

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 1922

THE BYE-ELECTIONS

The stage is now set for the bye-elections; the candidates were regularly nominated yesterday and the issues before the electors are clear and well defined. The election is for one session only and so far as the winning or losing of seats is concerned, whatever the result may be, the Bell government will still have a majority and will still be in a position, for one session at least, to carry out its policy in its own way whether that may be for the good or the ill of the province. The bye-elections, therefore, are very largely the passing of a vote of confidence or want of confidence in the Bell government.

If the people in the vacant districts are satisfied that the Bell government is worthy of continued confidence, that it has acted truthfully and honourably with the people, that it has kept to the best of its ability the promises made before the election, that its policy in increasing the taxes and borrowing indefinite sums of money without giving any account of it to the people, they will vote for the government candidate.

If, on the other hand, they believe that the Bell government has broken its pre-election promises; that practically everything it has done since coming into power has been in direct opposition to its professed policy; that its present road policy which it violently opposed when in opposition is being carried out in the interests of contractors, hewers and friends, rather than in the interests of the province, then they will support the Conservative candidates.

The record of the Bell government for three years is before the people. They know how the Public Accounts have been cooked to show a surplus that never existed; they know that the Bell government at its last session was compelled to provide for interest on \$200,000 more than was paid in 1918; they know that notwithstanding the claims that the debt has been reduced and a surplus produced yearly the debt of the province has been, by their own confession, increased by \$200,000, in addition to the enormous increase caused by the expenditures on the roads of which no account has ever been given. Every elector in the province knows the pre-election promises made by the Liberal candidates; they know how these promises have not only been broken but shamelessly denied; they know that from the day the Bell government came into power till the present campaign the Bell government has, through its press and its representatives, carried on a deliberate campaign for deceiving and misleading the people.

Knowing all these things, with the record plainly before them in the Public Accounts, in the Liberal press and by the mouths of their exponents, the electors have a clear duty to perform, a duty to themselves and to the province, a duty to future generations of electors and representatives and a warning to all politicians that henceforth the country's representatives shall be expected to deal honourably with those who elect them.

DELIBERATE DECEPTION

The Patriot has repeated over and over again the deliberately misleading statement that the Arsenault government had, during the eight months of their last year in office rolled up a deficit of \$253,000. The statement is absolutely untrue and the Patriot and the Bell government know it.

It is quite true that the government expended this amount during the time mentioned, quite true that the expenditure was vouched for by the provincial auditor. But the expenditure was neither a deficit nor a debt. With that amount the Arsenault government had purchased the supplies for the year, including coal for the various government buildings, supplies for thorough repairs to Falconwood Hospital, creosoted lumber for wharves and bridges, teachers' salaries to date, work on roads and bridges and in short, all the supplies for the current year. Moreover they had not collected the taxes for the year as these were always received during the autumn.

When the Bell government came into power it summed up all the expenditures for the eight months and called it a deficit, taking no stock in what had been purchased for the amount and still on hand. Any business concern in Charlottetown giving an account of its expenditures without taking stock of what the expenditures had purchased, would by such showing be hopelessly bankrupt.

But this is not all, not even the worst of this \$253,000 "deficit." The government asked the Provincial Auditor, not for an account of the eight months transactions, but for the amounts expended during the eight months. The Auditor gave them what they asked for; he could not do otherwise. The instructions were given to the Auditor in this way with the deliberate intention of using his figures to deceive the people. The figures were spread over the Patriot's front page in capital letters with the deliberate intention of deceiving the people, and the Patriot, although it knows better, has repeated them over and over again for the deliberate purpose of deceiving the people. And yet the people are not deceived, they know all the tricks and all the deception that have been attempted.

And even with this actual deficit as shown by the Auditor's statement was only \$137,341.81 instead of \$253,538.78 as so frequently misrepresented by the Patriot.

THE COAL STRIKE

The Nova Scotia coal strike is passing and the only result will be the loss of probably some millions of dollars to the country, an increase in the cost of living which the strikers must share with the rest of us without a dollar's worth of advantage to them or to us. The absolute foolishness and criminality of destructive strikes will probably be realized only after a period of starvation and want on the part of those who precipitate strikes. If only one lesson were learned from the present strike in the Nova Scotia mines the millions that it will cost would have been well invested. That lesson is that every foreigner or native who attempts to sow sedition and Bolshevism in this country should be at once deported as an undesirable citizen. Had this been done when the arch agitator there defied the authorities this strike would not have materialized. This lesson also we shall learn eventually but possibly after infinite injury has been done.

