

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1921

PREMIER MEIGHEN'S VISIT

No one who witnessed the great reception given to the Prime Minister yesterday can doubt for a moment that the flowing tide is with the government. Everywhere the Prime Minister has visited on his present tour he has left a lasting impression for good and his visit to Prince Edward Island is no exception. Unfortunately Mr. Meighen is feeling the effects of the titanic campaign he is engaged in and the result of twenty-seven speeches in six days is considerable hoarseness and huskiness which somewhat affects his delivery. Notwithstanding this he spoke three times yesterday with all the vigor and effectiveness characteristic of his House of Commons oratory. He did not dodge an issue nor spare his opponents. He took up the gage thrown down by Mr. MacKenzie King in Charlottetown last week and replied to him in detail, not only on the tariff issue but on the railway question and on the cost of administration. So clearly and powerfully did he deal with these questions that in the minds of those privileged to hear both speakers he left Mr. King not a leg to stand upon. Perhaps what struck his hearers more than anything else was the direct and unequivocal manner in which he expressed his views. There was no hedging or hair-splitting, every one could understand exactly what he meant and why he had formed his convictions. He has a striking personality and an earnestness which leaves no doubt whatever as to his sincerity. He is not playing for position but comes with a message which he feels he ought to deliver and he delivers it in a manner which convinces his hearers that if there is any other way or any other view it cannot be practicable or Mr. Meighen would himself adopt it. They were inspiring meetings, every one of them and will go a long way not only in encouraging the supporters of the government but bringing to Mr. Meighen's side waverers and doubters and those seriously seeking a lead. Here as elsewhere on his tour the Prime Minister has come, has been seen and heard and has conquered.

TIME TO BURN

The prolonged stay in this province of the Honourable Mr. MacKenzie King is significant. Of course we are glad to have him with us; he is at least entertaining and, if the inconsistencies and the evasions were eliminated from his public speeches they would be informative and appreciative. If there was anything left after the elimination. It is the first time, so far as we can ascertain, that the federal leader of a party or even a federal minister has honored us with so long a visit. Canada is a large constituency and the leaders are usually obliged to content themselves with flying visits to the larger centres in the hope of thus touching all the provinces. With Mr. MacKenzie King it is different; he has "time to burn." Why this unlimited campaign in Prince Edward Island? Is the "little sister of confederation" more in need of the Liberal gospel than the other provinces? What about the prairie and western provinces which, according to reports, are the greatest sinners from Mr. King's standpoint? Is Mr. King's salvation offered only to Prince Edward Island and to a few scattered points in the Maritime Provinces? The truth evidently is that the other provinces are hopeless, so far as Mr. MacKenzie King's gospel is concerned. From the western border of Quebec to the Pacific

they are, in his estimation, "joined to their idols" and he has decided to "let them alone." They do not want him and he knows it. His hope for recognition is in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces and here he has but a scattered remnant left. These he is cultivating. To these he preaches an emasculated version of the 1919 Liberal platform: he would exact on agricultural implements as low a duty as possible, while the "platform" and the Patriot would admit them free, but neither Mr. MacKenzie King nor the Patriot has anything to say about the admission free of duty of agricultural products, the plank inserted to curry favor with the Grain Growers of the west. Mr. MacKenzie King is making a despairing effort to win Prince Edward Island over to the Liberal party. What would it mean to Prince Edward Island to have one or all four of its representatives allied with the MacKenzie King Liberals? It is a foregone conclusion that in the coming parliament the Liberal party will be in the minority. The contest is between the Conservatives and the so-called Progressives of the West. The only danger anticipated is that the Liberals combined may be sufficiently strong to dominate. In that case the Progressives would have the making of the unmaking of our next tariff laws and our Liberal representatives would be bound up with them. Both groups are opposed to the government, both are promulgating a fiscal policy which, whether in its diluted form as preached by Mr. MacKenzie King or in its full strength as preached by the Crerar-Wood faction would mean disaster to Canada and particularly to the Maritime Provinces. What has Prince Edward Island to gain by supporting a Liberal candidate?

THE ROADS

While some sections of the roads are very good there are very many sections which are positively dangerous and almost impassible. From east and west come the same complaints. "Projects" have been attended to while the general road has been neglected. This is exceedingly unfair to the province, unfair to the taxpayers whose greatly increased taxes were supposed to be used partly at least in improving the roads. The "projects," as is well known, are being paid for by the federal government grant and by future generations, not a dollar coming out of the revenue. The federal grant covers forty per cent of the cost; twenty year debentures cover the other sixty per cent and the increased taxes on our farmers go towards paying the salaries of thousands of officials. The number of extra officials, tax collectors and others, a list of whom was recently given in the Patriot is simply astounding, and while there are road overseers, road masters and other road officials in plenty, not a dollar can be secured to fix up the roads for which the government is responsible. A lady who had a journey of a few miles to make the other day regretted that she had not had a piece of the road repaired at her own expense as the damage done to her automobile cost her more than the repair of the road would have done. The recent rains have also played considerable havoc with some of the "permanent" roads which were hastily and not very carefully made by the contractors and altogether our roads for the fall hauling of produce are not a promising proposition to look forward to.

