

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1931

Ready For The Field

Two enthusiastic Conservative conventions were held yesterday afternoon, one in the Fourth District of Prince, the other in the Fourth District of Queen's, for the purpose of nominating candidates in the coming provincial election. In Fourth Prince the choice fell upon Messrs. Hugh Morrison and Heath Strong, K. C., both gentlemen of high standing in the community, well qualified to debate the issues of the day and to legislate, if elected, in the interests of the district and the Province generally. In the Fourth Queen's Messrs. Shaw MacMillan and George A. MacLean, both seasoned campaigners, well and favorably known, were nominated. To these gentlemen we extend hearty congratulations upon the honour bestowed upon them by the large and representative gatherings of their fellow citizens, and echo the sentiments expressed so enthusiastically yesterday, that they will carry the Conservative standard worthily and successfully in the coming contest.

A Pre-Election Session

The Legislative session is over. It had not been for the persistent efforts of the Lea Government to make propaganda for electioneering purposes it would have been over several weeks ago. These efforts were made so brazenly, so openly, and with such cynical disregard for the opinion of the intelligent electors of the Province, that they assumed almost a heroic quality. All parties, in the last session before an election, make efforts to capitalize political issues. It is natural to expect, in the debates on the Draft Address and the Budget that the speakers will appeal to their constituencies, and will stress those points which they believe will have the most effect in securing support at the polls. But the Lea Government has not been content to confine its political propaganda to the speeches of its members and supporters in the debates. It has introduced into committee measure after measure, for no other purpose, apparently, than to make political propaganda.

After abolishing statute labour, a gesture was made of re-introducing this system under an Act so designed as to give to the road officials of the Government the power to pick and choose those who shall have the privilege of commuting their taxes. Another hoped-for vote-catcher was the Ticket of Leave Act, a measure unheard of in any other Province, which will undoubtedly have the effect of further stultifying the Prohibition Law in the interests of political heeled and partisans. Another statute empowers the Government to raise the gasoline tax without the authority of the Legislature. The belated implementation of the Liberal platform with respect to the payment of railway taxation to the city and incorporated towns and villages may be regarded as another political gesture, since it could have been done, as the Opposition pointed out, at the 1928 session if the Government had been sincere.

All through the session, as readers who have followed the proceedings are aware, the same persistent campaign was in evidence.

Perhaps the most significant political gesture was the repeated insistence on federal issues, culminating in a resolution introduced by the Hon. Horace Wright, ex-Progressive free-trader, protesting against the tariff policy of the Bennett Government, over which the time of the House was wasted in an unprofitable debate having for its sole object the rehashing of the questions raised and decided upon by the electors in the Federal election of last year.

Even the Public Accounts Committee has been prostituted by the Lea Government for the purposes of political propaganda. Special meet-

ings were called for the specific purpose of concocting this propaganda. And when the Opposition members of the Committee requested permission to refute certain statements made before the Committee by the Provincial Auditor, the request was refused on the ground that the statements in question had been improperly heard in the first place, and had no bearing on last year's Public Accounts!

The last act of the Committee was perhaps the most remarkable of all. We refer to the figures contained as "assets" in its report submitted to the Legislature yesterday. Those figures, and the discussion on the report, are given in today's Guardian, and we commend them to the careful perusal of our readers. They show, better than any words can express, to what length the campaign has gone of misleading the public on the eve of an election which the Lea Government has every reason to view with fear and apprehension.

Canadian Ports

At the invitation of the Canadian Government, Sir Alexander Gibb, the well-known engineer and member of the firm of Gibb & Partners, Westminster, will sail for this country towards the end of May to conduct a survey of the ports of the Dominion. The inspection, which is to occupy several weeks, will be with the object of recommending the lines on which improvements to both the accommodation and the equipment of the ports are desirable in the interests of Canadian trade. Plans will be prepared by Sir Alexander accordingly. The ports to undergo a special survey will include Montreal, Quebec, St. John, Halifax and Vancouver. Sir Alexander Gibb's departure will be preceded by that of one of the senior members of the firm at the end of next week in order that the necessary arrangements may be made.

The announcement of the visit was made recently at Ottawa by the Minister of Marine, Mr. Alfred Duranleau, who said the welfare and prosperity of Canadian ports was a matter which affected Canada as a whole and their development along proper lines would not only make for maximum economy, but would also ensure more efficient administration. The problems of each individual port would be gone into in a thorough and exhaustive manner and advice given with regard to the method of handling such problems. The Government would then have before it a comprehensive plan for the development of each port in accordance with its needs. Sir Alexander Gibb, added Mr. Duranleau, was recognized as an outstanding authority on harbour construction and port administration, and would bring to his task a large experience gained in varied fields of activity. He would be free from local prejudice as to the claims of the various ports and his plan of development would be along sound economic lines.

