

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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FRIDAY, APRIL 11th, 1919

THE WORK OF THE SESSION.

Hen. H. D. McEwen in the course of his address on Tuesday and Wednesday night, a brief summary of which has been given in The Guardian, said many things that we trust will be taken to heart by members of the Opposition. Discussing the subject of teachers' salaries, Mr. McEwen frankly admitted its difficulties, frankly also admitted the right of the Opposition to point out any faults with which the present government is chargeable. He said, however, and very truly, that the criticism so far indulged in by the Opposition had thrown no light whatever on the question, that the time spent in their criticism so far had been wasted.

The school question is one of the most vital questions before this province today. It is not a political question; the condition which has developed is not due to omission or commission on the part of either political party. Both parties have grappled with it for years, and probably both have done the best they could with the means at their disposal. The present government, it will be conceded by all right thinking and unbiased people, has come very much nearer a solution than any government that has preceded it, and were it not for the changed relations of the past few years between wages and cost of living, the position of the teachers under the improvements recently effected would not be unenviable. Yet these relations have changed and we are now face to face with either a general all round increase in teachers' salaries or the closing of many, perhaps the majority, of our schools. How to provide the means for this increase

is the question, and, as Mr. McEwen said, it is all very well for the Opposition to waste the time of the House in criticizing the government for what it did or did not do, that will not solve the problem. Mr. McEwen might well have added that so long as the question of paying the teachers is made a political football of, so long will it remain unsolved. Moreover, the question will never be satisfactorily solved until both parties agree upon the means of solution. The history of the Liberal party in connection with the schools is not such that it can afford to throw stones and the stone-throwing so far indulged in during the present session has not added to their laurels. The country is looking for light on this question, and if the Opposition has no light to give, it should at least refrain from obscuring any light that may come from the government side of the House.

The same remarks will apply with equal force to the Opposition's position with reference to the roads. The country needs improved roads. The government has intimated its intention to take up the question. As to the means to be employed and the extent of the undertakings contemplated no information has been given but when it is we have a right to look, not for obstruction pure and simple, but for honest criticism if they have any to offer, and for co-operation, provided the proposals are feasible and reasonable.

Opposition and obstruction with no other object in view is something the country will not stand for and, so far, this has been the only contribution of the Opposition this session.

BOLSHEVISM.

The spectre of Bolshevism which has recently been giving the civilized world cold chills is disappearing and promises shortly to be numbered with the half-forgotten terrors of the past. A recent official statement from Petrograd says that the position of the Bolsheviks in Russia is most critical, and that the Bolshevik leaders believe the end of Bolshevism is in sight. The statement says that since February the Bolshevik leaders have been very depressed and that the split between Lenin and Trotsky has considerably widened. The workers have long ago lost faith in the Bolshevik regime, but the rank and file of the armed forces of the Soviet government still exhibit some faith in Lenin and Trotsky. Most of the authorities in Petrograd are now seeking safe hiding places in case of emergency. Food is scarcer than ever. It can only be bought at exorbitant prices. Complete famine is expected by the middle of April. During February the population of Petrograd decreased 105,000.

After all there is a good deal of sanity mixed in with the insanity of this old world of ours. The

world goes largely in flocks and to the everlasting credit of human nature the largest flocks are the same ones. More, perhaps, than we realize "the voice of the people is the voice of God." Occasionally a segment of the flock becomes separated, led by an anarchist, and the little bunch runs amuck, as the Bolsheviks did, but it eventually finds it is beating its head against the eternal stone wall of justice and right; the mob breaks up and one by one the wanderers return to the original flock and the trouble, for the time, is over. Bolshevism is but a fever of unrest, of unsatisfied ambition; it is not confined to Russia, or Germany, and is not always manifested in flocks or mobs; it appears in the individual as well as in the crowd. It is only when it affects the crowd that it becomes dangerous. Individually it is arrested and put in jail; collectively, as has happened more than once, it has to be shot or otherwise scattered.

With the fall of Bolshevism in Europe, the fragments of it manifesting themselves on this side of the Atlantic, will gradually disappear and the little temporary flutter will have been forgotten.

GOOSE SHOOTING

Sir:—I noticed in the Guardian of the 2nd inst., a letter signed "An Old Sportsman," giving his views on spring shooting of geese, etc. He states that last spring there was a law passed by the Dominion Government prohibiting the spring shooting of geese in this Province. I also notice on page 23 of the Family Herald, April 2nd, the latest summary of the P. E. Island Game Laws which says close season for wild geese is from May 10th to September 15th. Now who is right "Old Sportsman" or the Herald? In my mind it would be a very unjust law for it would deprive the poor man from getting his

goose, a privilege that he always enjoyed for a week or 10 days in April. Most farmers would go shooting as that was the only time of the year they could have a vacation. If that law was passed there is no one that can do any fall shooting except those who own land around the bays and rivers.

