

THE Charlottetown Guardian

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FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1915.

GOVERNMENT REPORTS

The Report of the Provincial Auditor on the Public Accounts, for the year ending December 31, 1914, and the Report of the Department of Public Works for the same period were presented to the Legislature yesterday.

The total ordinary receipts amounted to \$525,555.19, the total ordinary expenditure to \$445,396.39, leaving a balance between these two items of ordinary revenue and expenditure of \$80,158.80.

To the ordinary expenditure are added \$41,300.86 Capital or Permanent Expenditure; \$7,343.45, Walter Lowe award and \$20,942 War Expenditure, a total of \$69,586.34 for Permanent and Extraordinary expenditures, making a total expenditure of \$514,982.73 and leaving a net surplus of \$10,572.46.

As anticipated in the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and, later, mentioned by Premier Matheson, there is again a substantial reduction in the debt of the province, aggregating during the three years of the Matheson Administration in round numbers about \$100,000.

The report of the Department of Public Works is also a satisfactory one and shows at the outset that the surplus indicated in the public accounts was not secured at the expense of the public works of the province. Ordinary expenditures by this department amounted to \$78,343.17, while \$41,300.86 was expended on works which are permanent assets of the province. New bridges, many of them with steel spans, were built, very many old bridges were repaired, new roads were opened up in every section of the province. Altogether the report reflects the improved conditions already existing and a healthy optimistic outlook into the future.

SIR WILFRID'S TARIFF RECORD

When Sir Wilfrid Laurier entered the House of Commons he was a Protectionist of the Papineau anti-British school.

As a member of the Mackenzie administration he was a Protectionist, and in 1876 he used these words in the House of Commons:

"The question of free trade and protection in any country is not to be applied to political motives; but to be treated as a matter of pure economy, and its solution depends entirely on the condition of the country. Protection is a matter of necessity for a young nation in order that it may attain the full development of its resources. If I were in Great Britain I would avow free trade; but I am a Canadian, born and resident here, and I think that we require protection."

After the defeat of the Mackenzie Government in 1878, Laurier went over to Free Trade and successively espoused Commercial Union unrestricted Reciprocity with the United States, and "Free Trade as they have it in England." Speaking at the Ottawa Liberal convention of 1893, he denounced Protection in these words:

"The system of protection which is maintained by the Government, that is to say, of levying tribute upon the people for a private and privileged class, should be condemned without qualification. Let it be understood that from this moment we have a distinct issue with the party in power. Their ideal is protection, ours is free trade. Upon this issue we engage the battle from this moment forward; and I ask you once more never to desist until we have achieved victory; until we have freed this country from the incubus which has been weighing it down for fifteen long years."

Two years later Sir Wilfrid toured the western provinces, and his words at Winnipeg are worth quoting:

"When the Liberal party are in power they will at once give a measure of freedom of trade, and step by step they will follow it up, and if God spares our lives we shall progress steadily until we have it as full as Great Britain has it. I come before you to-night to preach to you this new gospel of free trade. I denounce to you the policy of protection as bondage, yes bondage, and I refer to it as bondage in the same way as American slavery was bondage."

Two years passed and the Liberal leader found himself in power. How did he proceed to free his country from "bondage?"

In a letter to the Manufacturers' Association he used this language:

"Whether a policy of absolute freedom of trade would or would not be injurious to the manufacturing industries of this country, is a question which I will not stop to discuss here. There is no reason for such a discussion, as the intention of the Liberal party is not and never was to establish free trade in this country."

