

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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MONDAY, APRIL 6, 1925

THE SESSION

Unless something unforeseen occurs the legislative session will close this week. It has been a mild, uneventful and satisfactory session. Little time has been lost either through dilatoriness in opening or in talking for talk's sake or for the edification of the galleries. Also there has been nothing by way of effective criticism.

Criticism there was, it is true, as that is supposed to be in every instance of the Opposition but in every instance it took the form of general grumbling that things had not turned out better than they had. As to how conditions could have been improved, how the revenue could have been expended otherwise and to better advantage, no hint or suggestion had been given so far.

This week probably this evening beginning will be made on the estimates. The experience of the past year will be a valuable guide in this. Last year the revenue from the uncollectable poll tax was over-estimated and this accounted for part of the apparent deficit at the close of the year. The poll tax was a child of the late government, a child that had some promise and might have grown into usefulness had it not been handicapped by inherent impossibilities. To avoid payment of taxes is, rightly or wrongly, regarded as an inherent right of the human race and, rightly or wrongly, "everybody is doing it," in whole or in part, wherever possible. Where there are fixed incomes, stated salaries or taxable real property, there is no escape; the victim smiles and pays it. When there is no fixed salary, no definite visible means of support, and no property to be seized in default of payment and no imprisonment for debt, collection of a poll tax is impossible. There are several thousands of dollars of arrears of poll tax outstanding which cannot be collected and it is useless to include them in any estimate of revenue. The great bulk of poll tax paid before the repeal of the act was paid by farmers and others who were otherwise taxed, but it fell very lightly upon those for whom it was intended. It was a futile attempt to "get blood out of a post." That the post should pay for its standing room is not denied but how to induce or compel it to do so has not yet been discovered. The poll tax was not abolished by the Stewart Government because it was not needed but because it could not be imposed fairly on account of the impossibility of collecting it fairly.

THE WAR SPIRIT

Whether the war which drenched Europe in blood from 1914 to 1918, modified the war spirit or fanned it into what is already becoming a threatening flame, is an open question. More than one nation is talking war; more than one country in Europe is looking to its guns and its armaments and more than one prophet is openly predicting another war during the present generation.

Premier Mussolini of Italy is urging preparation for war as the best means of preserving peace and heavy expenditures are being projected for the strengthening of the Italian navy and aerial forces.

France is unwilling to make any curtailment in her arms and armaments until adequate security is given with respect to German intentions. Great Britain is counselling an alliance between Germany and her former allied enemies in order to maintain peace by amicable agreement or, that failing, by the combined strength of the newly allied nations.

In this way "the clouds are raining after the rain," the rain which deluged Europe for four awful years in which millions of men perished and uncounted billions of

the world's wealth was destroyed. Many had fondly hoped that the war of 1914-1918 was a "war against war," and it was; many had hoped that it was the last war that would disgrace civilization but it was not. There shall be other wars.

Civilization is progressing slowly, how slowly is indicated by the fact that its greatest crime against itself, the war of 1914-1918, was perpetrated after six thousand years of climbing from savagery, after two thousand years of influences of Christianity. Yet there is hope that eventually we shall overcome this inherited relic of savagery, perhaps the most illogical and the most senseless of all that we have inherited from our original savagery. We still have a long way to go before we can lay down our arms, before we can leave our doors unlocked, before we can love our neighbor as ourselves.

WONDERFUL FAIRNESS

The Morning Chronicle of Halifax, whose public political creed is distinctly Liberal, whatever its private opinion may be, explains that the gerrymandering of Cape Breton and Richmond counties was not done expressly to give the miners and so prevent them from diluting the strength of Liberalism in other sections of the constituency. It was only through a coincidence of the geographical situation that all the mines happened to be enclosed in one of the newly established electoral districts and that there were not enough mines to give the other districts a slice. Of course it may seem strange that the new electoral boundaries should so fall as to keep the miners by themselves but such coincidences often occur. This is not a verbatim report of the Chronicle's explanation but we give it as a fairly comprehensive translation.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Everything points to the Legislature concluding business on Thursday.

