# THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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*"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink."*

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 1939


## Again They Bungled!

On April 27th attention was called in these columns to the provision in The Election Act under which three private members of the last Legislature were plainly disqualified by having sat and voted in the House while drawing salaries in government offices. It was pointed out they should have resigned their seats when they accepted these salaried positions, and that by-elections should have been called to fill their places.

The Government organ denied that this was the law and promised to enlighten the public in the matter before the date of the election. Since that time every opportunity has been given it to come forward with explanation, but it has not done so. In the meantime the King's Printer, who is a member of the Patriot staff, has issued for general use copies of The Election Act with amendments to 1938. A reference to Section 13 of that Act as issued by the King's Printer will show it to be precisely in the words quoted by us on April 27.

We have been waiting in the expectation that the Government organ would come out with its alibi under Sec. 20 of an Act passed at the last legislative session, "respecting the various departments of the Public Service." Evidently the Government press is saving this for an election-eve roorback. We shall therefore deal with it now so that the public may have full opportunity of studying both its purpose and provisions. Its purpose can be explained in a few words. It is an obvious attempt to whitewash the bungling amendments previously introduced to The Election Act, with regard to the appointments of Messrs. Trainor, Acorn and Gallant as Clerk of the Legislature and members of the Fishermen's Loan Board respectively.

In the mimeographed copy of the Public Service Act introduced last session, Sec 20 read: "Nothing in any statute of the Province shall render any member of the Assembly inelegible as a member thereof or disqualify him to sit or vote therein by reason of his being paid the sum mentioned in Sec. 19". (Sec. 19 states that each member of the Assembly shall be paid the sum of $400 for each session thereof attended by him and the Speaker shall get an additional $200.)

When this section came through committee we find it greatly changed and reading in these words: "Nothing *to the contrary contained* in any statute of this Province shall render *or shall have rendered* any person inelegible as a member of the Assembly nor shall disqualify *or shall have disqualified* him to sit or vote therein by reason of his being paid the sum mentioned in Sec. 19 of this Act *nor by reason of his holding any of the following offices that is to say member of the Treasury Board, member of the Fishermen's Loan Board, Law Clerk of the Legislative Assembly or Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.*"

This is the section as it finally emerged, with no questions being asked or explanation given as to why the amendments were inserted.

In this we have the third attempt to patch up the bungling they made in the fall session of 1935 and again in 1937, when they rode roughshod through the law safeguarding the independence of Parliament. It confirms our interpretation of the Election Act, and reveals their own awareness of the fact that the Act had been violated. Otherwise, why this belated and furtive amendment in a statute not dealing with elections at all?

But in this final attempt to patch things up they bungled again. For it is the receipt of salaries from the Government or Legislature that is the disqualifying factor in this case, not the holding of such positions. All that the hurried amendment to the Public Service Act did was permit Messrs. Trainor, Acorn and Gallant to draw their sessional indemnities while serving as Legislative Clerk or Fishermen's Loan Board members. *It did not entitle them to draw one cent over and above the* $400 *due them as representatives.* They are still disqualified under the Election Act for the whole period during which they sat and voted while drawing their extra salaries!

## The Globe's Warning

It is timely on this occasion to recall the solemn warning which that great Liberal paper, the Toronto *Globe*, sounded in connection with the advent to power in this Province of the Government now facing the electors.

The Globe editorial appeared immediately after the last electino. It asked, in amazement, "What has Prince Edward Island done?" One of the greatest arguments of defenders of the democratic system, it said, has been the contention that the minority as well as the majority has a voice in Parliament. Prince Edward Island had swept aside that argument, but the *Globe* suggested that it would be wise for the Liberal Government either to appoint an Opposition, or ask the Lieutenant Governor to select one or more members to act as official "critics" to analyze all legislation brought before the Assembly.

