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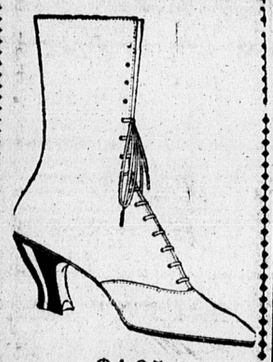

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THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (founded 1887) $6.00 per year (delivered) in advance $5.00 per year (Mailed) in advance in Canada, and $6.00 to U. S. A.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 1921

THE LIGHT AND POWER BILL

We cordially endorse all that has been said in the Legislature about encouraging capitalists to come to the province and develop our resources and add to our conveniences. The text for these remarks was provided by the Bill introduced by the Attorney General to incorporate the P. E. I. Light, Heat and Power Co., Ltd. The Bill as a whole is fair and equitable, but there are some clauses, as Mr. Arsenault pointed out, which require amending to safe-guard the interests of the province and others which might not be inappropriately inserted. There is no attempt apparently on the surface of the bill to claim complete monopoly for twenty years, provision being made that existing companies should not be interfered with. On the other hand there is nothing to prevent the new company absorbing existing companies and by this means obtain complete monopoly. Then with regard to the rates chargeable the minimum provided for in the Bill for Charlottetown and Summerside are the present existing rates. Now the existing rates in both these places are exceptionally high due to war and postwar conditions. We are not to assume that the price of coal and the cost of production is not to recede very considerably in this industry as in others and to provide minimum rates for light, heat and power at the peak prices, is to place a lever in the hands of the monopolists for twenty years which might result in enormous profits for the company and serious handicaps to its customers and patrons. Nor need we be misled by the clause in the Bill which provides for no more than 10 per cent of the profits to be paid to the share holders and that the balance be expended on plant, improvement, reduction of rates etc. There is nothing to prevent the Company so devoting such profits for improvements and extension as to double the value of the $100 shares so that instead of paying out the profits in interest they will merely be adding to the value of the stock by the enhanced value. These are just one or two points that should be clearly brought out in the discussion and a necessary safeguard be provided in the Bill before it becomes law. Now is the time to take action; when the governor's consent has been given it will be too late.

THE CHAMPION BLUFFERS

What a paradise the legislature would be for the Bell aggregation if there were no critics, if there were no opposition to point out their errors, if there were no Guardian to expose their incompetence, their cooking of accounts, and their childish attempts to mislead the people! It would perhaps not be too much to say that half the time of the present session has been taken up in whining about the Guardian's criticisms and exposures; half the time of members receiving at the rate of $30 to $50 a day in whimpering, in threatening, in trying to intimidate and even to bribe the Guardian to keep quiet.

Such tactics have ever been the defence of the guilty and of the incompetent and it has been a striking characteristic of the present government. As early in its career as last winter its organ, the Patriot, threatened that unless the Guardian ceased its criticisms of certain actions of the government, it, the Patriot would make disclosures which would involve prominent members of the Opposition. We called its bluff and asked it to bring forward its disclosures. The Patriot never mentioned disclosures again.

Last winter a commission was appointed by the government to report on the Falconwood Hospital. A day or two afterwards the Patriot came out with a capital-lettered scare headed report of the "awful conditions" discovered by the Commission. When the Guardian pointed out that the "conditions" were due to the neglect of the Bell government, the material for repairs having been provided and placed in the building by the Arsenault government eight months before the commission visited the Hospital, the scare ceased, the commission never reported to the legislature and the commissioners were never paid for their work.

Last summer the Patriot, no doubt at the instance of the government threatened proceedings against the Guardian because it had pointed out glaring errors in the taxation act and the method of its enforcement. No legal action was taken but the government at the present session of the legislature passed a bill "intended to cure all defects" which the Guardian had pointed out.

As recently as the beginning of this month the Patriot in an evidently inspired article threatened an action for sedition against the Guardian on the false charge of advising the people not to pay their taxes, stating that the Department of Justice would be recreant in its duty if it did not silence the Guardian. We challenged the Patriot to prove its allegations and the challenge was followed by its usual silence when its bluff is called.