For the economic record of Sir Wilfrid from the writing of this letter down to 1910 we will put in evidence the testimony of Mr. Edward Forritt, a Liberal, a Free Trader, and a noted writer on economics. Dealing with the attitude of the Liberals towards the tariff, in his well known book, "Sixty Years of Protection in Canada," he says:

"In 1897, when for the first time for twenty years it fell to the lot of the Liberal Government to revise the tariff, the Government unexpectedly broke new ground. It enacted the preferential tariff for Great Britain, adopting an idea which had been suggested by Sir Charles Tupper. But this done Laurier ignored the speeches in which he had likened the protective system of Canada to the old slavery system of the cotton States of the South. Sir Richard Cartwright dismissed from his mind his article of 1890 in the North American Review, and the scores of scathing attacks which he had made on the National Policy, in and out of Parliament from 1879 to 1896. Mr. Fielding likewise turned his back on the conspicuous part which, as chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, he had taken in the Liberal National Convention at Ottawa in 1893—the convention at which it was declared by two thousand representatives of the Liberal Associations of Canada that 'the principle of protection is radically unsound and unjust to the masses of the people.'"

"The net result of this abandonment in 1897 of the position which the Liberals had so long held with regard to protection was that neither the privileged manufacturers nor the beneficiaries of the bounty system lost

much by the overturn of the National Policy Government in 1896. The exploiters of the ore lands of Belle Isle, Newfoundland, and of the coal of Nova Scotia, who through company-promoting and stock-jobbing drew to themselves the lion's share of the sixteen million dollars that were dispensed from the Dominion treasury between 1896 and 1911, certainly did as well under a Liberal Government as they could have hoped to have done had there been no break in the rule of National Policy Governments. Bounties were continued by legislation in 1897 and 1899; and the system was greatly extended in 1901 and 1903. In 1909 at the instigation of an American company promoter engaged in the exploitation of the iron, ore and timber resources of Western Ontario, the clause was inserted in the Railway Act which makes it incumbent on companies receiving subsidies from the Federal Treasury to lay the roads with rails made in Canada. The surtax on imports from Germany was enacted in 1903; and in the same Act amending the Customs Tariff of 1897 power was given the Government to impose by order-in-council a duty of seven dollars a ton on steel rails; and in 1904 the Manufacturers' Association achieved its first open victory by compelling the Government to revise the tariff. Finally in 1906-7 came the revision of the tariff at which the Government dropped all pretense of any regard for the Ottawa programme of 1893, of any adherence to the principles enunciated in the speeches of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir Richard Cartwright. . . . for the consumers the Government had little or no care. . . . What influences brought about the betrayal of 1897?"

Seldom has such a crushing indictment of treason to principle been uttered against a political party in this or any other country, and it is all the more convincing in that it comes from the pen of a friend.

Having glanced at the record of Laurier on the tariff throughout a period of 35 years, having noted his betrayal of principle to party opportunism, let the people of Canada ask themselves where Laurier stands on the tariff to-day. It is not more than six years ago since he told the people of Great Britain that Canadians had "turned their backs on Washington."

"There will be no further pilgrimages to Washington," he said. "We have turned our backs upon the United States, and are looking for trade with the Motherland." Two years later he made the infamous agreement which would have forever sacrificed the fiscal independence of the Dominion to Washington and made Canada, in the words of Mr. Taft, "an adjunct of the United States."

To-day the Liberal leader stands without an economic policy. In the West his followers talk Free Trade, in Quebec, Ontario and the Maritime Provinces they shout for Protection, while one or two in Prince Edward Island would run with the hare and hunt with the hound. Can such a man with such a party ever again be entrusted with the fiscal policy of this country?

BRITAIN IS FAIR

The New York Times says: The measures taken by England to put a stop to trade between Germany and neutral countries are in effect a blockade. The Order in Council declares that ships going to and from Germany will be stopped. If all ships are to be stopped, that is equivalent to a blockade. Yet the Order in Council does not call it a blockade. It is open to neutrals to say that, as this is not in form such a blockade as international law recognizes as binding, they cannot be called upon to respect it.

That objection may be made. But it is to be noted that the chief practical point in which this embargo differs from a blockade is in the treatment of neutral ships stopped by British cruisers. They are not to be seized and confiscated, as would be the case were a blockade regularly declared, but are to be sent to a British port where their cargoes will be discharged, and, if not contraband, will be either paid for by Great Britain or restored to the owners on terms fixed by the prize courts.

