

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

An Independent Journal aiming to be JUST, IMPARTIAL, RELIABLE, NEWSY, seeking at all times to further the best interests of the people and Province, and recognized therefore as

THE PEOPLE'S PAPER

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THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

THURSDAY MORNING DECEMBER 30 1904

THE BOGUS BALLOT BOXES.

Thirty years ago the moral sense of the country was shocked by the Pacific scandal in much greater degree than it is now disturbed by the bogus ballot boxes. The earlier scandal was undoubtedly much greater than the present one. An extensive scheme for corrupting the electorate throughout Ontario and Quebec was brought direct home to the leaders of the Conservative party, and it was shown that the money had been actually received by them and expended. The country was aroused and turned them out of office. The ballot box scandal is hideous in the moral depravity which has been disclosed, but it has not yet been shown that the leaders of the Liberal party in Ontario are directly connected with it. The plot seems to have covered two, or at most three ridings, and it has not been shown that it was in any degree effectual in thwarting the popular will. The Conservative candidates were elected in both Frontenac and West Hastings.

Nothing is further from our intention than to underrate the crime that was attempted in the late election in Ontario. Two Liberal candidates are implicated

and with them the editor of a Liberal newspaper, one or more deputy returning officers, a school teacher, a police magistrate and others. We must not however rush to the conclusion that the entire Liberal party has now become corrupt, any more than that the entire Conservative party were participants in the Pacific Scandal of 1873. We know very well that a majority of Sir John Macdonald's colleagues were ignorant of the secret arrangement with Sir Hugh Allan. And there is nothing so far disclosed to show that Premier Ross or any of his colleagues in the Government were in any manner connected with the bogus ballot box scandal. A much stronger case can be made against some of the Ontario ministers in the Soo election scandal than in regard to the bogus ballot boxes.

Viewed in the light of history both our political parties stand condemned for many notoriously corrupt acts. Neither of them is so without sin as to be justified in casting the first stone at the other. Both are soiled and smirched with corruption. If there is any difference between them it is one of degree only. What is well worth while for honest men in both parties to take note of is that these crimes against the country were planned, aided and abetted in the interest

of party. The party system is largely responsible for these offences. It may be admitted that without the party system there would be individual cases of corrupt acts, but without the system they would be limited in their scope, vastly less harmful in their effects, nor would they involve national discredit and humiliation such as have attached to some wholesale schemes of corruption in the past.

And it is also to be observed that where either of the two parties is long in power it is in the very nature of things that the corrupt element, the insatiable army of grafters and bootlickers, gravitate irresistibly toward it, as the vultures gather to the carcass. The Opposition can bestow neither offices nor contracts. Unless there is a good prospect of the Government being overthrown at election times the self-seeking element, always desirous to feed at the public crib, ranges itself on the ministerial side. It is this fact which makes it so extremely difficult to overturn a Government in Canada. When the Laurier Government came into power eight years ago the Conservative party had held power for eighteen years in the Dominion. The Liberals have held power in Ontario for thirty-two years, and in Nova Scotia twenty-two years. These would be impossible terms of office in the British Isles where allegiance to party is much less binding, and where there is much less corruption than in Canada. A greater spirit of independence is needed in the Canadian electorate, and if it were practiced would go far toward correcting at least some of the too plentiful abuses that have developed in our public affairs.

EXTENSION OF THE RAILS.

The business and shipping public have grown very impatient of the inaction of the authorities in extending the rails to the old Plant Line wharf as promised. (The Patriot mentions an extension to the Navigation Company's wharf, and we are left to guess whether this may be a slip of the pen or a bit of sarcasm). However this may be, the money was voted long ago. Hon Mr. Emerson promised to come and see about it. He has not come. Winter is at hand and the work not begun. A survey and plan were made and the plan sent to Moncton weeks ago. Since then there has been apparently nothing doing and nothing done. Messrs Warburton and Prowse, we are told wired Minister Emerson on Monday. The Minister replied that orders had been given to have the work done, and he would inquire into the delay. It is inferred that the delay is in Moncton. We see nothing else to be done here but for the Board of Trade to get busy and wrestle with the dilatory authorities till something is done. It is imperative that if possible the rails shall be extended before the winter steamer service begins.

