The Charlottetown Guardian

Morning Daily (founded 1891), $3.50 per year. (Delivered) in advance; $2.50 per year (mailed) in advance, in Canada, and $3.00 for U. S. A.

Evening Daily (founded 1907) $2.00 (delivered or by mail in Canada, and $2.50 for U. S. A.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 1917

SOME BITS OF HISTORY.

The platform upon which Mr. Bell professes to hope for the return of his two candidates at the forth-coming by-elections may be briefly summarised into "Turn the Conservatives out because they are corrupt and incompetent, and put us in charge of the government because we are honest and competent." This platform is worth examining.

Mr. Bell has made much of the deficit of 1915, the last election year under the present government. Let us by way of camparison examine the records of both.

In 1893 there was a general election under Liberal management and in that year they gave Prince Edward Island its record deficit, $119,942.33. In 1915 the deficit was $97,122.69, or $22,819.64 less than that of 1893.

Mr. Bell, who now aspires to the Premiership of the province was a member of the local Liberal party in 1893 and yet with that past still clinging to him he asks the people of this province to give him another chance because he is "honest and competent."

Mr. Bell claims that the present government in 1915 expended $43,161.04 more than the Legislature had voted. What did the Liberals and Mr. Bell do in 1893? They expended $53,470.36 more than the Legislature had voted.

These are the actual official figures. If Mr. Bell were as honest as he claims to be and as solicitous of the welfare of the province as he pretends to be he would say to the electors: "keep us out for we are greater sinners than the Conservatives."

In this memorable year 1893, a Liberal election year, we find the following records in the Public Accounts issued for that year:

Amount voted for roads, $15,650; amount expended on roads, $42,063.17.

Amount voted for bridges, $16,000; amount expended on bridges $21,682.79. Total amount voted on these two items, $31,650; total amount expended $63,745.-94; that is the amount expended exceeded that voted by $32,095.94.

In the next election year, 1897, the amount voted for roads and bridges was $27,100 and the amount expended $42,-366.49, the amount voted being exceeded by that spent by about 55 per cent.

In 1915 an election year, the Conservatives expended on roads $15,422.80 more than had been voted for the purpose; and our Liberals friends worked themselves into a fury of righteous indignation over it; in 1893, an election year, the Liberals expended on roads $26,413.17 more than had been voted for the purpose and our Liberal friends are asking that they be permitted again to handle the finances of the province because they are honest and competent!

In 1915 a storm swept over the province necessitating the expenditure of something over $40,000 to effect immediate necessary repairs to roads and bridges; in 1893 a storm also swept over the country—a political storm resulting in an election—necessitating immediate expenditure for necessary stiffening up of the backbones of electors who were beginning to show rebellious symptoms and who must be pacified at any cost—to the taxpayers. It was to this, doubtless that the great bulk of the excess expenditure of that year was applied.

The actual amount of road expenditure remaining unpaid on Dec. 31, 1915 was only $2,155.07 so that there was no concealing the amounts expended, while there is evidence to show that over $60,000 expended on roads in 1893 was carried over to the following year by the immaculate Liberals of that day of whom Mr. Bell was at least one if not more.

The former Conservative government was in power eleven full years and had three surpluses and eight deficits. The Liberals, who followed them, were in twenty full years and had twenty deficits, one every year without a break, although they had forgotten for eighteen years to repeal the taxes carried by their predecessors for only two years and which they, the Liberals, had promised to repeal as soon as they came into power.

The present Conservative government has had four surpluses and one deficit during their five years in office, yet Mr. Bell asks the electors to turn them out because they are corrupt and incompetent!

The electors have a clear case before them. They have the history of Liberalism of which the above are mere incidents picked out at random. If they want to return to the era of uninterrupted deficits and incompetence, Mr. Bell will show them the way. If, on the other hand, they want surpluses instead of deficits, if they want progress such as we have enjoyed during the past five years, they will give Dr. Delaney and Mr. Jenkins and their leader, Mr. Bell, a turn down next Wednesday that they will be the better of forever after.

The Liberal party in this province has a record for incompetence that no other party here or elsewhere has ever been able to approach and nothing has been said or done either by Mr. Bell or his first lieutenant Mr. Johnston to show that the leopard has changed his spots or the Ethiopian his skin. The electors in the Egmont Bay and Georgetown districts know what to do in the premises and we feel sure they will do it on the 25th.

