

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1920. SOME MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

Some curious misunderstandings are prevalent regarding Imperial politics and policies. Take the matter of commercial treaties, for instance. The Dominion Government, as well as Australia and South Africa, have authority to carry on commercial negotiations with foreign powers without the intermediary of the Colonial Office in London, but these negotiations must be carried on through the British Ambassadors and not direct.

Somewhat similar misunderstanding exists with regard to the League of Nations. We have been told that as a result of this League of Nations, Canada need not in future be involved in any war simply because the Mother Country goes to war and the explanation given is that Sir Robert Borden has insisted upon Canada and the other dominions having a representative in the League of Nations, giving each equal voting power with the Mother Country.

The Guardian has never been greatly enamored of the League of Nations. The Allies agreed to it simply to please President Wilson and President Wilson was not as far-seeing as some of his own supporters in visualizing the consequences of this League on the future foreign relations of the United States.

THE PATRIOT CRIES "KAMARAD."

In its yesterday's issue the Patriot makes a pathetic plea for what it calls "just and honest criticism" of the government. In so far as the Patriot is sincere in this plea we are heartily with it. We believe in and practise to the best of our ability, informed criticism whether of constructive or destructive character.

What was the Patriot's attitude then? "Fair and honest criticism?" With the Bell candidates it declared the then existing revenue was sufficient for all the needs of the province and for the required increase in teachers' salaries. It hounded the Arsenault government on what it termed its uncalled for appeals for more revenue and, with the Bell candidates, promised to run the country and increase the teachers' salaries without resorting to increased taxation.

Now, with the Bell party in power, finding itself and its government in the pit which they had dug for themselves, finding that the revenue which loomed so large in their eyes before the election is just what the Arsenault government declared it to be; realizing that expenditures are as necessary and unavoidable as the Arsenault government declared them to be, it asks us "in Heaven's name to let the past bury its dead and forgotten issues of those times,"—to forget that "this man or that man made certain statements during the heat of an election campaign." The "statements" were not made alone during the heat of the campaign; they were made deliberately, in the cool shades of opposition during the last session of the legislature.

We fully realize the difficult position the government is in and we realize also, as the Patriot now does, that the government came into power upon false, flagrantly false, pretences, and is already discredited in its own eyes as well as in the eyes of the electors. But this is no reason why the muzzle should be applied to the press and opposition at the present time. The government made its bed and if it finds it an uncomfortable one it nevertheless must lie on it or get out and go to the country and tell the people the Bell supporters were wrong and the Arsenault government right in their pre-election campaign.

CURRENT COMMENT

The Hon. Cyrus Crosby, Commissioner of Public Works, addressed the meeting at the Automobile Show. Good roads naturally came up for discussion, and the time was most opportune for an announcement of the Government's policy upon what the Patriot designated "AN INFERNAL SCHEME INVOLVING THE PROVINCE IN HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS PERHAPS MILLIONS" of dollars.

There are times when party spirit and political acrimony must stand aside and give place to better things in parliament. In Canada to our honour this has frequently occurred in both federal and provincial houses. When the greater interests of the nation are at stake all our people become as one.

Farmers in New Brunswick, joined by the Dairyman's Association are asking the provincial Government to appoint a H. C. L. Commission, their special purpose to inquire into the actual cost of farm products, the farmers labor to be considered at the current rate of pay in making these estimates.

Mr. Frank Potts, member for St. John's in the N. B. legislature makes serious charges against the government in its handling of Prohibition. He claims they "must be receiving something from the liquor people to allow things to be run the way they are."

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. S. Louson

STAND BY—DON'T RUN AWAY

A fire is a terrible thing I never see one but what I think of the contest between two natural elements, fire and water—each fighting against the other.

But awful as a fire is, I am always inspired by the brave firemen who stand by. I once witnessed the falling of a building, during a raging fire, in which a noble fireman was burned at his duty. I never yet have seen a fireman run away. They always stand by!

We can all be pretty brave while the sun shines happily around us. But let an emergency arise, and we are put to the test. It's then that the world finds out whether or not we have the stuff in us to stand by.