THE HARVEST

The frequent rains of the past few weeks, accompanied as they have generally been with high winds, have caused some damage in fields of heavy grain. The damage, however, we are informed, is not as great as at first feared. The sunshine has a wonderful power in raising the bowed heads of the tall grain which went down under the pressure of rain and wind. There may be some damaged straw but the grain is ripening nicely and, although there may be more difficulty in harvesting it, there will be little actual loss of grain.

Notes By The Way

It is most regrettable that disturbances should have occurred at the Murray Harbor meeting, preventing a full and free discussion of the matters at issue between parties. It appears from the published reports that both Conservative and Progressive candidates and other speakers agreed in condemnation of the Bell government and there seems no reason to doubt that the trouble arose from the same cause which aroused the indignation meetings of two years ago. The deception practised upon the people, the trebled taxes, the dirty Indemnity Grab, are evidently not yet forgotten!

But even the men who looted the "empty" treasury to cram their own pockets are entitled to a hearing! Let them proclaim their own supreme merits and rail against the "bad Tories" to their hearts content. It is not now the Conservative Government that is now in the dock! They are under the gravest indictments. They are charged with obtaining power by false pretences, deception and fraud and with gross abuse of the power so gained. Let them be heard; let them plead "Not Guilty" if they will and make good their plea if they can. Surely they need a better defence than to proclaim themselves "the Best of all Governments."

But by all means let them be heard! Their defence may be tedious, tiresome, nauseating, but give them a hearing. Let it be a fair subject of debate in the public halls and at the firesides. Is the Bell Government the best we have ever had, or the worst we have had in the past quarter of a century? What Government before ever so deceived the people, broke its most solemn pledges, taxed the people, insulted and lorded it over the people? What government ever before gave such evidence of its ineptitude, its blundering incapacity? What government ever before denied the right of the people to representation in the Legislature, violating the law of the land to do so?

What government ever before shut down public utilities like the mussel mud plant at Midgell and the Dalton Sanatorium? What government here or elsewhere in all Canada ever imposed a provincial poll tax? What government before created a fourth judgeship of the Supreme Court, to provide a place for one of its own members? What government ever before in this Province ever so legislated the taxpayer's money into the pockets of ministers and their supporters? What government ever before so neglected their public duties, or maintained for years a feud and scandalous quarrel between its own members?

These are exclusive earmarks of the Bell Government. Let the electors search the records of all our governments, Liberal and Conservative for 25 years past and see if they can find a parallel for the record of this so-called Best of Governmental Government!

But let them have a hearing! Let them tell how wise and good and unselfish they are and how foolish and wicked are the "bad Tories." Some things they may forget to mention, but hear what they have to say. Some Government or other—not the Bell Government—carried Canada and Prince Edward Island through the Great War, gave us the Car Ferry and broke our winter shackles, saved our representation in Parliament from further reduction and got for the Province an addition of \$100,000 for all time to our federal subsidy. The time was then auspicious for increasing the pay of members supporting the government. The revenue had been increased 25 per cent without taxing the people. Later, the war over, the cost of living enormously increased, and still the "bad Tories" did not increase the members' pay or impose a poll tax!

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.

Worse Than a Blunder

Sir.—"Farmer's" shore-letter "Somebody Blundered" in a recent issue of the Guardian appears to have riled the Patriot's editor somewhat. He either does not know which he should, or pretends not to know, that affairs in the Provincial Tax Department are not conducted as they should be. But the many persons who have received threatening notices demanding payment of taxes already paid, and those upon whom the sheriff has called with a document authorizing him to levy on their goods and chattels, and in default of payment take and deliver them up to the nearest jailor, while all the while they did receive showing their taxes to have been paid; these people know only too well that somebody blundered. No wonder he tries to bluff the people seeing that he was a party to the appointment, at a large salary, of a chief clerk in the tax office, assessor and independent collector, three-in-one official to run that department with the results mentioned above. Oh yes, he is riled but those who have had to suffer such indignities, and their friends as well, are also riled. A nice state of affairs, spending the people's money to pay an official who does not know enough to tell whether or not a person's taxes are paid. Better carry out their promises of economy, dispose with such useless and expensive officials and leave the collecting in the hands of Mr. Newbery, a gentleman who has managed the business for many years to the satisfaction of all.

I am, Sir, ANOTHER FARMER.