The other day in the legislature Premier Bell threatened to withhold from the Guardian reporter the miserable pittance paid for reporting the proceedings of the legislature because of some editorial or local reference to a case of notorious neglect by the authorities. It may be remarked in this connection that any one of the three reporters representing the Patriot, Examiner and Guardian in the legislature does more work in one day and night than all the members of the legislature do together during the whole session for which the latter receive $500 each. Premier Bell has it in his power to put his threat into execution but it will not affect the policy of the Guardian by a hairs' breadth.

SELF-PRAISE

It is an accepted axiom that self-praise is no recommendation. The Patriot recently has been circulating among the members of the government and its supporters and then in turn have been declaring in the House a statement that the late Senator Ferguson and ex-Premier Mathieson had commended it for its fair unbiased reports of the legislature. Now Senator Ferguson is dead and ex-Premier Mathieson is out of politics so neither can be appealed to for verification of the Patriot's claims. If ex-Premier Mathieson expressed such an opinion it was while he, himself, was in opposition and the reporter of the Patriot was not in politics. After Mr. Mathieson became Premier and the Patriot's reporter became a politician there was a different story to tell. More than once the Patriot was charged on the floor of the House with biased reports and the misrepresentation of the Liberal Conservative members. The Commissioner of Agriculture on several occasions had to protest against the Patriot's reports of the then Government speakers, charging it with suppressio veri et suggestio falsi and with giving in its report of the debates matters that did not materially help the government, but suppressing cogent arguments and important statements. It is still at its old practices. In a report of the speech of Mr. W. B. LePage it suppressed all reference to what he said reflecting upon the Falconwood Asylum but gave that portion in which he attempted to reflect upon the Guardian. Yet we did not hear Mr. LePage rising to a question of privilege and directing the attention of the House to the Patriot's misrepresentation of his remarks.

Current Comment

Mr. D. C. McDonald, who followed Mr. Higgs in the round about circle of Government bouquet pitchers, as we previously remarked, sometimes exhibits a degree of intelligence which other members of the party might reasonably be jealous of, although he is not always proof against the foolishness so epidemic within the circle, such for instance as in making himself ridiculous in the eyes of sensible people in the matter of moving unparliamentary, innocuous resolutions. Of course he is as yet young in politics and green in experience, and as he grows older he may overcome this childishness After discharging the stereotyped formula of admiration and adulation upon the Premier and central figures of Government he proceeded to somewhat wisely philosophize on the financial situation. The "ordinary man" he says does not understand public accounts and the discussion of figures is puzzling to most of the people. There is a vast amount of truth and common sense in this, but it might have been followed up by the further remark, that under the suppressions and concealments of his party, and the multiplicity of deficits, surplusses & debt increases, dished out by his friends, they were still more un-understandable. It were bad enough to be so under ordinary conditions, but for a party publishing a Manifesto, one of the chief planks of which was an "understandable" presentation of the finances of the country, makes it simply unpardonable.

He referred to a dose of medicine in this relation being delivered by the Conservatives to the Liberals in 1911, which was being now applied back to them: and that "they fared worse by this system of book-keeping than the Liberals did." To what system does he make reference? It can not be the Bell Government system. FOR THEY ARE ABSOLUTELY WITHOUT SYSTEM or anything that might be reasonably honored by being designated as a system. In 1911 there was no sulking and dodging away from facts, no open and deliberate suppression of official statements, and although over eight years have slipped by the financial statements as then prepared under the Mathieson Government remain unchallenged. There was an open and free external audit when they came into power to determine the exact situation at that date, AND A FURTHER EXTERNAL AUDIT to establish the true situation at the end of the fiscal year. And those audits were instant and immediate audits, TAKEN AT ONCE UPON THEIR ENTRY INTO POWER, and at the closing of the business of the year. The Bell combination could not produce sufficient courage to pursue this honest course, and FOR ABOUT SEVEN MONTHS AFTER THEY CAME INTO POWER THEY DID NOT FACE AN EXTERNAL AUDIT OF ANY KIND, nor would they ALLOW THEIR OWN TRANSACTIONS to come under a special audit for that four months, EITHER THEN OR SINCE.