It would appear, therefore, that England has refrained from declaring and establishing a regular blockade in order that she may be free to treat neutral ships with greater consideration and inflict less hardship on neutral trade. It is a blockade modified in favor of neutrals and their commerce. That fact is likely to influence the tone and character of such protests as may be made.

The owners of the Dacia are to contest in the French courts the legality of the seizure of their ship. The case may become one of celebrity. The capture can be justified by showing that the sale from a German to a U. S. owner was not made in good faith and that the transfer of registry was irregular. There is that in the practice of war which justifies the capture of the seizing cruiser. The rules of peaceful commerce would condemn the interference with a legal trader. As this is war time the chances are that the owners of the ship will lose.

WHEN WILL IT END?

"How long will the war last, with its slaughter, its numbing grip upon social progress, its hideous wastes, its creeping gloom, amid which we dream of the sunlit tasks and pleasures that once were ours?" asks the Church Times. "When will peace return? There should be no shame in asking the question openly. It implies no weakening of resolution. We must see the business through; the fact that this phase has become a commonplace testifies to the unity of strength of feeling beneath it."

"Admiral's Beatty's success had a significance, the full extent of which now even the public scarcely appreciates. As for the land campaign, it is an open secret that those in high command at the front are extremely sanguine today. They withhold, of course, the grounds of their confidence, but of their confidence itself they make no concealment; they believe that the end of the war is by no means remote. Significant also are the recent utterances from Berlin, the violent language of which is not that employed by leaders progressing towards victory."

"Speaking with all due caution, and recognizing that not yet are we 'out of the wood,' we can affirm that the military factor seems strongly favorable to our cause, and may bring about a termination of the war far sooner than most of us have dared to hope. At any rate it fully justifies optimism."

NOTES

A woman does not lose interest in a store until that store loses interest in her—until it stops sending to her its regular "store news," through its advertising space in this newspaper.

Hon. W. T. White in his war budget accepted and put into effect a new principle in the distribution of taxes—one that places on the wealth of the country a greater proportionate share and relieves the masses of a part of the burden. To the artisan and farmer is granted immunity from a considerable part of the new war taxes. The new war taxes are of two classes—special and customs. It is expected that about 30 per cent. will come from special taxes and the remainder from the new customs impositions. The special taxes are imposed chiefly on banks, corporations and individuals whose wealth affords them means of special privileges. Little or nothing of the special tax revenue will be contributed by the artisan, labourer or farmer. The customs tax is general in its application.

CANADIAN SOLDIER VIVIDLY DESCRIBES CONDITIONS IN THE TRENCHES IN FRANCE

TORONTO, March 23.—H. R. Gordon, who is with the Queen's Own Rifles at "the front" and who is the correspondent of The Toronto Daily Star, in a very interesting letter gives some vivid descriptions of the actual conditions in the trenches. At the outset, he says, "we've learned more real soldiering in the two days than possibly in two months elsewhere. And we've made the acquaintance of men, who, taking them small and large, are the finest fellows I've ever met. British regular soldiers."

MOVED NEAR FIRING LINE

We reached the trenches sooner than we expected. We left Buxard Camp, in England, and soon reached France. We had scarcely settled down when the order came to move to a town near the firing line. He then describes the march—"We packed our belongings, including our 'hambies,' goat skin coats, and started out in a raw driving rain. The water soaked into our kits, until they weighed something like 75 pounds. We were hurried along at a fast pace with very little time for halts, past barns with crucifixes under little glass vases at the gables, and men in khaki at the doorways. After we had gone ten miles we began to have trouble with our feet. The combination of hard roads, heavy packs, and stiff new ammunition boots, raised a crop of blisters. The last two hours of the march were the longest I've ever spent. . . . We hobbled along with teeth set, determined to reach the end in the road ahead, and when that was reached the next bend. Several fellows, whose ankles had been stepped on in the barn, had to fall out. The last two miles of the march were over round topped cobblestones. We reached our billet, a schoolhouse behind a dilapidated church, just about done up. We'd covered about 17 miles, not a very long march, it is true, but trying, on account of the fast pace. Children appeared almost at once with hot coffee, and we forgot our troubles. We slept like logs."