Daily Selections for Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

BE GLAD YOU'RE LIVING

Don't be glum and gloomy. If you can't have what you like. Some day coming, maybe. You will make a strike. Luck will come and find you. Some delightful day. Anyhow, just think so— It's much the better way. Meanwhile just be cheery. Meet life with a smile. The boy is always happy. Who is whistling all the while. When you meet misfortune. Don't let it knock you flat. Just be glad you're living. And let it go at that. Temperance Leader and League Journal.

Current Comment

The Hon. Mr. King, at his Charlottetown meeting took the columns of the Guardian as the foundation text of his discourse. But when he came to that subject, the vital one of all issues in the campaign, the tariff, he balked and dodged and evaded, in a brilliant, but more adroit, imitation of Premier Bell and the Patriot. Holding up the Liberal Ottawa Platform in one hand, and declaring it to be the governing standard of their party, he deliberately with his mouth pronounced its funeral obsequies. IN SO FAR AS THIS PROVINCE AND LOCALITY IS CONCERNED. That Platform distinctly pledges his party to admit agricultural implements and equipment for production, ABSOLUTELY FREE OF CUSTOMS DUTIES. Mr. King emphatically nipped that proposal in the bud. He said we MUST have a "tariff for revenue" and as reported in the Patriot, "We believe in making that duty as low as we possibly can." To have cheap agricultural implements. When he was a member of the Laurier Government, when they were preaching more drastic low tariff doctrines than, in some places, they preach now, he considered the then duty of 22 1/2, 27 1/2 and 32 per cent, to be "As low as we possibly can." Now that the Conservatives have reduced his lowest possible duty of 32 per cent down to the trifling rate of only 12 1/2 per cent, and admitting all crude fertilizers, tractors, and engines and several other articles absolutely free, where does Mr. King stand with his plaudits? But why has he thus repudiated his Party's Ottawa Platform, and why did he give this cold crack to his local organ the Patriot so quickly after the evening preparator had made its bombastic declaration, that the Liberals were "PLEGGED" to admit agricultural implements free of duty? He was of course in a tight box. His Quebec masters had cracked the whip over his back and commanded him to side track that plank as inimical to their manufacturing and industrial interests. And as Quebec is the better half that wears the breeches in his political house, he must, in obedience to his marriage vow, "honor and obey" her commands. And so much as he would have liked to throw some sop to our farmers, and keen as he would naturally be to screen his organ, the Patriot from public contempt, he dare not but declare that DUTIES MUST CONTINUE ON AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINERY. True enough he tried to worm out of the difficulty by saying that that duty should be "as low as we possibly can," but in that his idea was stolen from the Conservatives, who put it into actual practice by cutting down the former Laurier-King duty down to less than half.

With an equally gingerly tread he approached the question of free foods. Of course he would like to tell the people of the cities and the working class that he wanted to furnish them with the cheaper dinner plate that he knew his United States friends were only too anxious to supply. But there were probably some farmers in his audience, and in any case it would surely leak out that he thought they were getting too much for their pork, their beef, their cheese, poultry, butter and eggs. And by no amount of "chicanery" or political sophistry can he put these things upon the working man's plate. WITHOUT REDUCING THE PRICES PAID FOR THEM TO THE FARMER. And so in his double barreled paradoxical platitude, he declares, "We want the tariff revised in the interests of the producers a tariff in the interests of the consumers." Let him dangle this fallacy in the face of the electors until his voice tires with the strain, let him shout from his house tops until the very blood arteries in his system

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 expressed by its correspondents.

Social Reform Meeting

Sir,—In a news item in your paper this morning it is stated that I am to be one of the principal speakers at a meeting of social reformists to be held in this city on Thursday next. I beg to correct this statement. I was asked to deliver a short address at the Social Reform meeting on the activities of the Anti-Tuberculosis Association in Prince Edward Island. On further consideration it appears very doubtful if the work of the Anti-Tuberculosis Association comes within the purview of the specific features of the social reform as understood by the Association, and I have decided that an address on this subject might not be consistent with the general purposes of the meeting in question. I would ask you, sir, to kindly withdraw my name from the list of speakers on Thursday. I am, Sir, etc. W. F. TIDMARSH. Oct. 19th, 1921.

bursts with the pressure, but he will never be able to convince the intelligent farmer that he can reduce the price of pork to the consumer, without taking it out of the pockets of the men who feed and sell the hogs.

