

THE CHARLOTTE TOWN GUARDIAN

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Artful Dodgers

"For ways that are dark, and tricks that are vain" the Heathen Chinese has nothing on the Lea Government or its party press when it comes to concocting excuses for its failure in the matter of prohibition enforcement. When these excuses are called as being glaringly inconsistent with Liberal campaign utterances in 1927, they are repudiated as promptly as they are made, and the electors are regaled with a new and different version, improvised to suit the occasion. Here is an example, which it would be well for aspiring Liberal orators in future to paste in their hats.

On Sept. 30 Premier Lea, by way of answer to criticism that the Government had failed to implement its prohibition enforcement promises, made the following statement:

"So far as we could arrange it, enforcement was taken out of the hands of the Government, and left to the Commission which the Government helped to set up as great an extent as they could. Then if the enforcement is not as satisfactory to the people, it is as good as it can be from the Government. Beyond that we are not responsible."

If there was any doubt that this statement was intended as a formal repudiation of the Government's responsibility for prohibition enforcement, such doubt was set at rest by the Hon. Thane A. Campbell, Attorney General, who, at the Free Press meeting, October 7, stated:

"The Liberals have never interfered with the Prohibition Commission. Therefore any criticism made against the enforcement of the Act is against the Commission and does not reflect on the Government in any way."

There we have the Government's repudiation of its responsibility expressed in the plainest of language. It admits of no other interpretation, nor was any other interpretation offered until the exposure of its glaring inconsistency with the pre-election attitude of the Government, as expressed by the Patriot on June 23, 1927; in the following statement:

"Mr. Paton" (then chairman of the Prohibition Commission) "gives positive assurance that there was no interference with the Commission by Premier Stewart or his Government. This is an unexpected and authoritative confirmation of the complaints of the temperance people against his administration. This non-interference, when he should have interfered, was the soul of his offending."

Now for the second amazing volte-face—a double somersault, so to speak—calculated to bring the Government back to where it was before it got off on the wrong foot, and at the same time to throw the onus of the blunder on the Opposition. We quote from the Patriot of October 28 last:

"The Guardian's assertion that Premier Lea or the Government were 'shirking responsibility' for enforcement, will want more than a pinch of salt to make it digestible. There is nothing in it, apart from the attempt to twist a straightforward explanation into a repudiation of responsibility."

How then the public is reassured on this point, perhaps Premier Lea and his party candidate in Second Prince will get down to brass tacks and state frankly why "any criticism against the enforcement of the Act" should not be directed against the Government?

Roads and Mr. McIntyre

The Lea Government's road "policy" has been the subject of much laudatory comment in the Liberal press. This "policy" consists in macadamizing the roads with expensive power equipment and gravelling them, largely with imported material, the whole scheme being financed on borrowed money. So far as the gravelling of the main roads is concerned, most people will agree with Premier Lea when he admitted, at the annual meeting of the Associated Boards of Trade, that it was "economically unsound." As for the road machinery, the initial expense of these machines, amounting to nearly

\$100,000, has been a mere bagatelle compared with the repair bills and other expenses incurred in operating them during the past three years. They were ordered—by telephone—shortly after Mr. McIntyre assumed office. The Legislature was never consulted nor did the Minister vouchsafe any reason why this important commitment had not first been submitted to the people.

Boastful statements about the condition of the roads are the least valuable contribution which a speaker can make to a political debate. The people who use the roads are as well qualified to judge of their condition as any politician. We have had many complaints, during the summer, from motorists and farmers who had no political axes to grind, and we believe that these complaints were grounded on fact. Liberal speakers, on the contrary, claim the roads were never better in the history of the Province. We shall leave the electors to decide this question for themselves. Certainly the enormous additional expenditure on roads already constructed and put into condition by the two preceding Governments should result in some improvement. Has that improvement, if any, been commensurate with the expenditure? We submit that it has not. We submit that money has been lavishly wasted, and that a proper system of road maintenance and patrol would be a far more profitable investment than much of the work that Mr. McIntyre insisted on undertaking, without any mandate whatever from the people.

The question of mandate brings us to the road policy of the Liberal Government as set forth in its election platform of 1927. This policy was: (1) reorganization of the system of road work in the Province with a view to dividing the Island into sections, so that our roads would be efficiently maintained and full value received for every dollar; (2) continuation of the policy of constructing public works, and (3) maintenance of the improved highways by systematic dragging, as well as giving proper attention to lateral or secondary roads.

