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The Public Forum

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. This Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

TEACHERS' SALARIES

Sir:—The teacher dropped his weary head, And dreams there came by fancy led.

He dreamt he took himself a spouse, And got for her a pretty house.

He had a lawn, and garden trim, And little kiddies played therein.

He had a second hand Ford car, For pleasant trips both near and far.

He got enjoyment out of life He had a car, some kids, a wife.

He thought, "Why I'm a happy man, For to be living as I am!

I now enjoy a living wage, With pension for declining age."

Bang! Went the clock, 'twas just a dream, For P. E. Island is the scene.

We are etc., BY WIER UNDERPAYDE.

A WANDERING PREMIER

Sir,—I fear Sir that you are not giving the prominence to some of our great men that their distinction calls for. If Mark Twain crossed on a ferry boat an up-to-date press would special article the trip from coast to coast, and yet when the first minister of our Province covers the land from Atlantic to Pacific, and from Ottawa,

Montreal, Quebec and Moncton to the Abegweit capital, you give it a passing news notice away out of proportion to the dignity of an incumbent. Elected for a precise purpose, with an immense program of promise, something of the ordinary at least, if not more than the ordinary, was expected of Premier Saunders. Apart from getting into scraps or scrapes with the Alliance and those who returned him to power what has he done—or even tried to do?

At the most important period, that time when he should be initiating and putting into effect his pre-election policies, he was off on an extended trip to the balmy Pacific, far away from the cares and trials of public duty, basking in flowery glades and drinking refreshing air under the blue skies of that coast of peace.

His recent trips to Ottawa are more significant (or insignificant). Ever since his election as Premier his wanderings suggest that he is in search of an objective. In other words, like the immortal Micawber, he is looking for "something to turn up."

A judgeship, with its promised salary increase, even in a Country Court, might not now be scorned. It would certainly be preferable to another general election chance.

"Grip," a high class comic paper of Canada, unfortunately not now published, once displayed a cartoon of the Ottawa Government orchard with a paucity of fruit on the trees, but with an Island premier roaming through the shades, and with this inscription:

"Looking for Windfalls."

That Premier was a Conservative and he returned from the Capital with a substantial financial addition to our revenues.

Premier Saunders, in his last wandering tour, either had an objective, or was looking for one. Did he know what he was after, or merely sauntering around with a Micawber-like hope? Press reports would indicate the latter. Excuses had to be given for the trip, but they were varied and indefinite. He was going to address a woman's club in response to invitation. "Those invitations are all-

ways available. He was going, so the story goes, to "discuss the Subsidy" question. How childish, coming from one in a statesman's job? Whoever heard of big questions like this being made the subject of a fireside talk? He had some "minor matters" to take up with other departments. What were these? Were they of provincial or personal importance? Painfully he remarks that he did not succeed in seeing the Minister of Justice.

Watching and waiting, keeping eyes open and ears shut, is his popular pastime. An inactive premier's office is irksome and relief from the ennuil would be akin to an elevation into the seventh heavens. Ideas of duty to the public have no disturbing influence to move him into some show of life. With the biggest contingent of lawyers as acting attorney general's ever known in this Province to do his legal work, and the other duties of government attended to by colleagues, the job of doing nothing must be very tiresome.

Addressing the Women's Canadian Club at Ottawa he is reported as saying,—"Some people advocate government control because of the increased revenue, but you can't measure manhood in dollars and cents, and in such a matter as this the treasury is the last thing to be considered." This is his precept, but what of his practice.

Where are the three Magistrates so solemnly promised the electors, and provided for a year ago by the Legislature? Has he forgotten that notable statement he made to the delegation for the Temperance Alliance to the effect that financially the Prohibition Act must be self-sustaining? Is not it because of this that only one magistrate has been appointed, and that the 25 scrips to medicine's idea was abandoned? The "treasury" it seems is not as he says "the last thing to be considered," at least in prohibition enforcement.

Some things, whether good or bad, have been done by the departments of government—such for instance as that purchase of road machines. But he will not climb over his colleagues' shoulders to grab credit for these things. It is what he has done himself, in person, whether good or harmful, that we would like to hear of; not that which he may disclaim.

If he should ever again appear on the hustings his case will be as good as that of a once retiring politician, whose record was a do-nothing one who at an indignation meeting exclaimed:—"I don't know what you are all driving and pinking at me for. I never did anything!"

