our Attorney General was talking to an intelligent people and

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GOOD FRIDAY

More and more as the swift centuries pass, the whole world stands to gaze at a single figure outlined against the blackness of the noon-day sky on a mountain-top in Judea. Our Lord said: "If I be lifted up I will draw all men unto me." When Good Friday comes to us year after year, our thoughts and eyes turn to that.

"Green hill far away, Without a city wall, Where the dear Lord was crucified, Who died to save us all."

In thought, during Passion Week, we are with Jesus in the Garden, with Him at Herod's judgment seat and in Pilate's Hall; with Him we climb the steep ascent up which He toiled, bearing His cross and with the various groups who watched Him as He hung upon the cross between two thieves, we are identified. The Good Friday of this year of grace has many features similar to that on which Our Saviour gave His life for a thoughtless world. Even in our modern day He is crucified again between the thieves of sordid ambition on one side and selfish indifference on the other. The groups at the foot of the cross are for ever the same. The one whose hands have nailed Him with bitter and malicious malice; there are the cowardly disciples who still forsake Him, and fee in times of peril; there are the inconsistent, who wound Him in the house of His friends, and there are the loyal and loving, who cling to Him amid their tears, and venture all things for His sake, and listen to His last triumphant cry, "It is finished." The last representative group, the comfort of knowing that although the married form shall be taken down from the cross and laid in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, death shall not hold him there. On the third day He will rise again and go forth victorious, "death of death and hell's destruction."—Sel.

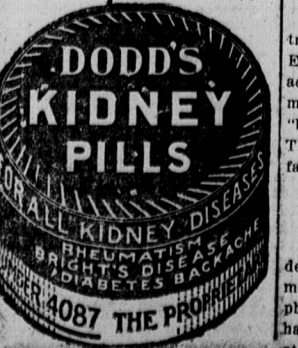
didn't apparently know it. His first argument was against asking the House at the last moment "to adopt a lengthy financial report—presented only an hour before the closing of the Legislature." This question was not the issue, as Mr Johnston well knew, and he set it up only as a straw man to bluff the people and beloud the real issue. It is the right, of the Legislature to accept or reject any and every measure brought before them and neither the Opposition nor their press have even hinted a complaint against their refusal to "ADOPT" the minority report. The Opposition protest was against THEIR REFUSAL TO RECORD THAT REPORT which was an actual proceeding of the Legislature, on the Journals of the House, so that as a statement RECEIVED AND READ although NOT "ADOPTED" it would be available to the people for comparison with the Public Accounts, either for denial or confirmation. And then with all the fervor of a Buz-fuz he asks, "Did a MAJORITY of the Committee submit that Report?" No, Mr Johnston, a MAJORITY of a Committee never submits a MAN-OR-TY REPORT.

But it is in the regions of figures and their manipulation that the Hon. Attorney General shines the brightest. Feats such as his are rarely accomplished, and if he could only make good in big things as on the surface he does in smaller items, he would be an invaluable acquisition to the financial chancellery of the Central Powers, in his marvelous mathematical ability by which he could wipe out their big indemnity liabilities without resorting to payment by specie or such base metals. To illustrate his genius let us take an instance or two as published in his organ the Patriot. Starting with the debt, AS FIXED BY THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS, in 1911, when the Conservatives took charge, HE ADMITS THE DEBT OF THE PROVINCE TO BE \$1,072,000. He then proceeds to prove that in the eight years of their administration they had average deficits of \$55,000, or a total net deficit for the eight years of \$438,000, and then in stentorian voice he declared, "The Auditors discovered when the late Conservative Government went out of power, THAT THE DEBT OF THE PROVINCE HAD INCREASED TO \$1,299,000." Now here is a problem for the school boys of the province. To add \$438,000 to \$1,072,000 and to produce a total of \$1,299,000. The Attorney General is the only master of figures, up to this date to overcome this problem and he is the financier of the Bell Government. Can you beat it?