"The value of an Opposition under the democratic system," said the Globe, "has not been in opposing legislation, but in bringing out in *debate any actions of the Government that might be concealed.*" It was a moot question in the Globe's opinion, whether *"democracy has not been destroyed because the Opposition has been lost."* To that and other questions which the situation created, *"Prince Edward Island will be able to give definite answer when it returns to the polls again."*

"In the meantime," said the Globe, "the fact that must be faced is that no Opposition is in the Assembly to represent a *very substantial minority group.* From an aggregate count of the voted taken after the first complete returns, the Liberals carried thirty seats with 46,461 ballots, while the Conservatives, without a seat, amassed 34,108 votes. As was indicated by the narrow margin given to several successful Liberals, unfortunate circumstance that prevented a few more Conservative votes being concentrated in several districts was all that separated victory from defeat. *By the figures themselves the Liberals were IN NO WISE ENTITLED TO THE ABSOLUTE RULE THEY OBTAINED.*"

Consequently, said the Globe, the Liberal leader was shouldering "one of the greatest burdens of responsibility ever carried by a Provincial Premier. It will therefore be his duty, if for no better reason than the future of his Party and the democratic system, *to see that every action of his Government IS TAKEN IN FULL VIEW OF THE ELECTORATE, and that every piece of legislation is clearly and reasonably in the interests of the people as a whole.*"

There was no excuse, therefore, for the Campbell Government in following the contrary course of exploiting its unique position by keeping the electors in the dark, and legislating, not "clearly and reasonably in the interests of the people as a whole" but in their own selfish interests. They were warned of the consequences, and many of their supporters must often have regretted the manner in which that warning was ignored.

## Law Unto Themselves

Highly characteristic of the Campbell Government is its organ's comment, "bunkum," on the Conservative pledge to restore to our citizens their right of appeal to the Courts of Justice.

Premier Campbell, in dealing with this issue in a recent speech, argued that if our farmers were allowed access to the Courts in land expropriation cases, they and their witnesses would give false evidence with regard to land values. In other words, they would perjure themselves on a wholesale scale; and for that reason they should not be permitted the right of every common criminal in the dock, of giving evidence on their own behalf!

The Courts, too, in the opinion of the Campbell Government, are incompetent to decide in such matters. They too, by inference, are in league with our farmers in subverting the ends of justice, and must be shorn of their jurisdiction.

In the humble opinion of Premier Campbell, Mr. McIntyre, Mr. LePage and their cabinet colleagues, they themselves are the only persons in this Province who are competent to assess land values, and render fair and impartial judgment thereon!

A striking instance of their competency and impartiality was given by Dr. MacMillan when he referred to the statement of another Mr. LePage, who boasted on a public platform that he had obtained an extra $200 for a dissatisfied landowner by appealing personally to his brother, the President of the Executive Council. Either the initial award by the Campbell Government in this case was unjust, or gross favoritism was shown by Hon. Mr. LePage to his brother's friend. In any case, it throws a revealing light on the manner in which land values are decided and the taxpayers' money spent under the present regime.

## Editorial Notes

Charles II proclaimed King this date, 1660.

* * * *

Liberal ex-members evidently afraid to face the music.

* * * *

Their Majesties have now their "home on the rolling deep."

* * * *

May we remind Premier Campbell that "those who live in glass houses should not throw stones"—even in political speeches.

* * * *

Premier Campbell is completely stumped on the road contracts and unpaid accounts—how to reconcile the 1938 rate with the 1939 rate for the same contracts.

* * *

His Honour Lieutenant Governor Patenaude of Quebec will be the first to officially welcome the King and Queen on landing on Canadian soil. They are not strangers, for like our own Lieut. Governor, they met at the Coronation.

* * * *

The Empire Press Union, of which Lord Astor, proprietor of the London Times, is the President, will visit Charlottetown in 1940, and have already tentatively engaged accommodation for over 100 guests at the Charlottetown Hotel here for the week end of July 27.

* * * *

Plenty organization will be necessary to handle the crowds in Charlottetown on June 14—for there will be 50,000, or 60,000 people here from all over the Province as well as from the mainland to welcome Their Majesties. Children will be in the forefront, and will require to be temporarily housed and fed as well as provided with suitably safe positions to see the procession.

