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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.

KING'S COUNTY AFFAIRS

Sir.—The Patriot in its issue of the 11th inst. publishes copies of two letters which Mr. J. Johnston, K.C., received from Mr. W.E. Hyndman, District Engineer, and copies of several letters which Mr. Johnston received from the Public Works Department, Ottawa. These letters prove that Mr. Johnston has had the patronage of King's County the past two years. They also prove that he is in close touch and communication with the Government at Ottawa. Mr. Johnston is therefore clearly responsible for the neglected and dilapidated condition of the Public Works in this County at the present time.

The Federal Government is constructing three potato warehouses—one in each County this year and each of these three warehouses costs almost exactly the same amount of money. For purposes of comparison the potato warehouses can therefore be eliminated. From the tortuous course pursued by the Patriot and Mr. Johnston in respect to the potato warehouse at Georgetown, it might be difficult to tell at all times whether they were for or against its construction, but one thing is certain public opinion has already decided who obtained this useful much-needed and long-delayed public work. With respect to the painting and repairing of the three public buildings in King's County, this is departmental routine work, and in all probability these buildings would have been painted if Mr. Johnston had been a resident of Tinian, during the past two years.

I might here mention that the sum of \$8,000 was voted for public buildings in Queens County and \$12,000 in Prince County this year. With respect to the works in the harbors and rivers, this is where the Representative can use his influence if he wishes, and now let

us see how King's County has fared under Mr. Johnston's regime. To illustrate we will take this present year 1927. The Public Works Department asked Parliament to vote and Parliament voted the following sums for Prince County, Miramichi—Breakwater reconstruction \$10,000. Tignish—repairs to harbor works, \$6,309. West Point—wharf repairs, \$6,800. Egmont Bay—wharf repairs \$11,000. Jude's Point—wharf extension, dredging \$8,600. \$33,300

The Public Works Department asked Parliament to vote, and Parliament voted the following sums for Queens County: New London, Harbor improvements \$15,700. Pilette Wharf repairs \$1,500. Southport Wharf repairs \$1,500. Bellist Wharf repairs \$2,500. Charlottetown, Reconstruction of Railway wharf \$50,000. Rustico Harbor, Breakwater repairs \$12,000. Stanley Bridge, To purchase wharf \$4,000. \$87,500

The Public Works Department asked Parliament to vote, and Parliament voted the following sum for King's County: Naurage Harbor—Repairs to breakwater and bridge \$1,000. In addition Parliament voted \$10,000 for Harbors and Rivers generally in Prince Edward Island—and the Summerside Pioneer states that out of this \$10,000, Mr. McLean got \$3,000 for Prince, Mr. Johnston appears to have gotten about \$4,000 for Kings, and the balance goes to Queens, I presume.

King's County has certainly been well looked after! And even the \$4,000 that it received from the general vote was due I believe, to the efforts of the Resident Engineer, who naturally did not wish to let the Public Works of the County be destroyed altogether, and due also to the efforts of the people themselves in several localities, who decided to remain silent and is getting nothing at all? It looks longer under such gross discrimination.

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And now a word with respect to Souris harbor. In 1925 Parliament voted \$30,000 to repair and strengthen the Souris breakwater. The contract was let, but the work was not done that year because of the serious illness of the Contractor's partner. Somebody has prevented that vote being placed in the estimates every year since. I wonder who that somebody is? I wonder whether the Patriot or Mr. Johnston could tell us About \$1,200 was spent this year on this work, when it would take about \$50,000 to make it safe, and on the Souris breakwater depends the town of Souris.

The Patriot tells us that \$250 is to be spent on the wharf at McPherson's Cove. And it would take at least \$3,000 to put it in proper shape and make it safe for business. The Patriot intimates that this expenditure is made because Mr. Johnston is interested in the temporal welfare of the people of that locality. I wonder how much would be spent on this wharf if Mr. Johnston were displeased with the people of Launching? Mr. Johnston must be displeased with the people of St. Georges, because nothing at all is being spent on the wharf at Chapel Point, and it too is in very bad shape.

And now we come to Graham's Pond. The Patriot tells us that the sum of \$1,250 will be spent there this fall. Well, it would take \$2,700 of \$28,000 to put this boat harbor in proper shape and make it safe but \$1,250 may save it from the storms this year. But what so to in the efforts of the people about Murray-Harbor North Wharf, which certainly needs repairs, and who decided to remain silent and is getting nothing at all? It looks longer under such gross discrimination as if Mr. Johnston was not interested in either the spiritual or temporal welfare of the people of that locality.

Our next stopping place is Montague. The Patriot tells us that \$1,000 will be spent on Lambert's Wharf there. It would take \$1,500 to put that wharf in proper shape, but \$1,000 will make considerable improvements. This must be Mr. Johnston's favorite place. He must like the people of Montague at least ten times better than he likes the people of any other place in King's County. By Mr. Johnston is rather changeable in his likes and dislikes, so the people of Montague will have to be careful and walk circumspectly. Who would have thought that the Steam pack service between Southern Kings and Pictou, New Glasgow, which had been in existence for more than 30 years would disappear so soon after Mr. Johnston obtained power?

Mr. Sinclair tried to get this Service wiped out in 1924, but failed. It soon went by the board after Mr. Johnston ascended the throne. Sometime ago, the Patriot told us that Kings County was safe in the hands of the Liberal leaders, meaning, of course, the Liberal leaders of Queen's County. The Patriot seems to have strange ideas of safety. I wonder what could be done to King's County, that the Patriot would call injustice.

Some few years ago the so-called Liberal leaders of Queens resolved to make a doormat of Kings. In order to carry out their plans properly, they decided that no Liberal resident of Kings would ever again represent that county in the House of Commons at Ottawa, but that one of their own number would fill that position. They also decided that any person or place that opposed their schemes would be destroyed, or at all events, would feel the full weight of their wrath. The Patriot became the mouth-piece of this clique, and has labored hard in their interests since. It seems to think that it has to live up to whatever agreement it then made.

In am, Sir, etc. KING'S COUNTY



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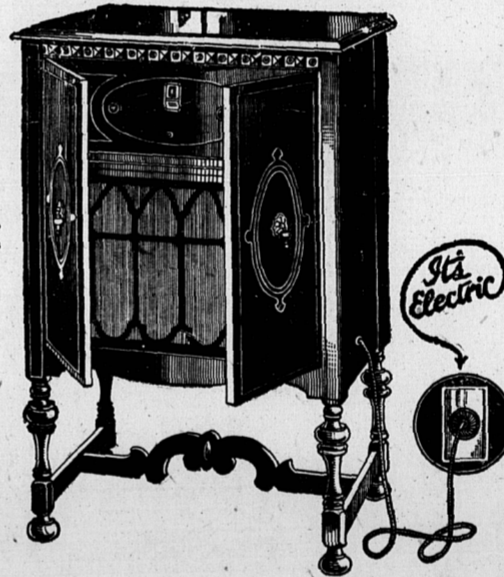
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