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THE PATRIOT'S CHALLENGE

With the exaggeration for which it is notorious the Patriot boldly stated that the official salaries of the Provincial government had been increased from forty-five to fifty thousand dollars per annum. The Guardian flatly denied this statement. The Patriot returned to the cahrge the following day and reiterated the charge asserting that if the Guardian wished it an itemized account would be given. The Guardian expressed its desire to have the itemized statement. This the Patriot failed to give but in its place gave a jumble of figures in which it referred to "management expenses," without itemizing a single salary. Now the Patriot has access to the Public Accounts and to the salaries paid in 1911 and 1916. We challenge the Patriot to produce an itemized list, as it promised, of the salaries paid showing an increase of forty-five to fifty thousand dollars per annum. We unhesitatingly characterize such an allegation as false and it is for the Patriot to justify its reputation by coming out with the itemized details containing the offices and names for the increases which it alleges.

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THE LIBERAL PARTY

The Tribune has been asked why, when it is so continuously advocating Liberal or Radical policies, it shows frequently such hostility to the Canadian Liberal party, and displays an ascerbity and acidity in reference to it which do not characterize its criticisms of the Tory party.

The answer seems so obvious that the query appears unnecessary. The Tribune believes that the Canadian "Liberal" party is not, and for twenty years has not been, a Liberal party. It has been, whilst using the Liberal name, a more reactionary body than the official or avowed Tory party. It has been a wolf in sheep's clothing, which is more dangerous than a wolf in his own pelt. Because it prefers an enemy to a betrayer, the Tribune will criticize the Tory policy and administration with as much politeness as it can command. But it cannot command enough to have any to spare for the "Liberal rump. In the interest of real Liberalism and of the country that must be born again.—Winnipeg Tribune.

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NOTES

What is duty? The only definition that stands every test is this: Your duty is always toward something or somebody outside yourself. A man can have no duty toward himself which is not, in the first place, a duty toward something or somebody else. A man can perform his duty toward himself only by doing his duty towards others. It is upon this underlying idea that civilization has been built up. It is the idea which civilization defends and observes in defending. Like sold rock it supports the structure of the world.New York Sun.

Again it is Maximillian Harden who, in the exercise of his mysterious immunity from the restrictions to which the other German editors submit, proves that there is in Germany at least one man who knows the facts of the existing situation and dares to print them and to draw from them logical deductions. His latest utterances are even more remarkable for their accuracy and boldness than any of their predecessors, and those are qualities which their predecessors have often shown. Harden writes: "The goal of our enemies is democracy and independence for every nation ripe for freedom." Again, he says of those same enemies: "They aim at a condition which will give weapons to right against the arrogance of force, a state of affairs which will threaten with peril any enterprise of attack."

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LIBERALS

WINNIPEG.— The Winnipeg Free Press has the following editorial under the title "Responsibility of the Liberals."

"The public interest requires that the existing political situation in Canada should be discussed with candor and fearlessness. As a prelude to such discussion. The Free Press asks its readers to recall the consistent course which this journal has followed since the war broke out with regard to the relationship of the Canadian parties to each other in all matters relating to the war.

"At the beginning of hostilities, The Free Press, in common with other Liberal newspapers urged a political truce for the period of the war, the Government to give a pledge that it would not bring on elections. At that time Parliament had more than two years to run, and it was generally assumed that the war would end within this period of time. A union government was urged to adopt a policy of continuous consultation with the Opposition leaders, in keeping with the example which had been set by the political parties in Great Britain.

"These suggestions met with a very unsympathetic response from Conservative leaders and newspapers. They were interpreted as arising not from a patriotic regard for the country's well being, but from an abject fear of the consequences to the Liberal party of a khaki election. The Free Press recalls the reply made to one of its epistles to the Prime Minister by a leading ministerial newspaper. It was to the effect that Sir Robert Borden would not abrogate his constitutional powers by giving a pledge not to dissolve Parliament, and to this was added the threat that if the Liberals did not fall in with the Government's plans in their entirety they would be slaughtered by an appeal to the country.

Thrice Near Election.

"The people know that thrice within the first year of war the country was on the brink of a party election. It was saved from this calamity by the intervention of powerful commercial interests. During that year the seed was sown that has grown the present crop of troubles. Canada is paying a heavy price for the prominence which Mr. Rogers then held in the councils of the Conservative party.