Proceeding he says that a guide from the regiment their platoon was to go which met them in the dark, and led them around holes in the ground dug out by the shells, and by a ruined farm. "The German trenches are about five hundred yards away," said the guide, quite casually.

TOMMIES IN THEIR DUGOUTS

He led us off the road, along beside a hedge, and over a field of clinging, clayey mud. "There's a Jack Johnson hole," he remarked as we passed a round hole, six feet in diameter, filled with water. We slipped down an incline concealed by canvas screens into the trench. We found ourselves on a narrow plank between banks of slimy clay. All along one side were burrows, perhaps three feet high and four feet wide, with nests of charcoal glowing faintly. Bristly faces, caked with mud, bent over the fires, busy with pots. These were the Tommies, in their dugouts, brewing tea. We stumbled along after our guide, past dugouts, past statuelike sentries gazing out into the night over the parapet of the trench. I charred the plank once, and was in mud and water to my knees.

MADE HIMSELF COMFORTABLE

At last the guide said, "You go in here with Gypsy. I bent down and took off my pack. 'Gypsy,' a silent black mustached, steady looking man, hung up my pack, and made me welcome beside him. "Tea?" he asked, and gave me a ladle full from his mess tin. The burrow was small, perhaps five feet long, three feet high and three and a half feet wide. The roof was held up by planks and joists. A pair of field glasses hung on a nail. "Got 'em from a German officer," he told me. "Gypsy" had been out in the trenches since September. "There's only two hundred left out of the lot that started," he remarked, "and only three officers out of thirty-six."

Lately, it appeared, very little had happened in the section of the line we were in. The enemy had done little for a month but snipe. And their shooting, no matter what the papers say about it, is good. "Keep the head down in the day, lad," said Gypsy, "a lad in our platoon looked

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR READERS OF THE GUARDIAN

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

"ALL THINGS..... FOR GOOD."

All things? Yes, "all." No qualifying "if" or "but." The promise—absolute. If I am truly his; only Not this or that alone, But "all" together work—The sunshine and the shade, The bitter and the sweet, The rugged and the smooth— "For good."

Not bow! We know! We cannot understand. And hence too oft we faithless plead, Give us to-day to-morrow's bread. And life is filled with cares, And burdens daily borne, And hearts are racked with fears— Of what? of "things" which ne'er come!

Ah! Why We do—God never makes mistakes. Nor can his purpose fail. And so Because the hand that orders all, That mingles every cup, That moves in secret earth's Disturbing views—their accompaniment, We therefore "know" that "all things" As they come "together work

out over the parapet the last time we were in here, and got a bullet through the brain." After a while, Gypsy took his glasses, and we had a look at the enemy's trenches. One would make out the faint glow of fires on the left of a ruined house. The trench was about 500 yards away. A little to our right the trenches were only 10 yards apart. We were looking for two or three minutes. Then, crack, zip, and several bullets went past our heads. We stepped down. I went along with a corporal to look after sentries, report to the officer, etc. We made the rounds a couple of times, then sat down beside a fire with half a dozen other men. They began to spin yarns.

YARNS IN THE TRENCHES

One was about "Dead Man's Alley." One of them explained how "The certain trench got that name." "The German got into a trench that had been left vacant by mistake. We had to turn them out. We came down the communication trench with our major leading. He just got to the line trench, when a German had shot him. The major fell out. 'That's the all gave that German a jab with our bayonets. He must have had about 20 stuck in him. We cleaned out the trench. It wasn't our trench, so we let 'em. The next lot in wouldn't take the trouble to bury the blightie earth over 'em. We occupied the trench later. When it rained, the earth got washed away a bit. There was one block right at the entrance of the trench with an arm sticking out. You had to catch hold of the arm to steady yourself. Some of our pokes used to shake hands with him!"

Another man told of seeing a woman and her children, driven from her home, running down a road swept by bullets, unharmed. "We were on one side, and the Germans on the other, firing at each other like mad, when this poor woman came down the road with her kiddies strung out behind her. It was the most pathetic thing I've ever seen. I was near to crying. But she wasn't hit, nor her kids either. Bloody marvelous, I call it!"