"Old Sportsman," says he was shooting for 35 years. I think he must now be getting too old to be a sportsman and don't want to see others in the game. I think our Local Government is too wise to enforce such a law (if it is a law) at this time just when our brave boys are returning from the blood-stained fields of Europe and expecting their parents to have the Easter goose ready for them.

I am, Sir, etc., HAVELOCK BYRANT, Enmore, P. E. I.

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Teachers' Salaries

Sir.—The salaries of our school teachers on P. E. Island are in need of being increased in order that we may have a supply of good teachers for our public schools. Under the present system of the school districts voting supplementary the poorer and smaller districts are at a great disadvantage in securing a teacher. Finally, when a teacher has been secured, it is almost impossible for them to secure board, as their salary is too small to pay the regular boarding house rates.

Under the present system the residents in villages have a small school tax to pay, while the farmer, who may live at the district boundary, has to pay the larger share of the tax. The farmer pays about three times as much as the village resident.

The salaries of teachers should be paid by the government, and a special educational tax be collected the same as other taxes, the tax being distributed in a more equalized way, so that the village resident may pay a fair share for the education of their children.

The organized farmers at the annual meeting in Charlottetown, decided in favor of a special tax to be used for education. We would like to see the government take action to have the teachers paid on a regular rate so that the thinly settled districts may secure the same educational advantages as the more thickly settled districts.

If the government cannot pay the full salaries of the teachers, thus leaving the school districts to increase the salaries by supplementary, the poll tax should be raised, to \$5.00 if necessary, to equalize the taxes among the ratepayers.

We are, Sir, etc., MURRAY HARBOR FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

A Mischievous Agitation

Sir.—You did well in a recent article to show up the insincerity of the present tariff agitation. But there is another aspect of it that cannot be overlooked, the injury it does.

Last evening Mr. Best, speaking to a large audience in the Market Hall made a request, nay, more, a demand, that employment be given the returned soldier as his right. The speaker did not even stipulate that such employment should have regard to the employer's ability to find such employment without loss. That is the teaching of a worthy spokesman and given in the tone of solemn warning. Employment must be found or there will be trouble.

Well, who is to find it? Business houses have all the help they require. The farmers can only take a few, and few are willing to go on the farm.

Look around and you will find the openings very few. So, finally, we suggest encourage the enlargement of our manufacturing industries and thus provide more work, and more wages.

A very good idea, if it can be carried out. Our largest local concern of that kind, Bruce Stewart & Co., is prepared to enlarge their establishment, give more employment, pay more wages, etc., providing they are properly supported and given more capital to work with. That should be easy. Now, let a man having some money to invest call on Mr. J. J. Johnston, K.C., and ask him for his advice about investing his spare money in that company, and what will likely be the advice given him?

Mr. Johnston will show him it is true that company pays 8 per cent. dividend, but he must take a certain amount of risk. Then he will offer to loan his clients money at 5 or 7 per cent. on good security and no risk whatever. Again Mr. Johnston will draw his attention to the fact that the extent of that company's output largely depends on the tariff protection it is having, but that advantage is now assailed. He will point out that he himself has a reputation before the Legislature demanding a material reduction of the present protective tariff; and this resolution expresses the general policy of one of the large political parties of Canada. He will assure his client also that their policy is sure soon to win and then we will import American engines and other goods that said company is now manufacturing. The output will fall off, the profits will be cut and then instead of 8 per cent. dividends there may be no profits to hand out.

Mr. Johnston would tell him: Keep your cash for the present, and if we cannot find a place to safely invest we can find you good stocks in some American companies that will, of course, benefit by the change we are going to make, and be much surer of good results. You will get manufactured goods cheaper, anyway, even if Bruce Stewart & Co. must close up. That may injure the men and the province, too, but it is not our affair.

This is no overdrawn picture. This agitation is today doing more to prevent industrial development in Canada than all other causes combined, and Mr. Johnston is lending his talents and position to do injury to this province, and lessen the wages of every man depending on the success of all our enterprises.

Now, who is this monster that is called a manufacturer, who is said to be robbing the consumers of this country?

He is the man who invests his cash in any manufacturing company.

There is scarcely a manufacturing company in Canada today whose stock is not for sale on the stock exchange. Few of them pay dividends above 6 per cent., and any man who wishes to become a manufacturer and participate in these alleged large profits can get all the stock he wants any day in the week.

We are anxious for industries starting here as a source of more wealth, we are offering all manner of inducements for such to be established in our midst, and at the same time we are filling the air with cries of "down with robbers who are bleeding us to death!"