## NOTES BY THE WAY

**As another proof of the American talent for organization comes Nathaniel Leverone, president of the Anti-Superstition Society of Chicago. It seems that all the business about black cats and spilling salt is the bunk, and the Anti-Superstition Society is out to prove it and indict superstition on, say, 13 counts. We are glad to see such important work move forward. Pooh! Pooh! We aren't afraid of cats or ladders (although it is just as easy to walk around them). And so nobody else ought to have the thrill of beating a jinx. We have got along splendidly defying superstition; but, just in case we are bragging too much, maybe we had better knock on wood. — Kansas City Star.**

**The greatest reproach to civilization today is the things we are doing to the children. If the world is full of fear, hatred, insecurity and want, grown-up people have no one to blame but themselves. The children are innocent. It is not their fault that they die under bombs in China, that they starve in Spain, or that they are clapped into uniform and taught the goose-step in a dozen countries while they are yet babies. Britain, which had a feeling of security until last September, is now providing gas-masks for children. Officials are advising people that every effort must be made to accustom babies to the helmets. They suggest that mothers play peek-a-boo with their babies through the mica windows. A thousands years of vaunted human progress—so that mothers may play peek-a-boo with their babies through the mica windows of a gas mask! — Winnipeg Tribune.**

**Good will is the very essence of trade. That is why Premier "Mitch" Hepburn of Ontario is doing the industries of his province such a dis-service. Every time he rises up on his hind legs to bray about the West milking the East he arouses the risibilities of Western buyers of the products of Eastern factories. Though they may not admit it, these Western buyers are thinking up ways and means to pay Mr. Hepburn and his province back. We have heard many Westerners express the opinion that if Ontario can get along without us we can get along without Ontario. Sectionalism? Yes. But Mr. Hepburn must accept a large share of the blame for fostering it to the point where people of the West would prefer to use Western sugar, Western canned goods, Western textiles and clothing and the like to the products imported from the factories in Mr. Hepburn's province. — Lethbridge Herald.**

**Ontario's forest peril is shown in the fact that an average of 1,700 forest fires are let loose each year. This appears to be a gross indictment to human carelessness but the figures prove also that those who use the woods for recreation or for labor are becoming steadily more cautious and careful. Campers and smokers start less than two-fifths of the conflagrations. Lightning is charged with another fifth. In 1937, incendiarism ran up a serious total and accounted for 43 percent. of the whole area burned by fires of known origin other than lightning. While the legitimate seeker after recreation, or the workman bent on his daily labor, are more and more disposed to protect Ontario's forest resources from waste by fire, the problem of the Forest Service is complicated by the hazards of the human fire-bug and by lightning. The latter is beyond perdiction, but incendiarism has now become a major menace to life and property — Canadian Forestry Association.**

**A German convinced of encirclement might be a more dangerous neighbor than a Germany intent on expansion—because, as German leaders have remarked in the past, when expansionist steps were delayed, it is possible to be patient while obstacles are removed. But if a process of encirclement is under way, a nation obviously may feel it necessary to strike in time to prevent its completion.—Christion Science Monitor, Boston.**

**Third party leaders always speak derisively of the "old line parties" they love to dwell on the words as if there were opprobrium attached to them. The truth is that Canada has been wisely governed under the two-party system, because you cannot have responsible government without efficient leadership on both the government and opposition sides of federal or provincial parliament. — Coleman Journal.**

**English, politically, has little of our hyprocisy. Thus we have Mr. Chamberlain, taking time out from the international situation to demand "more subscribers" and "large funds" for his party's war chest. This in preparation for an election. If Prime Minister King or Dr. Manion were to write such an appeal, some of our good people would swoon Whether they think that elections are fought or won with prayers, we don't know, but many of them talk as if they did think it. More than that, and worse, they talk as though there was something of the gravest moral turpitude in a man giving (or a party receiving) campaign funds —Ottawa Journal.**