The present Government, like other Governments before it, has continued in some measure the policy of replacing bridges or concrete culverts where needed. But what has it done to implement the other features of its policy? Why, if the Government's policy was to be the extensive use of high priced power machinery and imported gravel, was not this included in its election manifesto? Surely, where an expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars of borrowed money was involved, the electors had a right to voice their opinion! But no; Mr. McIntyre had his own ideas. Those ideas he has endeavored to put into effect. He claims that they have worked out beautifully; but there are others, quite as competent judges as Mr. McIntyre in the matter of road building, who say that they are wasteful and extravagant, and that it was a sorry day for the Province when he assumed control of the public works department. One thing is certain; his policy has not been the policy enunciated by the Liberal party at the last election. He has gone out of his way to do something which he had no mandate to do; and he has neglected the work of road maintenance which was an essential part of his party's platform.

Why, if prohibition conditions are not satisfactory, asks the Liberal organ, is there no criticism from the Temperance Alliance? The answer is easy. Because the political prohibitionists in the Temperance Alliance have succeeded in ousting the sincere prohibitionists, and are now running the show as an adjunct to the Grit machine. Because the Alliance is in the pay of the Government, having received \$1200 "blood money" last year from the Prohibition Commission for

no apparent reason except for expenses incurred in electing the present Government to power. Because the president of the Temperance Alliance is president of the East Prince Liberal Association which, on the day after Mr. Mackenzie King appointed Hon. Lawrence Wilson, millionaire liquor dealer of Montreal, to the Senate, commended Mr. King in a blanket resolution covering all his policies and actions.

The silence of the Temperance Alliance at the present time is more eloquent than any words of condemnation from the opposition press.

The Great Betrayal

The Saunders-Lea Government came into power on the definite promise of giving "the boon of a banished liquor traffic." Its appeal was made in a pre-election announcement in the Patriot to "the clergymen, the Church workers, the mothers of children, the men and women whose homes have been desolated by the liquor traffic, the upholders of goodness, sobriety and truth, the Church-going people, those who feel that they are their brothers' keepers, the men and women who place principle and Christianity before party, and workers against what has proved to be the greatest evil in the world—the curse of liquor drinking."

Now the Government repudiates its promise and says that "any criticism against prohibition enforcement is against the Commission and does not reflect on the Government in any way."

Was there ever a more brazen betrayal of solemn obligations by any Government in the history of the Province?

Born With Their Socks On!

Premier Lea, at the Springfield meeting, as reported in Patriot of Oct. 16: "In Mr. McIntyre we have a man who, like myself, started in his stocking feet."

Editorial Notes

"To promote the growing of CRANBERRIES.—Liberal Election Platform, 1927.

"The door (against the liquor traffic) is now shut legally. It is only a matter of law enforcement to keep it closed tight."—Liberal Election promise, Patriot, May 25, 1927.

"Prince Edward Island is now known as a Disease Free Area, and if the common sense and sound judgment of our people prevail on election day, the Province will ere long become a Booze Free Area as well."—Patriot Election Editorial, 1927.

"Why this apathy, this indolence, in the discharge of the duties imposed by the Prohibition Act? Why do we have a Provincial Attorney General? Do we have one for ornament or use? If for use, of what service is he or his department when" etc., etc., etc.—Patriot, June 9, 1927.

The Lea Government pays much more per ton for imported gravel than it pays the farmer for hauling Island gravel, and its extensive use of power machinery deprives the farmer and the farmer's sons of working out their taxes on the roads. Isn't that a great "road policy" for a Government that has been soliciting the Bennett Government for unemployment relief?

According to some Liberal champions, the highway borrowings of the Lea Government will not come out of the people's pockets because the debt has been funded and the interest charges are being met by gasoline and automobile taxes. But if these funds were not earmarked for this purpose they would go into current revenue. In other words, current revenue is being robbed of so much a year to make good the Lea Government's borrowings for road gravelling and machinery. And after all, who are the gasoline users upon whom the tax directly falls, but the farmers?

The Patriot, on April 28, 1927, charged the Attorney General with being responsible for the enforcement of the Prohibition Act. It charged that he could not shut that

Notes By The Way

Many Guardian readers have expressed their high appreciation of the excellent report published in Thursday morning's issue of the speech delivered by the Hon. R. B. Bennett in London Wednesday evening, and to which radio fans, here and elsewhere in Canada, had been looking forward with much interest. Unfortunately in this province the reception of the speech by radio was badly blurred by local interference, through the broadcast of the regular program by one of the local broadcasting stations. This was very disappointing to radio owners, and it is to be regretted that when a speech by the Prime Minister of Canada was on the air, a speech in which the whole Empire is intensely interested, some arrangement should not have been made to prevent local interference, by a program which, however meritorious in itself, was of much less importance. The speeches of another eminent statesman, the Premier of New Zealand, attending the Imperial Conference, is to be broadcast next week, and it is hoped that the local station will either postpone their program, or make such other arrangements as will enable radio owners to hear distinctly what these statesmen have to say to the people of Canada. It would appear that the time has come that some measure of government control should be exercised over local broadcasting stations, in order that first things should be given prominence over things of less moment.