WATCH IT GROW

Sir.—The following dispatch appeared recently in various papers as far east as P.E.I. and as far west as Alberta. It emanated from Montreal, and was sent as a "special" of date July 25th:— "MONTREAL, July 25th. That the people of this province are drinking considerable quantities of liquor is the opinion of the 'dry' provinces under the prescription system, appears on figures just issued. Total sales by the liquor commission of this province for the past year was valued at \$15,000,000 while for Manitoba, with a population of only one-fourth that of Quebec, sales of liquor in the same period totalled \$12,263,912. In British Columbia, with a population of about one-fifth that of Quebec and where the liquor situation is much the same as here, total sales for the year reached \$14,000,000."

The Charlottetown Guardian, usually careful and reliable, published this dispatch under the heading "Quebec drinking less liquor than any Dry Province." The writer of this letter seeing the dispatch decided to investigate the facts regarding Manitoba, the only "dry" Province named. Mr. J. N. MacLean, chief inspector, writes that the exact amount of liquor (including beer) sold under prescription in Manitoba in the year ending 31st of January, 1922, was 18,195,293 gallons which figured at \$4.00 a quart (Quebec price) would bring in \$291,084 instead of \$12,263,912. This figures out at more than 4000 per cent of the actual!

How did such a whopper come to be told and retold? It seems a literary paper started it by saying that Manitoba has sold on prescription 510,993 gallons or 492,797.71 gallons too many according to the official figures. A Saskatoon paper turned this into quarts by multiplying by 6 instead of 4 thus again adding 50 per cent. The Montreal dispatcher taking this at its face value multiplied this enormous figure by \$4.00 giving the result of \$12,263,912 lumping beer and all other liquors at Quebec's price for Whiskey, namely \$4.00 per quart bottle. Thus intentionally or otherwise dry Manitoba's drink bill is made to appear almost equal to wet Quebec's with four time the population! Next I am Sir, etc.

J. G. Shearer, Gen. Secretary, Social Service Council of Canada.

Let the electors who are soon to vote calmly contrast the two party records. Let them hear the best defence the Bell Government can make and then decide for themselves, their children and the Province. If there is one good thing that the government which claims to be "The Best" has done, one oasis in the barren desert of their doings, we desire that they may have full credit for it. Let what the Conservative Government did in its time—a time of great difficulty, because of the War—also be fairly considered. The Bell Government is the prisoner in the dock. It may avail little that other governments have done better than it has done. Let the electors try the Government fairly, on its merits and demerits, and may kind Heaven guide them to a right decision!

Our home folks in these Provinces by the sea naturally ask for RED ROSE TEA when they want the very best. RED ROSE TEA "is good tea" RED ROSE COFFEE is free of dust—settles clear as a bell—no egg needed.

Klondike Gold Rush Has Silver Jubilee

Twenty-five years ago, July 17, occurred one of the most dramatic events in the history of the West—an event which profoundly influenced the history of the entire Pacific Coast from the Arctic Ocean southward. It was the arrival at Seattle of the steamer Portland bringing sixty-seven miners, each of whom carried ashore a "poke" of gold from the Klondike, a tributary of the Yukon just eight of the Alaskan boundary. That gold was material proof that rumors of the great strike made by Bill Carmack in the preceding summer were true, and it started a stampede surpassing that of the California argonauts half a century earlier. Immediate effects were almost magical, not only in Seattle, but all along the Pacific Coast, and they were felt in the East and even in foreign countries. The free silver campaign of 1896 had turned the minds of the people to gold along with silver. Hosts of people were ready to grasp at any chance of bettering their shrunken fortunes. A vague belief prevailed that Alaska was a land of vast, untouched wealth, and it had been supported by the sight of steadily increasing quantities of gold brought back from Forty-mile, near the Yukon, and by the rich lode developments around Juneau.