**Mr. Simeon Longbottom, of Ashgrove, Greengates, Bradford, England, has a chicken run overlooked by the clock in the parish church tower. The other day, an English paper solemnly assures us, one of Mr. Longbottom's Rhode Island reds laid an egg on which was plainly visible the image of the clock face. The hands, the correspondent reports points to ten minutes past ten. This tendency of hens to develop a photographic quality is dangerous and one which science should halt before it goes too far. Imagine the embarrassment of a henhouse thief if the next egg were to appear in the nest with his photographic portrait. — Calgary Albertian.**

**Il Duce, congratulated Spain's "El Caudillo" on his final victory in Spain, says he expects the ties between Italy and Spain to be "indissoluble." Wonder if General Franco regards this as a promise or a threat? — Christian Science Monitor.**

**A pipe line from Turner Valley to Fort William, it is estimated, would cost $22,000,000. But even that sum is not large if one considers the value of the oil delivered at the Atlantic seaboard for the British navy protecting Canada.—Sudbury Star.**

# Public Forum

### FREE ELECTION RIDES

Sir,—Now that the Campbell Government is offering free election rides on the Charlottetown Rocky Point ferry for Mr. LePage's benefit until after the Conservative landslide on May the eighteenth, we wonder if Mr. Horace Wright will get his people free election rides on the time honored Bedeque Ferry which he allowed the Campbell Government spendthrift aggregation to take away to help build a sixty thousand dollar golf course on those dispossessed farms over on the North Side.

I am, Sir, etc.
BEDEQUE LIBERAL.

### DIFFERENCE IN HIGHWAY COSTS

Sir:—In an editorial note you ask "taxpayers to bear in mind that according to Premier Campbell, the hard-surfaced roads that cost $4,821 per mile last year are to cost $8,966, per mile this—Election—Year And the same contractors."

Giving them credit for all the schemes of deception and electoral corruption, which they hope will save their necks from the hangman, we must not overlook the Public Works Engineer's reports, which exposes their hands and accounts for the difference.

Chief Engineer Macdonald says —(page 14) "the sections were consolidated, brought to grade, base course applied, BUT HARD SURFACED." Again "This sealed the base course and left a smooth hard base true to grade—on which to lay THE BITUMINUS MIXED MATERIAL" Then again (P. 15) "The Department decided to let pavement stand as laid until such time as need for a seal coat became apparent. The Department feels that there may be some sections that will need a seal coat in 1939, but on the whole IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO LET THE PAVEMENT STAND OVER UNTIL 1940."

**Thus it is plain that the whole trick has been to palm off unfinished mostly not half finished, roads as finished and to get a cheap name, they publish costs of those half baked half built roads in comparison with the wholly finished Highways of honest MacMillan Government.**

Another expedient, to give a "cheap" appearance, they keep the costs of surfacing and grading, in some instances greater than that of the hard surfacing, on a separate account, while in Conservative Highways both were included in the cost per mile. Closer investigation will show how much more Liberal Highways cost than those of Conservatives, and a short time perhaps this summer, will show their flimsy character.

In 1939, they propose to pay the full cost of Hard-surfacing, for vote catching, hence the $4,100 extra cost per mile.

I am Sir, etc.,
INVESTIGATOR.

### DR. T. V. GRANT THE BUGABOO

Sir:—In mid-winter, when the visionary Dr. Grant, ascribed the numerous Liberal changes of party names and policies to Conservatives I accorded him the deserved title of party "Jester." His buffoonery was no doubt the laughing stock of all Canada.

And now, according to the Patriot, he is running amuck again, and, sillier still, the Campbell Government organ publishes his escapades to further load down the stupidities of the doomed "Thirty."

Commencing he says:— "I do not like speaking to small audiences, but the Hon. member who preceeded me (Mr. Marshall) must take the blame." This is typical Liberalism, to blame some one else for their blundering, and even more typical to the people who are to tired and fed up with Liberal humbugging that they take no further interest in them, and so the empty house and "small audiences." Our Campbell Liberals are in the same plight at home, with small audiences, but have sense enough left to proclaim their dilemma, but rather to magnify their corporal's guards into overflow enthusiasts.