Another of his powerful and persuasive buz-fuz arguments was in the disposal of the Lady Wood estate liability. With a pretended innocence of guile he declared that "It was after they assumed power in the year 1913, by a Statute, passed by themselves, nearly two years after they came into power, that they themselves CREATED the liability of \$8,500 to the Lady Wood estate." Could any one conceive of an argument or statement of so childish and ridiculous a character and particularly from one claiming to have a common school education, much less one "learned in the law"? Over forty years ago the Government sold lands which did not belong to them. These lands had to be repurchased and returned to the owner, Lady Wood estate at their present enormously increased values, or the present occupants had to be ejected, AND ROBBED OF THE MONEY THEY HAD PAID TO THE GOVERNMENT, or the Lady Wood estate had to be paid for the land. By a Statute, passed in 1913, the Government was authorized to pay the bill. This is what the brilliant political strategist, in his silly argument, said "created" this debt. And if the people of this country were simpletons, as Mr Johnston apparently thinks, the yarn might be swallowed.

The Attorney General then goes into a juggling with figures, which, about as intelligible to his hearers as they were to himself, but they pleased the Patriot, and what more could be asked? His argument sounded not unlike some of those

(Continued on page five)



Happenings of the Week

EASTER

'Tis Easter' sing out all the stars of the morning, And "Easter" rings back the blue vault overhead; The heart of the world pulses high with new rapture, The sky in the east flushes purple and red.

'Tis Easter' ring out all the bells in the steeple, The sky is aflame and the stars have grown dim, While down by the altar a white lily trembles And whispers, "O, would I were fairer for Him!"

I think, as I watch, of that first Easter morning, The earth throbbed triumphant, the sky blossomed red; I hear down the ages the voice of the angel— "Dearheart, He is risen; why seek ye the dead?"

O bells, you have finished your beautiful story, But your message will echo down ages untold, You'll still tremble in mute adoration, And skies fling their banners of purple and gold!

Lady Rachel Cavendish, Lady Margaret Scott and Miss Katherine Ryder left Ottawa Wednesday at noon to sail for England by the Empress of France.

This being Holy week all social activities have been cancelled and in several of the churches the special services were largely attended.

The Easter season has brought the usual number of students home for the holidays and jolly, good times are rumored for the week.

Among the prominent visitors here this week are Colonel J. A. Hayes and Colonel J. Stewart of Halifax.

Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of the late Mr. Justice FitzGerald, whose sudden death on Wednesday evening, came as a severe shock to all.

Mr. J. H. Winfield of Halifax, was welcomed here this week by numerous friends.

The addresses being given from place to place by Miss McIntyre, on her Missionary work in China is doing much to renew interest in this Province and consequently more are anxious to help in the great work she is so nobly undertaking.

Mr. Frank Morris' many friends are pleased that he is convalescing nicely, after a slight operation in the P. E. I. Hospital.

All his friends are gratified that Mr. Donald Nicholson, M. P., is much better after his recent illness in Ottawa and expects to leave the Hospital in a few days.

Mrs. Herbert Shaw of Montreal and Miss Agnes FitzGerald, arrived home last evening to attend the funeral of their father the late Mr. Justice FitzGerald.

Mrs. Lloyd George, wife of the British Premier, is becoming a strenuous political campaigner. In the recent Cardiganshire elections she made 41 speeches in two days.

Mr. H. Wilmot Young of the Young-Adams Co., now playing at Halifax, was recently called to Toronto, where his father successfully underwent a serious operation. Mr. Young spent ten days at Toronto.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Gordon have gone up to Montreal where Mr. Gordon will undergo treatment in the Royal Victoria for a few weeks.

A wide circle of friends heard with sincere regret of the death of Miss Jane Wade, which occurred so suddenly on Wednesday and deepest sympathy is extended to her surviving family.

The really newest thing in hat trimmings is the ribbon bow. Every season some few hats are adorned with bows, flat, perky, or medium but there has not been a "bow season" for several years. This spring however, ribbons bids fair to come into its own again.

BALTIMORE, Mar. 24—The death of Cardinal Gibbons is momentarily expected. Last night his physicians announced he would not have strength to live through another day.

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