It's fine to have a host of friends, but unless they stand by they are a "sounding brass."

The shirker at mental tasks never stands by in times of stress. The clock watcher and the easy way searcher are always the first to run. But you who stand in the small things of every-day demands, will pride in standing by when a world walks up and says, "I want you for a job!"

Stand by when it rains—and pours. Anyone is glad to stand by when it's cool and "convenient."

Carlos Martyn, in his life of Wendell Phillips, wrote this sentence, that has stuck in my brain for a score of years: "It is not enough to be ready to go when duty calls. A man should stay around where he can hear the call!" Stand by—don't run away.

National Debt Then and Now

In a recent article, the London Spectator seasonably quotes the following passage from Macaulay's criticism of Southey's "Colloquies":

The present moment is one of great distress. But how small will that distress appear when we think over the history of the last forty years: a war, compared with which all other wars sink into insignificance: taxation, such as the most heavily taxed people of former times could not have conceived; a debt larger than all the public debts that ever existed; in the world added together; the tor of the people audaciously rendered dear; the currency imprudently debased, and imprudently restored. Yet is the country poorer than in 1797? We firmly believe that, in spite of all the misgovernment of her rulers, she has been almost constantly becoming richer and richer. Now and then there has been a stoppage now and then a short retrogression; but as to the general tendency there can be no doubt. A single breaker may recede; but the tide is evidently coming in. If we were to prophesy that in the year 1930 a population of fifty millions better fed, clad and lodged than the English of our time, will cover these islands, that Sussex and Huntingdonshire will be wealthier than the wealthiest parts of the West Riding of Yorkshire now are, that cultivation, rich as that of a flower-garden, will be carried up to the top of Ben Nevis and Helvellyn, that machines constructed on principles yet undiscovered will be in every house, that there will be no highways but railroads, no travelling but by steam, that our debt, vast as it seems to us, will appear to our great-grandchildren a trifling encumbrance, which might easily be paid off in a year or two, many people would think us insane.

England "Come Back"

We prophesy nothing; but this we say: If any person had told the Parliament which met in perplexity and terror after the crash in 1720 that in 1830 the wealth of England would surpass all their wildest dreams, that the annual revenue would equal the principal of that debt which they considered as an intolerable burden, that for one man of ten thousand pounds then living there would be five men of fifty thousand pounds, that London would be twice as large and twice as populous, and that nevertheless the rate of mortality would have diminished to one-half of what it then was, that the post-office would bring more into the exchequer than the excise and customs had brought in together under Charles the Second, that stage coaches would run from London to York in twenty-four hours, that men would be in the habit of sailing without wind, and would be beginning to ride without horses, our ancestors would have given as much credit to the prediction as they gave to Gulliver's Travels.

When a Million Looked Big

Yet the prediction would have been true; and they would have perceived that it was not altogether absurd, if they had considered that the country was then raising every year a sum which would have purchased the fee-sample of the revenue of the Plantagenets, ten times what supported the Government of Elizabeth, three times what, in the time of Cromwell, had been thought intolerably oppressive. To almost all men the state of things under which they have been used to live seems to be the necessary state of things. We have heard it said that five per cent is the natural interest of money, that twelve is the natural number of a jury, that forty shillings is the natural qualification of the county voter. Hence it is that, though in every age everybody knows that up to his own time progressive improvement has been taking place, nobody seems to reckon on any improvement during the next generation. We cannot absolutely prove that these are in error who tell us that society has reached a turning point, that we have seen our best days. But so said all who came before us, and just as much apparent reason. "A million a year will beggar us," said the patriots of 1640.

Getting Used To It

"Two millions a year will grind the country to powder," was the cry in 1660. "Six millions a year and a debt of fifty millions!" exclaimed Swift, "the high allies have been the ruin of us." "A hundred and forty millions of debt!" said Junius; "well may we say that we owe Lord Chatham more than we shall ever pay, if we owe him such a load as this." "Two hundred

Others' View Points

SILK SHIRTS

Shirt manufacturers now say that \$15 silk shirts (which were \$6 a few years ago) will soon be \$25. The country will be well-served by these manufacturers if they made it \$50 or \$100. Fancy silk shirts are one luxury that cannot be put too high in price. Because they are in such demand not enough cheaper shirts are made. The sooner the lunatics who pay such prices for silk shirts reach their limit the better for goods that are necessities.