The Liberal Toronto Globe is critical of Mr. Bennett's proposals, as presented to the Imperial Conference last week, saying that "he was definite enough in using the term 'mutual advantage,' but woefully evasive in applying it in both directions." The Liberal Montreal Herald welcomes the Canadian Prime Ministers plan with enthusiasm. "By accepting it," says the Herald, "the Old Country can bring about such a renaissance of the British Empire as to ensure its cohesion and its future. Beside its destiny under such a binding principle in trade, the vast wealth and prosperity of the United States will be a mere circumstance. But if the offer is rejected, then that rejection will seal the fate of the Empire."

A bit of the Middle Ages lingers in the most modern of us. To how many of us is a black cat as innocuous as a striped tabby? Watch a New York sidewalk, says an exchange, when a noon-day crowd passes a window washer perched on a high ladder. There may be twice as much room between the ladder and the building as between its foot and the curb, but nine-tenths of the modern-minded New Yorkers will squeeze into the narrow outside passage.

The great majority of the men in Canada who are now out of work, or who may be unemployed during the coming winter, do not, or will not, want charity. They prefer to obtain a living for themselves and their family by work. Of course, in some cases, relief contributions will be necessary, but in the main the men of Canada would be happier to earn their livelihood and that of their dependents.

Give a certain type of man a suit of leather, a trick cap, a gun, a license and a shot or two, and he is ready to perpetrate such high nonsense before heaven as makes the angles weep. The average huntsman is congenitally color-blind. Cause a bit of bunting to wave in the breeze at a hundred yards and he will steady himself to bag what he conceives to be the season's first moose. A prime rose by the river's brim might even be a deer to him, so sensitive is his imagination. No huntsman is safe from another unless he has an opportunity to present a letter from his pastor.

In the modern world a nation cannot expect to hold its own, unless it encourages in the fullest way fundamental, unoriented research into the arcana of Nature, and unless it is alert to take immediate advantage of every practicable outcrop of such research.

responsibility, and that he was in duty bound to "hunt out the liquor illegally stored and sold within the Province and prosecute the offenders." The present Attorney General, in a letter to the Patriot on June 8, 1927, said: "The only way to save the Prohibition Law is to return a Government pledged to a proper and sympathetic enforcement of the Prohibition Act." Now this gentleman is seeking election on the ground that he has no responsibility whatever for the enforcement of prohibition—that the Government's policy is one

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.

THE BUILDERS OF A "WONDERFUL LITTLE CITY" WHO ARE THEY?

Sir.—Those were very complimentary words in the cablegram from the aviators: "Your wonderful little city." It makes us curious to know where in our city is wonderful? World travellers, they had seen many of the great cities of both the Old and the New World, wonderful in magnificence and splendor. But we have neither great wealth nor grandeur. We read of many "wonderful" cities in ancient times, but there are reasons for not desiring to emulate their wonderfulness.

Now let us ask who are the builders of our wonderful little city? The rumseller? The drunkard? The extortioner? The dishonest? The corner loafer? Have such any claim as builders of a wonderful city? Nay! They are but drones in the hive. Their part is to burden others, theirs to pull down, rather than to build up.

Who then, are the builders? The list is long, but a few may be named. First of all, the wise and God-fearing parents, who bring up their children in the way they should go. We may give next place to the capable and conscientious teacher, who supplements the parents' work, then the pious, faithful and fearless preacher, who denounces evil and folly, and pleads for a better way. Let us not forget the skilled and sympathetic physician, who comes to our aid in pain and anguish. No city could be built without his aid. The patriotic and unselfish legislator can not be done without, neither can the editor. The lawyer is necessary and the just, but stern judge is a city builder, second to none. The honest business man and citizen, have a great part in the building. Likewise the labourer on land and sea. Men and women engaged in any honest and necessary calling are true city builders. And that the work may go on smoothly and without interruption, we must have as stalwart builders, faithful and competent officers of the law.

I am Sir, etc., OBSERVER.