In a sober moment, however, he emitted a truth, quoting Mr. Weyburn, that,—"The people of this country properly regarded this Government as a do-nothing government." Then another truth, no doubt inadvertedly, slipped out,—**"Bad as the Tories are they are always defenders of democracy."** It was rather a blow to the dictators of his party, if any of them took any of his statements seriously.

It is when he talks prices that he shines in clownish vaudeville. Like Premier Campbell, he figures on the imaginary ignorance of the people, upon matters with which they are most familiar.

The Campbell statement, in excuse for $20,000 to $30,000 prodigal waste per year at Falconwood claimed that farmers knew the prices of foodstuffs were 30 per cent to 40 per cent higher than under Conservatives. But Dr. Grant in his nightmare goes further declaring that "In Prince Edward Island, prices today are five times higher than they were during the five years Tory rule.

Farmers and all others are buying foodstuffs almost daily. This is one thing upon which they have absolute unfailing knowledge. Premier Campbell says 40 per cent higher, Dr. Grant says 80 per cent higher. Is there a farmer or householder who does not know that those romancers are either ignorant of what they affirm or that they are deliberately falsifying to provide deception to fool the people.

Is there a householder in the Province who does not know of an absolute certainty, that foodstuffs on an average are actually lower (instead of higher) than under Conservatives. He says potatoes are selling for $1. What have our farmers to say to this? Perhaps the Dr. is thinking of prices charged him on his hotel or restaurant tables.

Surely the Liberal propogandists can rake up something more reliable, something less palpably stupid than this kind of bunkum to dish out to the country.

I am Sir, etc.,
LEWIS P. TANTON.

### THE PRINCIPLE OF PROHIBITION

Sir,—The Prohibition Act of this province is based upon a principle. It is the principle, recognized by the people and by the legislature, that intoxicating liquor is a poison and that its use as a beverage is therefore injurious. It is also a recognition of the fact that alcohol like other poisons, may occasionally be prescribed by a physician in case of disease or illness. The Act therefore permits the occasional and exceptional use of alcohol, though a poison, when a physician in the regular course of his practice prescribes such liquor as being necessary for the use of his patient.

It is now sixty years since this principle has been recognized and given effect to. For one-third of that period the sale of liquor for beverage use was condemned by a federal statute. For the remainder of the time, its sale for beverage purposes has been condemned by provincial law. No other law in existence has so many times been submitted to the people for their approval and disapproval. The expression of the people's will regarding legislation of this character has been declared on at least eighteen occasions.

Sales of liquor outside the provisions of this statute, by persons admittedly engaged in illicit operations and contrary to its provisions, have taken place and no doubt will take place, so long as human nature is what it is, and men are found who violate their own self-interest, disregard the solicitations and advice of their friends and well wishers, and seek opportunities for indulging in depraved appetites. Persons to cater to such appetites will be found under any system that can be devised. So long as the law forbidding such operations is reasonably well enforced against such violators, the Act will have served its purpose.

The danger of the Act lies not so much in the extent of prosecution of law violators or bootleggers, as in its administration, through sales of liquor reputedly made under its provisions.

There are some who say if the Act is negligently or improperly administered, by winking or conniving at indiscriminate sales made under its provisions for supposedly medicial purposes but really for beverage use, that the Act itself should be repealed. If there is hypocrisy in the administration of the Act so that favourites receive their intoxicating beverages from the Government's own vendors, there tends to be created a desire to have the Act repealed. Repeal, however, means a reversal of the principle long ago adopted and continuously acted upon for sixty years.

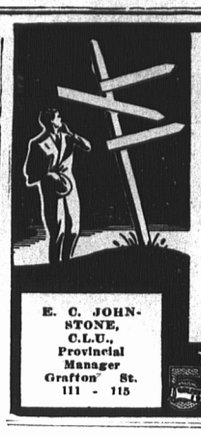
If the legislature and the people of the province have been right during the past three generations in their pronouncement against the legalized sale of alcohol for beverage use, shall this long continued attitude be reversed, because of what is regarded as hypocrisy in administration?