We want enterprise, we want more industries, we want more employment, and no sooner will such come to us than we will turn round and do all in our power to tear down every establishment that public spirited people may have succeeded in erecting.

Are we not carrying party warfare beyond the bounds of reason? I do hope, Sir, that the mischievous resolution now before the Legislature will be turned down flat. I do so, not because I have money invested in any manufacturing company, as I have not. I have nearly all in farming, but I want more sources of profitable employment and the more there is the better will farming pay.

I am, Sir, etc., COMMON SENSE.

HINTS FOR THE MOTORIST by ALBERT L. CLOUGH

REALIZING FUEL ECONOMY EXPECTATIONS

(Continued)

The Best Car, Badly Driven, Will Fall Short in Efficiency

It is always possible that the failure of an individual user to obtain from his car a fuel efficiency comparable with that shown by other identical cars may not be entirely attributable to defects in the particular car and its adjustments, but may be the result of the manner in which the car is maintained and driven. Among operative errors which lead to fuel waste are the following: Driving long distances either at extremely high or at extremely low speeds. Both practices are very wasteful and a gallon of fuel does a very little good under these conditions, as compared with what it does at 20 or 25 miles per hour. Failure to run the spark as much

advanced as practicable, resulting in the throwing away of much valuable heat energy. Failure to change to a lower gear when the engine has slowed down, under load, to blow its excess power, slipping of the clutch, to regulating purposes, instead of using the throttle, which results in substantial fuel loss due to engine racing. Racking the engine unnecessarily to warm it up, adding it when it might better be shut down and idling it unnecessarily fast. Failure to take advantage of the car's coasting ability, by throwing the gears into neutral and shutting down the engine on level down grades. Accelerating with uncalled for rapidity, when starting and when under way and sacrificing expensively attained car momentum, by applying the brakes while still running at high speed, instead of coasting up to the stopping point. Failure to conserve engine heat by keeping the radiator shaded, thus increasing the waste of fuel at each start. Failure to always employ the leanest fuel mixture which the engine can be successfully run after it is warmed, and carelessness in leaving the carburetor air supply choked, after starting, longer than it need be. Even with a perfect conditioned car, operative errors can reduce fuel efficiency pretty low, but combined with a car that is "out of sorts," the result of unskilled driver on fuel efficiency is appalling.

Questions of general interest to motorists will be answered in this column, space permitting. Address Albert L. Clough, care of this office.

Give the Pupils a Chance

Sir.—In common with many others, I think that the pupils of our schools should see the excellent and instructive exhibit of war pictures now being shown in the common hall of our college. I have suggested this to Lt. Shoulton, the officer in charge, and he is quite willing to admit the pupils in charge of their teachers at the nominal sum of 5 cents per capita on the forenoon of Saturday. Will the proper authorities see that this offer is accepted in the interests of the children?

I am, Sir, etc., T. F. FULLERTON, Charlottetown, April 10th, 1919.

PROHIBITION COMMISSION

Meeting Held Yesterday—Amendments to be Made to Act.

The Prohibition Commission met in this city yesterday morning at ten o'clock and remained in session all day.

The Rev. William V. McDonald of Charlottetown who was appointed a member of the Commission in the place of Rev. M. J. Smith, resigned, was present and took his seat at the Board.

The following resolution in connection with the action of the Board at its last meeting regarding certain physicians, was adopted.

"Whereas representations have been made to the Board of Commissioners by certain members of the medical fraternity whose liberty in prescribing alcohol for their patients has been restricted, that such restriction entails a hardship on certain of their patients;

"Resolved that the Board hereby removes such restrictions, with the understanding that they will be reimposed should any abuse of said liberty again exist as in the past occasioned by their action."

A copy of this resolution was ordered to be forwarded to each veterinarian and to the doctors interested.

After the passing of several accounts and other routine business the Board took up certain amendments to the Prohibition Act which



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It is intended to submit to the Legislature at its present session.

The Commissioners resented keenly the attack made upon them by Mr. Geo. E. Hughes on the floor of the House of Assembly. The members of the Commission have been non-political and non-partisan, and the duties coming to them have been of a difficult nature but have been honestly and faithfully done. The members of the Commission admitted they were not connoisseurs in the quality of liquor, as Mr. Hughes may be, but as far as business ability is concerned at least possess enough to swing into legitimate channels a

business which even Mr. Hughes would admit, had been abused. Whatever powers the Commission possess, and exercised under the Act, were voted for by Mr. Hughes and he now stultifies himself by the criticism he has made.

LONDON, April 10.—The S. S. Minnedosa sailed yesterday for St. John with 51 officers and 348 others from Buxton. The liner also carried 248 wives and 242 children and 22 Imperial officers.

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