The announcement is of direct concern to the Maritime Provinces, and may mean much to their future development and progress.

Editorial Notes

"As usual," says the Liberal organ, "the Opposition criticised the Government with regard to the increase of subsidy." No such criticism was ever made by the Opposition, for the simple reason that the Lea Government never got an increase of subsidy.

Our contemporary complains that the Opposition members, in making up the deficit in the Public Accounts, "had to go back to the methods of calculation they had used when their own party was in power." Had the Lea Government been equally consistent, there would be no misunderstanding as to the true financial situation.

No one need try deny that Canada, in common with the rest of the world, is feeling the depression. But there can be nothing but condemnation for those who, to fatten politically on that depression, are howling that the country is lost. Even the most sordid kind of politics should be above such practices.

Mr. Mackenzie King's strategy says an exchange, is to mobilize discontent, to play politics with human misery, to garner party dividends from poverty and hardship. His strategy is hardly a tribute to Canada's intelligence. Who on earth believes, or can believe, that the present condition of agriculture is due to Mr. Bennett, less than eight months in office? Or the condition of industry? Or of the country as a whole? The thing is too absurd for serious thought.

Members of Parliament seem particularly touchy at this session concerning criticism in the press. Several times recently members have arisen on questions of privilege to return "compliments" they discovered in the daily newspapers one of these Miss Agnes MacPhail, Progressive M. P. for Southeast Grey. The Commons' only woman member "went after" an Ottawa columnist for referring to herself and ten others who refused to vote in the House one day recently as suffering from "spinal and intestinal deficiency." She didn't like it a bit and said so.

It is refreshing to note that Premier Bennett in a comparatively brief speech on an important subject is always credited by friends and opponents alike with having treated the matter in hand in a clean comprehensive and business like way. Introducing the Old Age pension scheme the other day in parliament he spoke for twenty minutes only and left no doubt in the minds of his hearers as to what he proposed doing. His fifteen minutes reply to Mr. Mackenzie King's several hours speech at the opening of parliament is another case in point. All parliamentarians have not yet learned that brevity is the soul of wit on that threshing old straw is not real speech making.

While Premier Bennett and High Commissioner Ferguson are being condemned for advocating an anti-British policy they are getting the greatest support from Conservatives and others in England. In his speech at Liverpool this week Rt. Hon. Stanley Baldwin opened his country-wide campaign in support of a National Policy for Great Britain corresponding to the Canadian National Policy as advocated by Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett at the Imperial Conference last October.

Canadian motorists sometimes grumble over what they pay. Well, in England the motorist pays a tax of 12 cents a gallon on his gasoline, and about \$5 a horsepower for his car. A license for an ordinary Ford comes to nearly \$100.

So, when Mr. Bennett brings down his Budget, and there are new taxes in it, let's not kick too vigorously. Canada, despite everything, is still a sort of cozy corner of the world.

Mr. King was nine years getting a Liberal majority in the Senate, where vacancies are caused only by death. Premier Bennett may see a majority for the Conservatives without less than a year. The Senators do not work hard because they are obliged to await legislation from the Commons. It is estimated that the Grim Reaper removes an average of six members of the Senate every year. The reason for this is that in the past most of the Senators were not appointed until late in life. Sir Robert Borden appointed more Senators than any other Prime Minister of Canada. In the Upper House today there are 34 who owe their appointments to him. Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen also established another record by elevating 14 to the Upper House in one year. Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King did fairly well by the Senate during his nine-year tenure of office. He appointed no fewer than 39 Senators in that time and most of these are still living.

Economic readjustment is slow and tortuous, but the forces which make for increased stability are gradually gaining headway. As stability is established there will be increased confidence in the money markets and funds seeking opportunities for foreign investment will flow into long-term foreign credits. Economic and political stability and re-established financial confidence are the necessary prelude to the re-establishment of world trade.

Every responsible politician and newspaper in this country says London Truth supported the Round Table Conference and suppressing their worst fears, hoped that good would come of it. Great Britain offered India a chance of attaining its full stature among the nations. There was only one condition, and that was that the Indians should consume



That Body of Hours

By James W. Barlow, M.D.

