

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1924

26 NEW RAILWAYS!

According to the Guardian's Canadian Press despatches yesterday Hon. G. P. Graham, Minister of Railways, intends to introduce 26 separate bills for new railway branch lines. There are one or more branch lines for every province in Canada except Prince Edward Island.

These bills were "jumped" in one last year and the Senate, recognizing them all as purely political, refused to sanction the bill, thus saving the country probably \$100,000,000. This year the King government has adopted a shrewder way. Few members, Liberal, Conservative or Progressive, will vote against a new branch line in his own constituency or even in his own province. By the "scratch-my-back and I'll scratch-yours" process members are expected to help each other to secure their respective branch lines and so demonstrate their usefulness to their constituencies.

In all probability the Senate will again reject those political branch lines but the onus will be upon the Senate and that body having a Conservative majority, the onus of rejection will automatically fall upon the Conservative party. This is the Liberal trick, the deliberately planned plot of the Liberal party to buy up constituencies with the money arising out of the hard earned incomes of overtaxed men and starving industries.

The St. John Globe had the courage recently to declare that the building of one of those branches in the province of New Brunswick would be absolute waste of public money. This is true of practically every one of the proposed branches but the promise to build them will, the hard pressed King government expects, help some struggling Liberal candidate at the next election and help defeat any Conservative candidate who dares to oppose it.

Canada is today suffering as never before under a burden of debt and taxation; its people have been driven out of employment by tariff tinkering and the bartering away of the country's interests for support which the country refused it. How long will the people stand for it?

ECONOMIZING

The federal government has decided that, just at present, economy, like discretion, is the better part of valor. They had hints from many parts of the country that economy was imperative. And so they have cut down the estimate by some \$27,000,000 and forthwith we have many of the smaller Liberal papers singing in chorus about the great economy that is about to be perpetrated! Taxes will be reduced, the cost of living will come down with a thud and the people will stop running away to the United States!

Well, what is this great drop in the estimates? \$19,000,000 is cut off the railway expenditures. This was made possible by certain economies practised by Sir Henry Thornton in the operating expenses of the railway. In other words Sir Henry will not need as much help from the government as he did last year. So this will not have any effect upon the poor taxpayer.

From the various bonuses, pensions and other helps to the soldiers they have cut off \$6,114,996. The agricultural grant amounting to \$1,269,000 has been abolished. This is nearly \$27,000,000. The other two millions are shaved off different grants. And this is all! The farmers and the soldiers are the only ones who are sharing in the great economy and their share is to go without! And the different constituencies are promised their usual political prices in political wharves and breakwaters, the ministerial salaries are as big as ever, the \$4,000 indemnity, the only give that is now holding the two wings of the party together, is in fact. This is Liberal economy!

NOTES BY THE WAY

Those Wet Provinces—how are they getting along? We mean, of course, Quebec, British Columbia, and now Alberta. They all have government control of the liquor business. One by one they saw that there was money in the liquor business and the politicians like to have money to spend. And the result proved that revenue for the Province could be obtained in this way. Did not Quebec last year net over four million and a quarter and British Columbia anywhere from a million to a million and a quarter in this way clear off all expenses? Surely they did.

But that is not the whole story. They had surpluses in their treasuries—according to the annual statements submitted to the Legislatures. But about those surpluses we may inquire further. You know the old rhyme: "A sea-horse is a sea-horse if you see him in the sea. But if you see him in a bay, a bay horse he must be." It is much the same with a surplus, so much depends upon where and how you find it. A surplus that pays debts and reduces taxes is a fine thing. But what is the value of a surplus if it is buried under growing debts and higher taxes? That's a horse of another color.

That was the way with the surplus in Quebec. The debt of Quebec was doubled between 1918 and the end of 1923. At the end of 1918 Quebec debt was alarming. It was \$42,891,544. At the end of 1923 it was \$87,961,632! And the provincial taxes increased from year to year. The debt increased by over seven million dollars a year and the taxes were mounting upward while the people were being told that the Province was growing rich from liquor revenues!

How was it with British Columbia? The Pacific Province had on 31st, March, 1917 a total indebtedness of \$25,565,869. That surely was formidable, for a Province with a population of half a million. Six year later March 1923, her total liabilities were \$73,315,689, an increase of over Seven Millions of Dollars a year, thus almost doubling the provincial debt in the period above specified. This was even worse than Quebec. But British Columbia, like Quebec was having some book-keeping surpluses, along with growing taxes at the time her debt was growing at such an alarming pace.

Alberta has only lately joined the group of Wet Provinces, as the result of a costly plebiscite. Her debt was already formidable. It now totals some \$75,000,000. It is a curious thing about debt in this connection that it has both a push and a pull, at once to shove and pull a Province into the wet column. The lure is the prospect of easy revenue to pay interest on the debt. The push is the debt and the taxation caused by debt and expenditure. Yet every Province which has sought the aid of liquor revenues to balance its budget has invariably become more lavish in needless outlay and has plunged more madly into debt.