There are rival collectors for the distressed women and children of Sydney. The Mayor and Citizens Committee should insist upon all contributions passing through their hands.

Gardening has commenced already, many men being seen "pottering" about their yards.

At a public meeting of Women in the Foresters' Hall, Toronto the other day, a resolution was unanimously adopted to the effect that the only course open to Canada was to raise her tariff to the same level as that of the United States.

His Honor the Governor and the Tourist Association are to be heartily congratulated upon securing the visit of the West Indian Fleet here for the whole of Old Home Week. It will make things hum.

A quiet spirit of optimism prevails throughout the province, and if the Sydney dispute could be settled and a market provided for our produce, the prospects for the present year are rosy.

Good reports are being received of the Fox pup crop. It has been a good breeding season especially so far as weather is concerned.

They do things in style in Paris when occasion suits. According to a news cable Maurice Barot, the only student who got a jail sentence for his participation in the rioting at the University of Paris on Saturday, passed his medical course examinations with a policeman at each elbow. His attorney sent for his books, the judge sent for a policeman, and the youth went to the School of Medicine on the afternoon where he passed with the mark "good."

Notes By The Way

There really are too many Commissions that cost a lot of money. It would require many words to name them all and many figures to express their cost. We shall not here attempt the task. We are referring, of course to those commissions appointed by the Federal Government to examine and report upon many matters which it is felt that the Administration with its host of deputies officials and servants should investigate and decide upon without other aid that it has ready at hand.

There may be various opinions on the subject within the ranks of both political parties. The matter has been occasionally referred to in Parliament and also in the press and we were pleased to read a few days ago in the leading Liberal journal of this Province an editorial opinion, in which we entirely concur, that there are really too many of these commissions of high cost whose duties could be more promptly discharged at nominal cost by the Government with its official staff and committees of representative men in the House of Commons or the Senate.

Hon. R. J. Manion, Conservative, of Port Arthur stated the other day in the Commons that the Pulwood Commission and the Grain Commission had cost the country approximately a quarter of a million dollars and had given very little result. Mr. Manion went on to say that the Government had appointed numerous other commissions and that well over a million dollars had been expended in this way. Few thinking men can be brought to believe that all these or nearly all, or even half of these were urgently necessary. Many believe that none of them were called for and that in these times of industrial and commercial depression and high tax on the expense should not have been incurred.

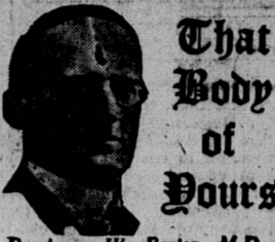
It is true that other Governments in the past also appointed commissions that cost money—not nearly so much—but those Governments are down and out and have paid the penalty for their sins. The account now to be settled is between the Government of the day and the taxpayers who are compelled to pay the money. It is a very large account, and if money has been extravagantly and wastefully expended in this way not only should the practice be stopped but the offenders should be punished.

A million dollars spent on commissions! Most of us workers and toilers, are not accustomed, to think in millions. A million dollars would pay a thousand dollars in wages to each of a thousand workers, so many thousands of whom are exiling themselves from their native land to find employment and bread for themselves and their families among foreigners under an alien flag. A million dollars would equal the present value of 200 farms each of a value of \$5,000 and representing the honest toil of its owner during a lifetime.

Nobody for a moment believes that any real value has been received by the country for one dollar out of ten of the vast sum expended on these commissions. Everybody knows that for the money wasted in this way every member of the Government is responsible. They are all in it—before it in appointing the commissioners, and behind it in paying your money and ours to the pampered commissioners, most of them rolling in luxury, or favorites of the party in power, or camp followers who subsist upon what they can pick up from day to day.