The Poet's Corner

A PALINODE
The poplar leaves pursue a wayward flight
Earthward; the ghostly birches rustle light
Against the pines; the dogwoods bend below
Cathedral of the sky!—I grieve to know
I loudly swore, to never walk again
Beside the mossied pool which mirrored pain
(Where one should be my cursed eye saw twain)
No more to roam the pillared aisles of bark;
Explore its spruce naves 'tween dusk and dark
Forewarn? Desert this wooded loveliness?
I was a fool and yielded happiness.
When passion's fires are slowly embering
Then comes there beauty in remembering.
—By Charles Allaby.
"Try, try again," is all right, unless the object is all wrong.

58 Shopping Days To Christmas
In other words there are 58 days before that "Day of Giving"—the wise shoppers will start making the rounds of THE METROPOLITAN STORE NOW, in order to escape the customary crush of that busy season. Then take into consideration another advantage, at this season. The Metropolitan Store has a stock on hand which has not been gone over by eager throngs, and that which is best, purchased by gift seekers.
START YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING NOW AT THE Metropolitan Store

Ill-Timed Criticism

(Toronto Mail and Empire)
One would think that an evening contemporary would give the Bennett policies a reasonable time to show what they can do for the country in the way of providing work for the unemployed and restoring economic prosperity. Instead of taking this course, it concentrates upon its chosen task of placing obstacles in the way of a patriotic Government's effort. It jeers at ministers for reducing the glass tariff; in spite of the fact that Mr. Bennett said that this was exactly what he would do if any industry tried to exploit the public under cover of his fiscal legislation. Not only does it ridicule, without any show of economic understanding, the legislation adopted at the recent emergency session of Parliament, but it manifests a new-found concern for the British electorate. It pretends to think that Mr. Bennett has asked of the Mother Country more than he should and it quotes editorially two or three die-hard British newspapers which are still wedded to a dead Cobdenism. It hides in a corner the facts that all the British dominions support the Canadian prime minister, and that the British Conservative party, likely soon to be in power, has now been committed by Mr. Stanley Baldwin to Mr. Bennett's party.

That Body of Yours
By James W. Barton, M.D.
ONE GOOD RESULT FROM THE FLU EPIDEMIC

During the flu epidemic of 1918 I happened to be senior medical officer of an hospital through which passed over 2000 influenza cases. It is my fervent hope that the world will never see another such epidemic. Despite the fact that twelve years have passed we cannot definitely state that the exact cause in all cases has been found. The original flu organism is still blamed but there appears to be other organisms, and other factors entering into the cause of influenza. However, like other great catastrophes, lessons are often taught not only regarding the same type of trouble, but many other troubles also. As nurses and doctors fought the epidemic it was found that the cases that went on to a broncho-pneumonia and so involved the lungs were the ones that were really dangerous and many died. And they died all ways because the heart gave out, not because of the broncho-pneumonia that was present. And so heart stimulants were used more than at any other time in the world's history. Sometimes one drug seemed to help, and at other times it was found necessary to use some other drug. Often also bleeding was resorted to, to take some of the work off the heart. Then the oxygen was tried as a last resort. Despite anything and everything many of these strong young fellows died. Now why am I bringing all this up again? For just one reason. It was generally reported that it was only the big strong young men who died because the flu seemed to attack them more severely. This was not the reason. The reason so many of these strong young men died was because they remained on their feet for one, two, or sometimes three days before they took to bed. You can readily see what happened. Despite the fact that the flu was working in their system sending their heart beats up to 110-120-140 and so on, as the heart did its best to keep going strongly, these men remained on their feet, on duty, thus taxing the heart almost beyond its limit. By the end of two or three days, tremendous damage had been done, and when they finally reported sick and came to hospital, their hearts were beyond help. And that is the big lesson the flu epidemic taught us, not only about flu, but about other illness. That is that it is not brave, nor even good sense, to remain on your feet when any ailment, however slight, attacks you. By getting off your feet your heart has a chance by using its "reserve" to pull you through. That was perhaps the only good thing the flu epidemic did for us.

"Your brother has the makings of a fine singer. Does he cultivate his voice?"
"I don't know if he cultivates it but I do know he irrigates it sometimes."

"Daphne is looking much older now." "Yes, her schoolgirl complexion seems to have graduated."

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ATTENTION Truss Wearers To those of you who are unfortunate enough to have to wear a truss we ask the question. Are you satisfied with the one you are wearing? Does it fit comfortably or is it an antiquated and out of date style—out grown its usefulness so to speak, thus causing untold agony; then why continue suffering when we can alleviate the cause by offering you a perfect fitting, modern and up-to-date one, from the large consignment of American Trusses just received. All sizes and styles at prices to suit everybody. Come in and enquire or phone and have us send you some for fitting. E.A. Foster Central Drugstore Perfection Ice Cream Bricks and Bulk