I am, sir, etc.,
READER

P. S.: Since writing above I note that you have devoted almost a whole precious column of editorial to this altar of sacrifice. Even though in a forced irony of flattery—it is an improvement upon contemptuous silence. The Premier's Ottawa accomplishment you correctly sum up in the words "Uncertainty" and "Indefinite." The assurance of "Liberal treatment" for the Province may mean anything, from a judgeship to "serious consideration" of our claims—that hackneyed synonym for political slumber and indifference.

READER

TEACHERS' SALARIES

Sir,—I have been following with deep interest, and sometimes with indignation, righteous indignation, I trust, the many and various letters appearing in the Patriot and Guardian relative to the question of tea-

chers' salaries. It is, indeed, unfortunate that any question which has to do with a matter of vital interest to the public cannot be broached without someone saying: "Politics, politics! Just another scheme to embarrass the Government." Why should the Teachers' Federation wish to embarrass a government which they helped elect, and why should a request from the teachers for increased remuneration embarrass in any way a government whose premier stated, as recorded in the March 1st, 1928, issue of MacLean's Magazine, that he was in favor of improving the Island's educational standards by increasing the salaries of teachers and revising the curriculum of the public schools.

Before proceedings further, let me ask, Sir, who compose the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation, anyway? Is it a Conservative organization? No. Is it a Liberal organization? No. Individually, I presume, the members are about equally divided in political opinions, for do they not come from the homes of Liberals and Conservatives for generations back, and over a period of years is it not safe to say that the voters of the province are (to use a slang expression) divided, politically, about fifty-fifty?

As an organization, however, the Teachers' Federation knows no politics. Its teachers instruct the children of Liberal and Conservative alike, are equally proud when children of Liberal or Conservative parentage under their guidance and care make a high mark in their studies, and are equally grieved when they fail to measure up to the standards required. The Federation feels, therefore, that when anyone tries to make the question a political one he is merely endeavoring to obscure or camouflage the real issue.

Again, let me state, this agitation for an increase in the salaries of the teachers, as far as the Teachers' Federation is concerned, has nothing whatever to do with politics. The Federation is simply asking the government to right a wrong, to grapple with the question in a masterly, manly fashion, and make the remuneration such that teachers will not merely use the profession as a stepping stone to some position which will pay them a living wage and allow them to make provision for their declining years, but that efficient teachers may be induced to remain in the profession and place it in its proper standing in the community.

As the situation now exists, many of our most promising teachers are forced to leave the province to seek positions in Western Canada and in the United States where the salaries are more in keeping with living requirements. Many others, who are performing true and faithful service in our schools, are held here only by family ties, as one of our very capable female teachers so ably presented to the government when they so courteously received our delegation a few weeks ago.

I am firmly convinced, Sir, despite what has been written to the contrary, that the general public is behind this move of the teachers for fair salaries, so that there will remain in the profession sufficient teachers from whom the districts may choose to suit their needs. As long as the salaries remain low, the districts will have to experiment with teachers without experience.

Pay the teachers sufficient to induce them to remain in the profession, make provision for them to attend summer schools to improve their standing, lengthen and make more practical the normal training course and you have, Sir, the whole question solved.

I am, sir, etc.,
C. BRADEN JELLY,
President Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation.

Central Guardian

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ENGAGEMENT.—Mr. and Mrs. Nell Darrach, Marshfield, announce the engagement of their daughter Helen to Clarence, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Waddell, Cape Traverse. Marriage the first week April. 11

ST. PATRICK'S DAY STORY.—Through a regrettable error the name of Miss Margaret Dixon, of Clyde River, was omitted as author of the story "On St. Patrick's Day In The Morning" which appeared in Saturday's Guardian. Miss Dixon's story has elicited very favorable comment.

MITE BOX OPENING.—The annual Mite Box opening of the Women's Missionary Society of South Winochee, will be held at the Parsonage on Wednesday evening, March 20th. A very cordial invitation is extended to all who are interested in the work of the Society to attend.

GIVEN PENITENTIARY TERMS.—In connection with the assault upon Mr. Peter Campbell, formerly on the

Some one may say: "I have known a young, inexperienced teacher who did better work than many of your experienced teachers." I grant that may be true, but my answer is that such a teacher must at some time have had the privilege of studying under a teacher of experience, and copied his or her methods. Such a teacher should be paid an adequate salary to keep him or her in the province.