It is painfully true that the Governments both federal and provincial have been spending money like drunken sailors since the war, on themselves, their supporters, favorites and satellites. Among the Provincial Governments those in the wet column have been leaders. Liquor revenues are easily gained and are expended with a lavish hand according to the byword, "Come Easy, Go Easy." And demoralisation always follows in its train.

The example of the Wet Provinces should be a warning to those that are yet Dry. Revenue obtained by a Province from liquor is delusive, just as the whiskey drunk by a poor man and which makes him for the time feel richer than before is delusive. The individual is not richer than he was before he imbibed, nor is the Province richer for its liquor revenues. It is hard to conceive of a sober and thoughtful legislator who would deliberately vote to put a sober Province into the wet column, although after a few drinks of the ardent he might take that responsibility.

There was once a ship ready to be launched. A great crowd had gathered to see the sight at the appointed time. But something had gone wrong with or under the launching ways. The launch must



That Body of Hours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

IODINE IN THE DRINKING WATER

A medical health officer of a large city in the United States, has lately started the people of that city by his proposal to put some iodine in the drinking water supply. As you know, many cities are using chlorine in the water to prevent intestinal trouble.

The idea of putting iodine into the drinking water is to prevent goitre. Goitre is that enlargement in the front of the neck that is seen so frequently nowadays. It may be just a simple enlargement giving little or no trouble, or it may be setting up complications affecting the heart, eyes, nerves, and the general tone of the body.

The health officer states that where iodine is a regular ingredient in the water supply, goitre is unknown. That people who live on a diet of fish are likewise free from goitre. He feels that as goitre is prevalent in his city, and that the water, though pure, is deficient in iodine, therefore he proposes to prevent goitre by putting iodine directly into the water.

Now this sounds all right, and there can be no question now but that iodine is our best remedy in this condition. What has been the result of his suggestion?

Other cities of the medical health officers of other cities are being asked what they think about it, and whether or not they will follow the example of their brother medical officer. Those who say anything say that while it might suit this other place, and the ideas of this other medical officer, it would not suit them.

Why? Because just a very small percentage of the people have goitre, or have the tendency toward it, and so why subject the entire population to the effects of iodine upon their system.

Iodine is like any other drug. It has its uses where there are enlarged glands, and other swellings about the body. It also has a whole-some effect upon the blood in some conditions. But it is a drug and would have a harmful effect upon the system generally, especially if an overdose were put in the supply. And just as with other drugs, an ordinary dose might cause severe illness or even death in some cases.

For instance, one person might experience a peculiar restlessness that he could not understand. Another would have frequent vomiting spells and severe purging, similar to that caused by over-ripe or green fruit. With others the heart would feel as if it were trying to jump out of the body. You can readily see that iodine would be up against some distressing, but interesting cases. The fact that breweries and home brewers know that iodine would prevent the proper manufacture of beer may cause some opposition to his scheme.

The point however is interesting because it is well for the people to know that iodine is a preventive of, and a remedy for goitre.

ISLE OF REST

The following exquisite lines by Charlottetown's talented writer, Lucy Gertrude Clarkin appeared in a recent issue of the Montreal Daily Star. Thou art beloved of sun and sea—Of silvery night—of glowing moon; And 'round about thee tenderly, The summer breezes croon. Thou'rt robed in tranquil loveliness—Of birchen groves and ferny bowers;—Of streams that hold the skies' And fragrant wayside flowers. No towering mountain heights are thine,—No canyons—no forests wild And yet thy charms, like ancient legends, Are potent seeming mild. Whose feet have pressed they velvet strand, Or crossed thy clover-scented May seek for gold in any land, But wearied come to thee. —Lucy Gertrude Clarkin, Charlottetown.

There are a few, not many we trust, who would be willing to take the responsibility of repealing the Prohibitory Law in our fair Province and substituting a free sale of liquor "under Government control." No doubt some of these are honest as well as sober, in their convictions, unlike the man at the launch. But the time has not yet come for any man, or any Government to take that responsibility.