THE CAUSE OF SLEEP IS UNKNOWN

I often wonder who will be the first research man to find out the real cause of sleep; whether it will be discovered by an old or young investigator; what nationality he will be; what experiments he will use in proving it.

Sleep is a wonderful work of Nature that has been investigated for hundreds of years, and yet we seem no nearer the knowledge of the cause of sleep than were our forefathers.

Not that there hasn't been many theories, and these theories looked very sound for a while until some later investigator was able to show that each in turn was not the cause of sleep.

One of these theories as to the cause of sleep was that in our waking hours the body manufactured a certain substance which when it got to a certain amount, acted on the nervous system just as a drug, and put the brain to sleep.

Another theory was that during our waking hours the nerve units were in contact with one another thus keeping us conscious or awake, but during sleep the nerve units curled up in themselves and were not in contact with one another, separated as electric wires would be, and we became unconscious or asleep.

Still another theory and one held by many until recently, was that the heart did not send as much blood up to the brain but sent it to the surface of the body, and it was this lessening of the blood supply to the brain that caused unconsciousness or sleep.

However, Dr. A. Grollman, Johns Hopkins University, has been able to show that the supply of blood to the brain, the blood pressure, the pulse rate, and the breathing, during sleep, are not any lower than if the individual is awake, providing that he is lying perfectly quiet, no digestion going on, and his mind calm and free from thought of any kind.

Now this is interesting as it tends to disprove various theories, but it doesn't give us in itself the real cause of sleep.

However we do know that Nature shows us that we must have it, and it is as important and necessary as food and fresh air, and the strongest will cannot battle it very long. In the meantime as mentioned before, it is gratifying to know that the body processes, heart beat, breathing rate, blood pressure, circulation of the blood—all the processes in fact—slow down about 25 per cent if we are willing to lie quietly in bed even if we do not sleep. This knowledge should help us to get off to sleep.

Birch Bark Canoe

(Sault Ste. Marie Star)

A writer in the Montreal Gazette has the mistaken notion that the making of the birch bark canoe is a lost art. These are still made in Algoma, the last outpost of the Ojibway. The proof is that there are two birchbark hangers in the Sault Ste. Marie office both of them made by Ojibways in the last year or so.

Toronto University has a small birch-bark canoe in its museum, and other museums are acquiring these. Apparently these fragile vessels are only made in Algoma and even in this district it requires some persistence to have one made. It took the Star some years to find Indians who knew the art of making canoes, and then another year or two to get the canoes made. The builders do not know that museums want their work. But if one of these canoes is desired by a good Canadian, the Star will try to fill the order.

The birch-bark canoe, the invention of the Ojibway, was the greatest Indian contribution to civilization. Only by it could the continent be explored in the old days. Every traveller used the birch-bark up to about 50 years ago. There was a canoe regatta at Orillia in 1876, at which nothing else was used. Some of the racing canoes used on that occasion were about 25 feet long and just wide enough to permit a paddler to get his knees into them.

What drove the birch-bark off the market was its fragility, its proneness to leak if it touched anything. As a rule its floor was too round and thus it upset easily. But as a handy means of transportation in the old days it

had its own internal differences. In the last fortnight we have seen how illusory all our hopes were. Gandhi has shattered them. He is playing the Hindu game—the government of India by the Hindus, for the Hindus. The Moslems, the strongest religious minority in the world, would be lunatics to allow him to consummate his ambition.

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.

SPRING SHOOTING

Sir—I notice in your issue of May 1st, a letter over signature of "Canadian No. 2," making a very feeble attempt to explain why we should not be allowed a spring season of shooting geese and brant.

The following will explain some of No. 2's errors. In the first place he seems to be better versed on the doings in U. S. A. than he is in this country. No. 2 says: "We don't think the resolution read in our local parliament will meet with the general approval of our law-abiding citizens."

Well: "We" and I think differently. He seems to be unaware of the fact, that, a year or two ago in certain parts of this Province, meetings were held in connection with this matter and were largely attended and all were in favor of a short shooting season in the spring.

At one meeting which had a large attendance the question came up, as to how many sportsmen present had ever found eggs in geese in the spring. And strange to say, only one man at that meeting had had that experience and he was a game warden. As this gentleman is no longer employed in that capacity I would not be surprised to find, that if he were asked that question today that those eggs would turn out to be gravel stones.

Who feeds those birds in winter? I am not a clergyman or even a Sunday school teacher, but can answer the above question in one word. "God." He has provided for everything He has created. This can be found in the book of Genesis, Chapter I, Verse XXX.