The Ministers who are at the head of this commission business are nearly all heads of Department, and all of them together are responsible for the manner in which considerably more than a million dollars a day is expended, counting week days and Sundays. Today we are speaking of commissions alone, as one of the worst forms of wasteful expenditure, because it is entirely controllable by the Government. And if in this one small corner the waste is so great what shall we say, or think, or suspect as to the waste that has been and is still going on in the entire field of lavish expenditure.

For ourselves we are forced to the conclusion that that wasteful and extravagant expenditure is eating into the very vitals of the Dominion, paralysing its energies and draining its life blood. There are many—an increasing number as we verily believe—who hold the same opinion and view with alarm the action and conduct of Ministers who so lightly fling to the winds the moneys confidingly placed in their hands as a sacred trust.



By James W. Barton, M.D., HELPING THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

I wonder, if as a people, we are grateful enough to our research physicians, who work so patiently in their laboratories?

Their whole aim is to find some specific cure for certain ailments, or to find some method of preventing the various ills of man.

One of our outstanding physicians, in addressing a class of students graduating in medicine, pointed out to them, that their perspective in medicine should not be influenced by all the sick people they saw in the hospitals.

He pointed out that forty years ago the annual death rate was about twenty one per thousand whereas it now ran but eleven per thousand, or in other words it had been cut practically in half.

Now as the ailments that carry people off still exist, therefore, something must have been done to save so many lives or prevent so many deaths.

In other words then, the preventive side of medicine, had taken great strides in the forty years. Of course the big gain was made in the handling of infectious cases in Scarlet Fever for instance, no specific remedy has been discovered, and yet while forty years ago there were seventy deaths in every hundred thousand, at present there were only two deaths in one hundred thousand.

The figures for Small Pox and Typhoid Fever are even more remarkable.

What is the lesson in this? Well, it may come hard on you or your family some time when the health department requires certain things of you.

It may be that they wish to quarantine your home, to isolate you from your fellows, to take a swab from your throat, examine your blood or urine, or any one of a number of things to safeguard your family, and your fellow citizens.

It isn't always pleasant, easy, or convenient to comply, but in the light of the figures which your responsible health department can supply you with the mass of evidence at their disposal, you will not find it so hard to be reasonable in the matter.

The golden rule here makes for success in health administration just as it makes for success anywhere else.

Character Reading. The turned-up or retrousse nose shows a love of pleasure and a perfect genius of making other people happy simply through their own joyfulness and love of life. It's owner may be a little selfishly inclined, but more from want of thought than true self-indulgence.

Snub Nose.—We generally find that the snub nose goes with a humorous and impulsive nature also its owner will have a very plucky outlook on life in general.

Daily Selections FOR Guardian Readers

April 6, 1925

AN UNLIMITED SUPPLY:—If I abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. John 15:7.

PRAYER:—Our Father, with confidence we come to Thee, for with Christ Thou wilt also freely give us all things.

A THOUGHT

What is the sound borne on the wind, This sense-of-mystery, This spirit-touch that sends a thrill into the heart of me? Oh 'tis a thought breathed by a friend Into the evening air; On swift wings it flew to me, Like an echo of a prayer. Across the white sea foam it came, On wind o'er land and sea. Until it touched a trembling chord Within the soul of me. I wakened to that gentle touch, And opened wide the door Of thoughtland to my dearest friend Upon that other shore. Then back upon the wings of thought That bridge those miles of foam, I sent a message back to her, The friend I love at home. Oh blessed thought! that time or space Your power cannot control; You fly through spaces limitless While soul speaks unto soul. For Sores Feet—Minard's Liniment.