A New Land of Gold

In a day hard times were forgotten, all minds were on Alaska, which was regarded as a mere extension of the Klondike, and thousands set out, though the short Northern Summer was nearing its end when they arrived. Dawson in a few months became a great, bustling city with all the characteristics, good and bad, of a pioneer mining town. The north-bound stream grew in 1898 to a mighty flood, which narrowed to a thin but unbroken stream when it climbed the precipitous Chilkoot pass to the lakes which form the heat waters of the Yukon. Every Pacific Coast port outfitted Klondikers and ran steamers to Skagway, Portland taking a hand with the old steamer Elder. The flood of husky manhood was made up of streams trickling from every state. From Dawson the gold-seekers scattered down the Yukon and up every tributary. They landed farther west and penetrated the mighty Mount McKinley range. Many took the sea route to St. Michael's and Tiver steamers up the Yukon, and some of them strayed up the beach of Bearing Sea to the Seward Peninsula. They found gold on the Monook, the Tanana, the Koyukuk, Cook Inlet and in prouision in the beach sand at Nome, which supplied characters and plot for the Rex Beach's "Spillers." They also found much more—copper on the river of that name, coal in great beds in the same region, many seepages of oil, broad fertile valleys where any thing would grow, and where 24-hour days compensated for short Summers, and expansive grassy meadows where many thousand cattle might fatten.

Respecting History

It seemed that the history of our Western States was to be repeated in Alaska—that the placer miner was to be followed by the lode miner, he by the seeker for baser metals and other minerals, they by the homesteader, farmer and cattleman, for whom the miner has over blazed the way, and they by the merchant, banker, manufacturer, trader, railroad, until well-rounded communities formed a prosperous State. That was the future for Alaska that was foreseen by the Klondikers of 1897, to whose trail followed the stamped-

Others' View Points

A paragraph has been going the round of a certain number of papers to the effect that a party of American tourists promenading on a Parisian boulevard the other day, eating a popular confection which comes wrapped in paper. One, having finished the delicacy, threw the bit of paper away. A moment later he was tapped on the shoulder and turned to confront a smiling gendarme. The officer pointed to the paper lying on the sidewalk and suggested by signs that it be picked up. This, the shame-faced visitor did. The officer then politely escorted the visitor to a newspaper receptacle for rubbish where the wrapper was deposited, whereupon the minion of the law bowed low and departed. The Paris authorities have regard even for "a mere scrap of paper," when it is in the wrong place. On either side of the Atlantic it would be a novel experience to see a police officer appear similar regard for the appearance of the streets, and yet in most cities an ordinance forbids the littering of the sidewalks. It must be admitted that, compared with European cities, towns over here are not tidy. We are not so much concerned with keeping the streets looking neat. As for the parks, no one seems to mind how they look, except the force of men who are kept busy "picking up" after the careless crowds have departed. No doubt the general absence of receptacles for rubbish contributes in some degree to the untidiness, but the greatest need is the education of the people in habits of order and regard for the appearance of public places. An Ontario exchange in complaining of the carelessness of the public in this respect in Canadian cities very truly remarks:

APART

Thou goest thy way and I go mine Apart, yet not afar— Only a thin veil hangs between The pathways where we are.

God keep watch 'tween thee and me.

This is my prayer He looketh thy way. He looketh mine. And keep us near. —Julia A. Baker

Radio Bakes Bread

Out in Muncie, Ind., recently food show experts baked a loaf of bread by radio. The actual baking was done by an electric heater, but the heat was controlled, turned off and on by radio.

Mismanagement That Killed

When demands for new land laws and for government in the North, instead of in Washington, finally won the attention of Congress, the cry for conservation also went up, and progress halted during a long struggle between those who would develop and those who would conserve to the point of stifling enterprise. When the miner was no longer permitted to own what he had dug, the farmer forbidden to reap what he had sown, disheartened pioneers flocked back to "the States," and population shrank back to the proportions of the days before the Klondike was discovered. Remorseful, but still obstinate and ignorant, the Government built a railroad from the sea to the Tanana, but it would not permit production to make traffic for it. A law for leasing coal land was passed, but it was adapted to a well-developed populous country in the old world, not to a pioneer, almost uninhabited country in the far North, and the Government had to mine coal for locomotives which hauled trains without traffic on a railroad through a country bursting with riches which it forbade man to touch. Alaska still waits for the dead hand of Pinchotism to be lifted.

Daily Selections for Guardian Readers

From the W. S. Louson collection

THE THREAD OF GOLD

They are poor That have lost nothing; they are poorer far Who, losing, have forgotten; they most poor Of all, who lose and wish they might forget This life is one, and in its warp and woof There runs a thread of gold that glitters fair. And sometimes in the pattern shows most sweet Where there are sombre colors. It is true That we have wept. But oh! this thread is gold. We would not have it tarnish; let us turn Oft and look back upon the wondrous web. And when it shineth sometimes we shall know. That memory is possession. —Jean Ingelow

God keep watch 'tween thee and me.

This is my prayer He looketh thy way. He looketh mine. And keep us near. —Julia A. Baker

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