Again in No. 2's letter he says thoughtful men in the U. S. A. men who were real sports and who wished to see the birds protected, viewed with alarm the rapidly declining number of birds, due to the large increase in the number of gunners and still further he says: "Due to the fact that nets were used, whereby birds could be drawn in, killed at leisure, sold and shipped to large cities by the car-load."

I must congratulate No. 2 on his giving the public an explanation of why the birds so rapidly decline.

Uncle Sam was certainly cleaning them up (and faster than we could conserve them). Still No. 2 thinks we should suffer for what they did in the States. I will leave it to our readers to decide. One thing we do know, is that such slaughtering never took place in this province, neither do I think we should be held responsible for killing all the buffaloes.

Our critic mentioned Congress in two or three places in his letter, and says that thirteen years ago this treaty was signed. For the benefit of those who may not have a copy of the "Migratory Bird Act" I may state that Congress is not mentioned between the covers of the Act. The treaty was signed at Washington, D. C., on the 16th day of August, 1916.

The next part of his letter I will deal with, is where he quotes "if

was perfect, its lightness on the portage and its ease of construction giving it a universal use. Here and there it is still used. What finer "decoration" for a canoe club—or any other kind of a club for that matter—than the distinctively Canadian birch-bark canoes? Many Canadians can recall the happy birch-bark days of their youth when they knelt on cedar boughs that were generally damp, and paddled into the land of romance. It is comforting to know that such voyages are yet possible.

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The Poets Corner

STARS

Now in the West the slender moon lies low; And now Orion glimmers through the trees, Clearing the earth with even pace and slow; And now the stately-moving Pleiades, In that soft infinite darkness overhead, Hang jewel-wise upon a silver threat. And all the lonelier stars that have their place, Calm lamps within the distant southern sky, And planet-dust upon the edge of space, Look down upon the fretful world; and I Look up to outer vastness unafraid, And see the stars which sang when earth was made.

—Marjorie Pickthall.

this gentleman can give one concrete case of violation of the law in the U. S. A. and give the names of culprit and informant, in confidence to the editor of the "Guardian" he can be assured that no time will be lost in having it thoroughly investigated." What great faith this gentleman has in the U. S. A. sportsman. Yet he calls himself a Canadian.

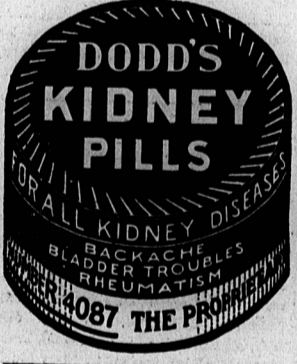
Our readers know that I gave my authority for the article inserted in my first letter to the "Guardian," and for the benefit of Canadian No. 2 I will give it again. It was taken from pages 739 and 740 of the "Popular Mechanics" magazine, May, 1931, number. If Canadian No. 2 is so anxious for investigations let me suggest he take it up with the above named publication for full detail.

Next he says we are only caretakers of the birds or farmers on a large scale. Let us see how this works out. Canada with nine millions, as against U. S. A. with one hundred and twenty millions, or one bird for Canada as against thirteen and one third birds for the States. I wonder if Canadian No. 2 would enter into a partnership with me, (raising poultry) on the same basis. A five year old school boy could see through it.

Dealing with the last part of his letter in which he quotes: "to get down to the root of the matter this movement is being agitated by the fact that some people have been fined, and have been working night and day to discredit the Act." He has missed his shot in this. And here is my standing in the community: I am forty-eight years old, and have never been up before any court of justice for law-breaking.

I am Sir etc.

CANADIAN



Sunday May 10th. IS MOTHER'S DAY

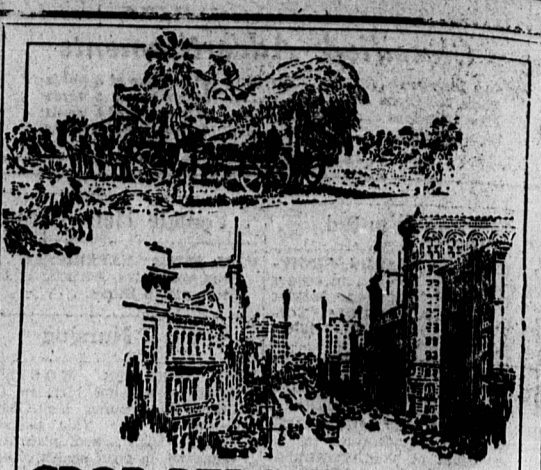
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