In simple fact, although in a suggestive way he attempts to mislead people in outside constituencies like our own that he has an unseemly something of tariff improvement up his sleeve, adapted to our special wants, he is in reality without voice or policy other than what is dictated to him by his masters in Quebec, and every allusion which he made to tariff in the Market Hall, was insipidly and evasively framed so that if through the medium of the press it went back to his political home, it might not be visited upon him in destruction and political damnation. But on the whole Mr. King wants now to avoid the tariff issue. At the opening of his career as Opposition Leader it was paramount, but in his travels east and west he has discovered that the people are against his variety of views. He has tried several and found none of them acceptable, and so he has busted himself in hunting up the old and stale "red herrings" of other campaigns, such as unfounded and childish charges, calling names and decorating his frivolities with a flowery rhetoric, borrowed from the stump orators of the Ciceronian and Demosthenic age. His fluent oratory and ready wit is amusing and most surely entertaining but because of their absence of substance, they are not convincing.

Others' View Points

Fun From Canada.

Edmonton Journal.

Prof. Stephen Leacock, who is reputed to be Canada's representative humorist, is now in England, where he begins a lecturing tour next week. He has already been much interviewed, and has won attention and admiration by saying right off that he would rather have written "Alice in Wonderland" than the whole Encyclopedia Britannica. For a Canadian humorist to tour England is a new departure in the literary field. It is quite possible that the mother country still remembers Judge Haliburton, the creator of "Sam Slick" who was really the founder of both Canadian and American humor, and who went to live in England some seventy years ago. But the Leacock lecture tour will be something quite without precedent.

From the standpoint of Canadian national sentiment, it might be desired that a better exponent of the all-round Canadian spirit and temper might be sent to represent this country to the people of England. He does not, certainly, see some of the moral values of life from the same angle as the majority of his fellow-Canadians. But he will do good work in showing England that Canada is not so dull and serious as it has been said to be.

Two of a Kind.

(Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph) A free lance journalist found himself on a train without a ticket and decided to play the deadhead game. When the conductor came he told him that he had left his pocket-book at home, but that he was on the staff of the Daily News. "All right," said the official, "come forward to the next car. We're the editor of the Daily News aboard and he can identify you."

You are very cordially invited to examine the

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There was no turning back, so the passenger followed the conductor, expecting ignominious exposure, but to his great surprise the man, looking up from his paper, said simply: "Yes, conductor, that's all right. The man is on my staff."

When the conductor had departed the free lance undertook to express his gratitude to the great man for his magnanimous falsehood.

"Oh, don't mention it," said the other. "You see, I'm not the editor of the Daily News."

A Summer Storm in the Fall.

(New York Times)

Yesterday's temperature here was not so high as it is on the hottest of midsummer days, but, with the help of humidity and its unexpectedness at this season, it produced most of the tropical discomforts which our climate can offer. And in the afternoon there came a shower that would have been called severe in the hottest of midsummers.

The thunder and lightning, indeed, at least in the vicinity of Times Square, were not particularly alarming, even to the timid, but the sky was of a portentous wildness, and the rain, if it did not fall literally "in torrents," gave that familiar exaggeration about all the justification it ever gets in this part of the country. To be out in it even for a minute was to be soaked to the skin, and it cleared the streets with a thoroughness that gave them a truly strange appearance, as if its inhabitants had been deserted by all its inhabitants. The rainfall at this rate did not last long, but it was well that the same amount of water did not come down in a time any shorter. As it was the deluge suggested an uneasy questioning as to what would happen to a city if some day such clouds as those of yesterday afternoon all condensed into rain at the same moment, and fell in



Wonder Land

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one mass. Perhaps that is what is called a "cloudburst," but these things apparently always occur somewhere off in the mountains, where nobody sees them in the very act of bursting.

A Homily on Golf.

(St. Louis Star)

Men take up golf for the exercise—as a game it makes walking most interesting. An inexperienced player going over an 18-hole course will perhaps cover five miles. The more proficient he becomes at the game the less he walks, ergo, the less exercise he gets. So, if you are taking up golf for the exercise what is the sense of becoming ex-

NEW YORK, Oct. 10.—Harry Yasuhara, a waiter, living in a Japanese boarding house, was found strangled to death underneath a bed in room 118 of the Empire Hotel, Broadway and Sixty-third street. The body was discovered by Barbara Metzger, a maid in the hotel. The police have sent out a general alarm for Tan Kohn, another Japanese, who registered at the hotel on Monday night and was assigned to room 118. The two Japanese were seen together late Tuesday night in the boarding house.

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