A few there are who seem to think the attraction of tourists for our shores would be accentuated and enhanced by a prospect of easy purchases of liquors at summer hotels and stopping-places, and would for the sake of tourists grant wide open facilities to all our people to purchase intoxicants for beverage use Such persons are anachronisms. Their outlook might accord with the days of the plodding ploughman and the days of wassail. Faithful Dobbin taking home his befuddled master with reins hanging from sagging shoulders is but a tradition to our youth of today. In the dawn of an era which sees practical steps being taken to establish systems of travel so that one may rise up in the morning at Charlottetown and be set down in the evening at Vancouver or Seattle, what room is there for the advocate of befuddlement and dulled perceptions? He was archaic even in the days of the Model T Ford.

One has but to vision the manufacture of thousands and tens of thousands of aircraft in this and other countries, at present for war but presently for peace, to realize that the supporter of liquor drinking is at a standstill and looking backward while the world is passing him. The young man who lingers at the door of a drinking shop and seeks bottle-inspiration for his faculties puts the seal of "no advancement" upon his God-given intellect and stamps himself as unfit in an age of progress.

The measures which have been taken by our people and legislature to cope with this evil and the extent to which these measures have been administered or have not been administered by the Executive of the people's will, will be referred to tomorrow.

I am, Sir, etc
W. E. BENTLEY

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## King George The Sixth

**Chapter Twenty-Two**

**"Love betters what is best."**
**—Wordsworth**

During the fall season of 1922, the name of Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, the youngest daughter of the fourteenth Earl of Strathmore, was often linked with that of the second son of the King, who was then bearing the title of the Duke of York and who is to-day King George the Sixth. Thus, she became the center of much public interest. It was known that the Duke of York was deeply in love with the beautiful Scottish girl and that these feelings were mutual. It was recalled that when she was only a child of five years of age and he was only a yeungster of ten years, they had met at a party and they made such an impression upon one another that when they again crossed paths more than thirteen years later at another party their mutual friends were startled that they recognised one another without any introduction. Thereafter, they showed keen interest in each other, and gradually this friendship blossomed into a romance. Consequently, when this charming young lady's name was linked with that of the son of Royalty, it caused surprise only in circles outside of their intimate friends and family.

They had many characteristics in common with one another which attracted them from the start. Both the Duke of York and Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon had a peculiar ability to make and retain many friends. They had the faculty of remembering faces, recognizing names and events, though much time elapsed. They were both genial company. In face of their breeding and position, they combined dignity with simplicity, and they hated every form of snobbery. They possessed similar tastes and they had a common sense of sympathy and understanding for all movements which aimed to better the welfare of the great masses of the population. These characteristics brought them together more and more.

On Saturday January 13, 1923, the Duke of York arrived for a week-end visit to St. Paul's Waldenbury, and there amidst the surroundings and environment where the beautiful Scottish girl had spent some of the happiest years of her young life, the second of the reigning monarch, who was destined by Fate to succeed to the throne himself some day, proposed marriage and she accepted him. An interesting page of history had been written. On Monday, he returned to his home in London and three days later the official Court Circular contained the announcement of the engagement. Less than a month after this episode, the late King George the Fifth summoned a special meeting of the Privy Council to approve the proposed marriage of his second son who was in direct line of succession to the throne, and this legal body gave its formal consent to the marriage between the member of the Royalty and the commoner. This action was necessary on account of the provisions of the Royal Marriage Act of 1772 which enacted that no descendant of King George the Second could enter into any marriage without the approval of the King. Of course, this was not the first time that such consent to a match between Royalty and one of the subjects of the realm had been granted since on many occasions in the history of British Royalty sons and daughters of the reigning monarch had married members of the nobility, especially where such matches would bring wealth and power to the throne through alliance, but there was no such object or purpose in this marriage. It was really the culmination of a long romance between the son of the King and a beautiful Scottish lass, whom Fate was destined to record in history as King George the Sixth and Queen Elizabeth, though this was unknown at the time of the engagement and marriage.

(continued next week)

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