The correspondent then, describes how they were relieved and spent their days in resting. He says:—

Nearly every one in the trench was humming or singing as the work of preparing breakfast went on. That was what struck us most forcibly about the regular soldiers. They never seemed to get grouchy or downhearted. And they had been living in trenches for months, with only a few short respites.

They went about their daily work singing too. Some had to get down into the muck to shove up sections of the trench well that threatened to sink in; some filled sandbags; some baled out water from convenient holes, and threw it over the parapet. The ground is so sodden all about that water soaks into the trench continuously, and has to be bailed out every few minutes. No one grumbled at the work, however. Our fellows took their turn at the work, too.

SNIPING MORE FREQUENT

With the daylight the sniping, intermittent all night, became more frequent. Bullets zipped over sharply every minute or two. Our sniping was not very accurate. Some of our chaps were very eager to get rid of ammunition. One fellow in my section fired over fifty rounds. He said he potted a couple of Germans. We took it with a grain of salt. Still I haven't the faintest doubt that he wrote a lurid letter home describing the slaughter he wrought. Most of the fellows were content to stop quietly in their dugouts, and observe the methods which make trench life tolerable. Tommies went about their business, cleaning rifles, balling, and repairing with as much unconcern as if the Germans were a thousand miles away.

STORY OF THE SINKING OF THE GERMAN KARLSRUHE

LONDON, March 24.—Reuters Copenhagen correspondent sends a story of the sinking of the German cruiser Karlsruhe, taken from the Stitts-Tröndle, which asserts that it obtained the story from an authoritative source.

According to the story the crew of the Karlsruhe were having tea one evening when a sudden explosion broke the cruiser in two. One half of the vessel sank immediately, carrying a part of the crew down with it. The other half floated for some time, which enabled between 150 and 200 men to be rescued by the accompanying steamer. This steamer reached a German port with the survivors, who were sworn to secrecy concerning the sinking of the cruiser.

"Forget your corns by getting rid of them. Forget the pain and discomfort, by using Rexall Corn Solvent. It is guaranteed to cure or money returned. Mac Kinnon Drug Co., Cor. Great George and Kent Sts. MELL

"THE HOUSE OF QUALITY" Easter Millinery Opening WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 31st, 1915 Creations of Beauty: Charlottetown's Women's ideas reflected in every Easter Spring Hat—Quiet, yet rich in material. Nothing tawdry is allowed on a "Paton" Hat. That's the secret of the little elegancies that make you mistake one of Paton's \$8.00 for a \$10.00 or \$12.00 conceit. The Easter Millinery Show will demand the attention of every lover of artistic Millinery. The Display will include every desirable Hat designed for the coming Summer Season from the Makers, and many Beauties from our own Work-room. Miss Beers, our Head Milliner, has returned from visiting at the big Millinery Openings; Miss Doiron has done the selecting. Every Lady knows Miss Doiron's ability as a Millinery buyer.

PATONS

MARBLE AND GRANITE WORKS Marble and Granite Works A large shipment of Marble Monuments of the 1915 designs in different colors, were purchased from the Vermont Marble Co. at their works in Proctor Vt. This selection was personally selected by the Company and have been shipped and will arrive by the Winter Boats any day, and will be placed in our show rooms Revere Hotel Building, Kent Street, lately occupied by Acorn & Brown. The public are invited to inspect our stock. All kinds of Cemetery work promptly attended to. Lettering a specialty. The P. C. BROWN & CO. Marble and Granite Works MARBLE AND GRANITE WORKS 9150-3-24Mtt

Lumber For Sale Manufactured on P. E. Island Last fall I bought the Dixon Timber Land, near Eldon said to be the best timber on P. E. I.—and installed an up to date mill and now have a large quantity of first class Spruce, Hemlock and Hardwood lumber for sale. Write or telephone for prices. T. D. PICKARD, Eldon, P. E. I. 8975-3-12M12t

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