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The Public Forum

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

A PROBLEM IN ARITHMETIC

Sir,—In the Patriot of April 1st a "Layman" at Alberton suggests a remedy for the distribution of Church property according to claims and advises either party to buy or sell. This is the proper method in ordinary business transactions. When it comes to a situation as we have at Montague it is hard to figure out and easier said than done. Votes polled at Montague: 124 for Union and 104 against. The congregation includes 148 families, 16 votes out and 102 remain Union and hold the property. About one-half of the 46 that voted out came to Montague long after the property was built and paid for, and they are the biggest pull to hold the property, which is worth at least \$6,000.00. How much should either party receive from the other in matter of sale? I am, Sir, etc., A PUZZLED LAYMAN Montague.

RURAL SCHOOLS

Sir,—The speeches delivered by the members of the House are always read with more than passing interest, especially those of the Government members speaking on the draft address, as they ably review the past and foreshadow the contemplated work for the future. As public speeches made by public men, they are open to public comment. And those of the present session come in for a liberal share, particularly that part dealing with education. With all due respect to our esteemed Premier and his colleagues I claim the privilege of also making a few comments on this subject. Quoting from the Premier's speech in part, "We are paying fully too much for our education in proportion to the value we are receiving, and as a result of the statute passed in 1920 we have first class teachers in very small schools where they are not earning second or third class pay so far as the amount of work is concerned. And, in practically all the ungraded schools in this Province, second grade teachers, if they have the teaching ability, will do just as thorough and as efficient work as the first class teachers. The most they do is prepare students for the Prince of Wales College, and a second grade teacher has the knowledge to do that just as well. That there are two many schools, with an average ranging from ten to fifteen pupils, where the teacher cannot earn the salary he is paid." From those districts comes the retort courteous, Legislation is costing the Province too much, and that there are scores of others besides the teachers who do not earn the salary they are paid. Why attack the defenceless small school and its inoffensive teacher? Why are not the pupils, who happen to belong to a school with an average of ten or fifteen, entitled to as good a teacher as those that belong to larger or a graded school? The rate payers of many of those small schools, are at present cheerfully paying a high rate of school tax, to get the benefit of a first class teacher, and consider that they are getting good value. Without casting reflection on the ability of any teacher, it is ungracious

to think that a second or third class teacher can do the work in any school as good as a first-class teacher. Who knows but those small schools are educating a village Hampden or a Milton. From schools like those some of our best and ablest men have sprung. One of the greatest statesmen the Empire has ever known, received his early education in a small school in a little Welsh hamlet, and if this Province in our day and generation could produce one like him the cost of education would be considered small. The birth rate of our school districts is not, as yet, controlled by Act of Parliament, and the school that would be qualified by numbers for a graded school one year, might be reduced to a small one the next and this cause an incessant change of teachers and grades. And even if first-class teachers did nothing more than prepare students for the Prince of Wales College, they gave good value, for that College is the gateway through which all students pass who take up higher professions. The majority of those who successfully pass the entrance examinations to that college have had the benefit of first-class teachers. But they do more than that, they are freely imparting their higher knowledge, laying the foundation and expanding the mind of the young students so that when they enter college they will be more capable of learning and conquering the higher branches. If there is any sound of complaint it is not because we have first-class teachers in our small country schools. The country halls with delight the effort made to reduce the cost of school books. But any proposal to relegate to the past, the readers now in use, and thereby incur additional expense will not meet general approval. We sincerely thank His Honor, Lieutenant-Governor Hertzog for his gift towards school grounds for during the past year much improvement has been made on country school grounds and buildings, the expense being borne by the ratepayers, with the substantial aid and co-operation of the Women's Institutes, and any measure tending to lower the grade of any of those small schools will be met by

the opposition of these strong and influential societies. I am, Sir, etc., NEW PERTH TEACHERS' SALARIES Sir,—Will you kindly give space

in your paper for a few remarks in re Teachers' Salaries. No doubt a great many of our leading teachers are surprised that the members of the Legislature should attract attention to reduce their salaries instead of (Continued on Page 5)

Let Us Help You Cure That Cold For many days you have been troubled with that dry hard cough—your head aches and you sometimes find yourself in a bath of perspiration after very little exertion.

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