No public spirited citizen objects to paying additional taxes if he knows his money is spent to advantage; it is only when he feels that a government is wasteful or reckless in its expenditures that he makes a protest.

I have striven not to make any personal attacks upon persons who view the situation in a different light. We, as teachers, are striving to set before the young minds of today, high ideals, not only by precept but by example, and we, therefore, try to state our wants clearly and definitely without alander. We so far succeeded in this that the government members, when our delegation waited upon them, complimented us on the fair presentation of our case, not one of them claiming that the experienced, capable teacher was receiving enough salary, their only objection to granting the proposed increase, seemingly, being ways and means of procuring the necessary funds. Knowing them to be men of intellectual discernment, of keen business insight, we now await the decision they, after consulting the private members at the opening of the Legislature, promised to give us at our special meeting in Prince of Wales College Hall, on March 22nd, and we have every confidence that they will measure up to their responsibilities and devise the ways and means necessary to place the educational system on a sound basis.

I am, sir, etc.,
C. BRADEN JELLY,
President Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation.

staff of The Guardian and now a reporter on the Memoroneck (N. Y.) Daily Times, two convictions were obtained, one against the "higher up" party, Henry Gironda, former town constable of Mamaroneck, who was sentenced to fifteen months in Sing Sing penitentiary, and a second conviction against Gironda's accomplice, Martin Engstrom, who committed the actual assault, and who was given nine months in Westchester County penitentiary. Details of the brutal assault upon Mr. Campbell as a result of his part in the newspaper campaign against the criminal element of the Community were given recently in The Guardian.

VERNON RIVER INSTITUTE.—The Vernon River Women's Institute met at the home of Mrs. Irving Tweedy on Friday evening, March 8th. There were eight members and one visitor present. Roll call was answered by "Ways and means of collecting money for the Institute." Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. After discussion of general business it was decided to hold a dance in the C. M. B. A. Hall on Monday evening, April 1st. A skit night was served by the hostess, after which meeting adjourned by singing the National Anthem. Next meeting to be held at the home of Mrs. John Currie.

TEACHERS MEETING.—The regular monthly meeting of the Teachers' Service Training School was held in Mt. Stewart School on February 27th at 2 p. m., with two teachers and the Supervisor, Mr. Court, present. The president, Miss Mary C. McDonald, occupied the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted. The following committees were then appointed: Program, Miss Annie Donnelly, Miss Elizabeth Clark Press, Miss Hazel Corbett, Miss Edith Cameron. A very interesting and instructive talk on Nature Study was then given by Mr. Court. This talk was enjoyed and appreciated by all the teachers. The next meeting will be held on March 27 at 2 p. m. At this meeting the subject of Junior Geography will be taken up.

WEST COVE HEAD

The many friends of Mr. James Hughes will be glad to see him about again, after his recent indisposition.

Miss Florence Stewart, Dunstaffnage, spent the week-end at West Cove Head, the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hughes.

Master Dawson Hughes, young son of Mr. Hibbert Hughes, was recovered from an attack of the "flu."

Miss Erma MacMillan spent the week-end at Rustico, the guest of Miss Eva Stevenson.

The many friends of Mr. George F. Bearsto will regret to hear of his serious illness.

Miss Mae Hughes spent Sunday at Union, the guest of Miss Kathleen Mellett.

Mr. James Allan paid a flying visit to York Friday evening.

Mr. Parmenas Hughes is recovering from his recent illness.

Mrs. Peter Proud, York, spent the week-end at her old home in West Cove Head.

MRS. ADAM JAY
Her grave is not a grave, it is a shrine

Whers innocence reposes Bright over which God's stars must love to shine, And where when Winter closes, Fair Spring shall come, And in her garland twine, Just like this hand of mine, The whitest of white roses

So must her friends feel as they kneel now in prayer beside the lowly grave of this wife and mother, who was called to a still better home beyond there to see the Guardian Angel of her loved ones on earth.

It was a pleasure to visit her home, she was of a loving and cheerful dis-

position and her passing away will be mourned by her many friends. She was visited frequently by her pastor, Rev. Ignatius Macdonald, who administered to her the last rites of the Roman Catholic Church.

She was a sister-in-law of Mrs. Murdock McLean, Georgetown. She leaves to mourn besides her sorrowing husband, four daughters and four sons, to whom sincere sympathy is extended.

The many beautiful mass cards, spiritual bouquets, wreaths and letters of sympathy show the high esteem in which she was held.

May her soul rest in peace.

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