"When it became apparent that the war would outrun the life of the Canadian Parliament, The Free Press declared that the necessities of the case called for the formation of a National Government and the obliteration, for at least the period of the war, of political divisions. The Free Press places itself within the judgment of its readers in saying that in its insistent advocacy of a union government it has never deferred to political considerations. The reception that the suggestion of a National Government, which was made from many quarters, received from the Dominion Government and its admiring press was consistently unfriendly. At the best, they would see in it nothing but frantic appetite by Liberals for a share in the patronage of the war. The public was assured that the Borden Government was in itself a good enough National Government. Not only did it not require an infusion of new blood but, we were told, its efficiency would be seriously affected by closer contact with office-hungry Liberals whose devotion to the war was suspected. In short ,every attempt to bring about a National Government was made an occasion for insulating the Liberals from their leader down.

Must Take Stock.

"The responsibility for the political disunion that tended to paralyze the National energies of Canada rested almost entirely upon Sir Robert Borden and his colleagues until some weeks ago ,but today that responsibility is shared by the Liberals of Canada, and it is necessary for them individually to take stock of the situation to determine what should be done, not in the interests of the party, but for the safety of the Nation. This Dominion is in actual peril and it is essential that every Canadian, divesting himself of party feeling, and of selfish ambitions, political or otherwise, should inquire what his duty is and when he finds it, pursue it unflinchingly. Let us consider what are the chief factors of the situation upon which his decision of individual duty must be based.

"The form and character of Sir Robert Borden's proposal to Sir Wilfrid Laurier of a coalition government was the Premier's crowning blunder. It is unnecessary to dwell upon this because The Free Press has already fully dealt with it. Nevertheless, Sir Robert's proposal was of extreme importance because it revealed his belated recognition of the fact that the demand of the war exceeded the powers of party government. It opened the door for negotiations looking to a National Government.

"The people of Canada have the right to ask Sir Wilfrid Laurier why he did not seize the occasion to make counter proposals, outlining the conditions under which he would be prepared to join with Sir Robert Borden. The reports sent out from Ottawa at the time that Sir Robert Borden held Sir Wilfrid Laurier tightly to his proposition, demanding a specific yes or no, thus suggesting that Sir Robert was playing politics, does not appear to be in strict accordance with the facts. The full particulars of the ten days' negotiations ought to be made public.

"According to information believed to be reliable, an attempt to bring the parties together on the basis of a vigorous prosecution of the war, with an agreement to resort to compulsion, should voluntary recruitment fall below an agreed figure, was shipwrecked upon Sir Wilfrid Laurier's inflexible determination not to countenance the principle of compulsion, even in this modified form. If this is not a correct statement of the case, there is, perhaps, even at this late hour, ground for the two leaders to come together upon the basis of an agreed programme with conditional compulsion in the background. But there is nothing in the Ottawa situation to suggest that this

(Continued on page five)

CANADIAN CLUB NEW YORK.

Sir,— I wish to inform you that the Canadian Club of New York City has opened permanent headquarters at the Hotel Biltmore, New York City.

I expect to be in your city during the early part of August and will take the liberty of calling upon you with the view of telling about the Canadian Club and its advantages for any Canadians who contemplating visiting here.

Thanking you for your favors of the past, and with best wishes.

I am Sir, etc.,

W. H. TAYLOR.

12-14West 37th St. New York.

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The prices of all things are high, and they'll be higher yet; you'll soon pay more for soup and pie, and liverwurst, you bet. The prices of all things are high, and they'll be higher yet; no wonder that you heave a sigh, if you are plunged in debt. At all times debt's a curse and blight that robs life of its bloom, and when the nations whoop and fight, it is a thing of doom. The man who doesn't owe a red may calmly view the storm; he'll have enough to lay in bread and keep the shanty warm. And if an evil day should come when he must ask for tick, the merchants will not haw or hum, but say "Yes" pretty quick. And if he has to borrow mon, the banker will observe, "You are a thrifty lad, my son; I've watched your every curve. When others went in debt with speed, you were a cautious gent, and now I'll lend you all you need, at 17 per cent." But if you've always run behind, have always owed the price, the banker you will surely find as cold as Greenland's ice. Dark days may come upon us soon, the times that make men sweat; unhappy then the thriftless loon who always is in debt.—Walt Mason.

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We have just received two cars of Woven Wire from the N. B. Fence Co: which we are selling at the old price, and as there has been an advance of 15c per chain, with the probability of $2.25 for next year, we would advise early purchases for your future requirements.

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