"WINNING HANDS DOWN"

The lights still blaze on Broadway, the restaurants are just as merry, the hotels are packed to the doors, the theatres are full and running over, the sporting contests are mobbed by throngs of ticket buyers, business is at its peak of activity from Wall Street to the corner grocery of Seventh Avenue, Fifth Avenue is full of motor cars, and furs and diamonds. They said the people of New York would not submit to prohibition, but they have. They said that it would make the city a dull imitation of its former splendor, but it hasn't. They said the workmen would not work without beer, but they are doing it. So runs a recent authoritative statement on the effect of prohibition in the great city. Well, New York may not be spending all its time, or all its money, as well as it might; but there can be no doubt that prohibition, to maintain the "sporting" vein, is "winning hands down."

NATURE'S MIRACLE WORKING AGAIN

(Omaha Bee)

These early March days are invigorating, because they hold the promise of an end to winter's long reign. The sunshine, the clear air, even the clouds and the winds, the rain and the snow flurries, all tell us spring is on the way. Its approach is not easy, nor stealthy, for in this region the transition from the death of winter to the resurrection and the new life of the vernal season usually comes with a clash of the elements. But the unsettled weather is a symptom of the birth pangs; and as the sun sets farther to the south each day, hangs higher in the horizon and goes down later, so we know that nature's miracle is working, and only a little way off come marching the green things that make the world of springtime an ever-increasing wonder. These are stealing up from the South now, and each day the oncoming army of grass and leaves and flowers, of birds and buds and beauty, steals a little more territory from the ice king, and in a short while he will be driven back to make way for life and growth and blossom and fruit and harvest time. Nature's ways are those of order; and from them man has learned his most useful lessons. None of them are more impressive than the merging of winter into spring, because here we find the support as well as the suggestion of faith in the resurrection and the life everlasting.

reg and forty millions of debt!" cried all the statesmen of 1783 in chorus; "what abilities, or what economy on the part of a minister, can save a country so burdened?" We know that, since 1783, no fresh debt had been incurred, the increased resources of the country would have enabled us to defray that debt at which Pitt, Fox and Burke stood aghast, to defray it over and over again, and that with which lighter taxation than what we have actually borne.

Depend On the People

Oh what principle is it that when we see nothing but improvement behind us, we are to expect nothing but the intermeddling of Mr. Southey's Idiot, the omniscient and the omnipotent State, but by the prudence and energy of the people, that England has hitherto been carried forward in civilization; and it is to the same prudence and the same energy that we now look with comfort and good hope. Our rulers will best promote the improvement of the nation by strictly confiding themselves to their own legitimate duties, by leaving capital to find its most lucrative course, commodities their fair price, industry and intelligence their natural reward, idleness and folly their natural punishment, by maintaining peace, by defending property, by diminishing the price of law, and by observing strict economy in every department of the State. Let the Government do this: the People will assuredly do the rest.

QUITE A PHILANTHROPIST

(Philadelphia Ledger)

"The rich look on us miners with an ignorant and patronizing pity that—that well, it's like a story." The speaker was John Walker, one of the leaders of the United Mine Workers.

"A rich young lady," he went on, "was being shown around a coal baron's plant just as a cage of miners, all black from their work, ascended the shaft."

"What are they?" she asked.

"Oh," said the baron, "they're just miners."

"A minute later another cage of men came up."

"Are they miners, too?" asked the young lady.

"Yes, sure," said the coal baron.

"And do you let them out every day?"

"Yes."

"How very, very kind of you that is!" said the rich young lady.

STOCK QUOTATIONS

HALIFAX, N. S., March 23.—(Quotations furnished by F. B. McCurdy and Co., the Montreal Stock Exchange.)

Victory Bonds

Have begun to advance in price in several of the issues, according to telegrams dated March 22nd.

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