The Public Forum

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

THAT WITHDRAWAL FROM CAPITAL EXPLAINED

Sir,—Mr. J. S. Blanchard, First Prince, stated in the Provincial Legislature on the 14th instant, that the Province lost \$10,000 a year in interest and altogether about one million dollars by the withdrawal of \$200,000 from our City Capital at Ottawa by the Sullivan Government in 1886. But he forgot to mention that the Liberals concurred, as the Act empowering the Government to withdraw this amount and which was passed by the House of Assembly, had also to be passed in the Legislature before becoming law, and as the Liberals were in the majority in the Council, Mr. Blanchard if he wished to be consistent, should condemn his new found friends, the Liberals (for he was a good loyal Tory at this time) as well as the Liberal Conservatives for the withdrawal from Capital. But did the Province lose \$10,000 a year in consequence of the withdrawal from Capital? The only correct answer to this question is no, as at this time the leader of the Government the late Sir W. Wilfred Sullivan, went as a delegate to Ottawa to press our claims for an increase in our subsidy and was successful in getting an increase of \$20,000 per year. So if you deduct the \$10,000 lost by the withdrawal, from the \$20,000 additional subsidy you have \$10,000 remaining, which proves conclusively that subsidy at Ottawa was not decreased in the least by the withdrawal referred to, and should Mr. Blanchard or any one else dispute this fact the evidence of its correctness can be found in the Public Accounts of the Province, which show that \$10,000 has been paid the Province half yearly—\$20,000 per year since 1887.

I am Sir, etc. OBSERVER

NOTES TAKEN ON A TRIP

Sir—As I am taking a trip by C.P.R. to California and return, I thought it might be of interest to your readers if I send you a few notes of things I saw from the car window on my journey. I need not dwell on the familiar scenes of P.E. Island, the tidy farms and home-crofts, with wireless installed here and there, the many fox ranches, where the reds and blacks are raised to perfection, the German guns here and there, during the part taken by our brave boys in the Great War. The Straits were full of ice, through which the port of Prince Edward ploughed his way almost noiselessly, turning up an edge great cakes of ice, apparently two feet thick, and reaching Cape Tormentine in about one hour and a half. I will here mention an incident which took place on the boat. A young man was taking his

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CHURCH UNION.

Sir—The Church Union Bill will soon be before our local legislature. In order that the public generally may have a clear idea of the scope and purpose of the Bill, would you kindly publish the enclosed statement which appeared in a recent issue of the Montreal Star. It is in simple untechnical language and will be read with interest by many. I am, Sir, etc. G. A. Christie, W. M. Ryan, Joint Chairman of Sub-Committee on Legislation.

(Enclosure.)

The Church Union Committee for the Province of Quebec has issued the following statements on the

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Daily Selections FOR Guardian Readers

TWO DAYS

By ALEX THORN

Sweet winds calling from the pine clad hilltop, Dappled sky a-bending o'er a river blue, Part of June and laughter in a garden hidden, And Summer and her glory in my heart sings too. Piping winds and snowflakes flying o'er the meadows, wears, dark the bending sky; Yet the springtime's gladness in a child's eyes lingers— All it hope and promise, who so glad as I?

Your Birthday

MARCH 27.—You care a great deal for pleasure and enjoyment, but always endeavor to have someone share it with you. You are original, courageous, but rather reserved. You have a keen sense of humor, are popular among your friends and acquaintances, and very happy in your home life. Your birthstone is a bloodstone, which means presence of mind. Your flower is a violet. Your lucky color is white.

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Lest We Forget

THURSDAY, MARCH 27 LORD BALTIMORE

(George Calvert) English statesman and explorer, founder of Maryland, planted the first colony in what is now that state on March 27, 1634, at the mouth of the Potomac River. His name is perpetuated by that of the city of Baltimore.

LOUIS XVII

Titular King of France, the son of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, was born at Versailles on March 27, 1785. Imprisoned upon the abolition of the monarchy in the French Revolution, he was proclaimed king by the emigres in 1793, but died in prison.

JOHN BRIGHT

Distinguished English liberal statesman and one of the foremost orators of his day, died in Lambeth, England, March 27, 1889. He was a conspicuous member of the House of Commons for nearly forty years, was an ardent Nonconformist and a Free Trader, and was interested in nearly every liberal movement of his time.

PETRUS JACOBUS JOUBERT

Famous Boer general and statesman, for a time commander-in-chief of the Boer forces in the last war with England, died at Pretoria, March 27, 1900. He was twice acting president of the South African Republic.

COL. THOS. CARLETON

When New Brunswick was separated from Nova Scotia and made a province in 1784, Col. Thomas Carleton, a brother of Sir Guy Carleton, was made governor, and he held the post for thirty years. New Brunswick consisted of 16,000 people, 12,000 of them Loyalists. Col. Carleton was disatisfied with Parr Town (now St. John) as a capital, and selected St. Anne's Point for the new site of government, naming it Fredericton, in honor of the Duke of York. There was only one trail between New Brunswick and Canada, at that time, and when Col. Carleton heard of the illness of his brother, at Quebec he set out on snowshoes on the 400 mile trip through the woods to visit him and so sparsely settled was the district between that he slept eight nights in the open. On this day in 1848 Fredericton was incorporated as a city. It remains the provincial capital, and is a thriving city and the home of the provincial University.

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