The Japanese insist that Port Arthur must fall within the next three weeks. Evidently they will spare no cost in blood to capture the Russian stronghold before the Baltic fleet can arrive upon the scene.

Mr. Blair who recently visited the World's Fair was impressed by the splendid showing which Canada made there. He adds: "And, undoubtedly, the exhibits have been doing a great work in that regard. While in the vicinity of the various exhibits I constantly overheard people commenting upon them with interest and expressing surprise at the new ideas of Canada which they were getting."

Never before in any modern war has the number of prisoners taken been so small in proportion to the vast number of killed and wounded as in the struggle between Russia and Japan. The Japanese almost always prefer death to capture and the result is that the war is one in which desertions on either side have been remarkably few, while practically no quarter is given. This gives an air of terrible ferocity to the struggle.

There is an air of studied reticence in the attitude of the leader of the Opposition in regard to prohibition. The public are left to infer that he is either opposed to the principle of prohibition or is too timid to declare himself. This timidity may be due to the fact that there are a number of opponents to prohibition among the Opposition candidates. We trust that temperance men throughout the Island will feel the importance of maintaining the law which has been fruitful of so much good in Charlottetown and that they will vote against any and every candidate of whatever party who is known to favor the repealing or weakening of the prohibitory law.

RHEUMATISM CURED.

Jas. McKee, Linnwood, Ont.
 Lachlin McNeil, Mabou, C. B.
 John A. McDonald, Arnprior, Ont.
 C. B. Billing, Markham, Ont.
 John Mader, Mahone Bay, N. S.
 Lewis S. Butler, Burin, Nfld.
 These well known gentlemen all assert that they were cured by MINARD'S LINIMENT.

NOMINATION DAY.

Yesterday was nomination day and both parties have apparently presented an equal number of candidates for popular approval. That is, the Government has put up twenty-nine candidates for the thirty seats and the Opposition a like number. Two candidates secure their election unopposed. These are Hon. James W. Richards, Liberal in the Second District of Prince, and A. J. Macdonald, Conservative in the Fifth District of Kings. It is by no means a new thing to have nearly every seat contested in a provincial election. If we remember rightly Hon. J. W. Richards was the only member returned without opposition at the general election of four years ago.

At the election in December 1900 there were 22 Liberals and 8 Conservatives returned. Since then the Opposition had gained three seats at bye-elections so that in the House just dissolved the relative strength of parties was 19 Liberals to 11 Conservatives. If the Opposition could hold all the seats they now have and gain four more they would divide the new House equally. But it is usual in elections that there are gains and losses on both sides. We have our own opinion as to the general result of the coming contest, but it is useless to make predictions. We shall all be wiser when the votes are counted. It is the people's business to elect the men whom they think will best serve the public interests.

Rice as a food has attracted new attention since the splendid showing the Japanese soldiers have made on a rice diet. The analysts have recalled the fact that a pound of rice contains nearly 60 per cent more nutrition than lean beef and about 40 per cent more than fat beef. Moreover as a portable food of admirable keeping qualities it seems excellently adapted for army purposes. During the civil war in United States the southern troops made extensive use of rice, and they also fought well.

DO NOT GO FROM BAD TO WORSE.

Influenza Causes Bronchitis, Consumption, Pleurisy and Pneumonia—A Certain Cure in Reach of All.

Influenza, coughs and colds, bad and distressing as they are in themselves, often lead to yet worse and more dangerous maladies. Very frequently bronchitis or inflammation of the bronchial tubes results, which in its turn is a forerunner of the fatal and dangerous disease of consumption. Pneumonia or inflammation of the lungs, and pleurisy or inflammation of the serous covering of the lungs are also the direct effects of influenza. It is highly important, therefore, that influenza should not be allowed to run its course unchecked or fatal consequences may result.

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