He was certainly justified in declaring that the Conservatives fared worse by this system than the Liberals did, but scoring a victory of that kind, by admitted dishonesty, is the last thing he should boast of. He wisely had very little to say upon the details of the finances of the country, confining himself to the parrot utterances of the crowd. We do not hesitate to say that Mr. McDonald is about as intelligent a man as they have in their ranks, and with equal unhesitancy we venture the statement that he has no more idea of the real state of the finances of the province than the man in the moon, although he probably may know more than the rest of the rank and file, or anybody outside of the arch manipulators themselves. There isn't a man-Jack of the combination that can truthfully say that they know within a hundred thousand, where they stand, and this gentleman amongst the number. Another of those Polly want a cracker statements which he repeated was that the people "will see the state of disorder into which this country was plunged." He wobbled that of JUST AS THE PARROT WOBBLES HIS TONGUE, because he learned it from others, WITHOUT A SYLLABLE OF SUPPORTING EVIDENCE BEHIND.

There was more or less of the element of pleasure in listening to the Hon. C. W. Crosby, Commissioner of Public Works, to the extent that he neither devoted his time to the abuse of those who were not on the floor of the House to answer him, nor to the equally useless task of exploring for scape goats to carry his sins into the wilderness. He candidly assumed responsibility for all his public acts and whether good or bad he was

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

ARE YOU PATIENT

There is no one individual in this wide world to whom perpetual peace is granted, or perpetual happiness without any troubles or crosses whatever. That is why we should pray for and cultivate the spirit of patience, which enabes us to yield to our burdens and trials and be drawn nearer that real peace of the heart which none can wrest from us.

Some of us have many pin-pricks that disturb the equanimity of the spirit and torture us to distraction, until we have learned that patience today, now always, is what we must practise until we have actually acquired the gift.

Great troubles have more power to subdue the spirit and to bring about, if not actual patience, at least resignation, which is, in some instances, akin to patience, but the small vexations of life tempts us to a show of ill-temper and impatience all unawares.

Therefore, it is of these we should beware; for it is un-Christianlike and unlovely to speak harshly to anyone. Patience teaches us to be gentle and kindly at all times. It teaches us charity for the failings of others, and goes far forbearance and justice towards the erring.

Patience is one of the most beautiful virtues we can possess, and therefore we should strive unceasingly to possess it.

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.

THAT PUBLIC MENACE

Sir:—In yesterday morning's issue of the Guardian there appeared a local under the caption "A Public Menace", with regard to a prisoner who had been liberated from Queen's County Jail in order to enter a hospital for treatment. The report states that the authorities "failed to see that the conditions upon which he was liberated were carried out."

Now, Mr. Editor, this is not the case. The prisoner went directly to one of the best clinic hospitals of Canada for treatment and is still under treatment in private apartments here as it was not considered necessary by the hospital authorities that he should be confined to the hospital.

This man is not however, an occupant of a boarding house as stated by the Guardian. Neither is it true as stated in the Guardian that he was seen in the boarding house referred to in a helpless state of intoxication".

The Guardian's informant is here by challenged to prove this statement and the writer in order to show his sincerity in the matter hereby agrees to deposit with the Guardian $500.00 to be paid over to any charitable institution the Guardian informant may name in case he shall prove such statement to your satisfaction.

For the information of the public I may inform you that the medical examination at the hospital showed the prisoner's malady not to be of so dangerous a character as the Guardian's informant would have the general public believe. He is receiving all necessary attention and is rapidly recovering. In the meantime there is not the slightest fear of contagion or anything of the sort.

Thanking you, I am, Sir, etc.,
ONE WHO KNOWS

ANOTHER WHO KNOWS

Sir,—In reply to the letter in yesterday's Patriot in regard to the man who was recently liberated from jail afflicted with a loathsome contagious disease, I affirm that your statement to the effect that he was stopping at a boarding house on the date you mention is absolutely correct and that he had been there for a considerable number of days previously. What is more, the condition of this man was such that one of the boarders left on account of his presence in said house and others were about to leave, only that the man got out after the publication of your item drawing attention to his presence there. Your statement that he was in a state of intoxication while there is also correct and inmates of the house can verify the same. I do not know how serious the man's condition may be, but the fact that he was freed from jail following the urgent appeal of his fellow-prisoners for protection is sufficient for any intelligent person to draw their own conclusions. The appearance of the man when last seen by me was, I should judge also sufficient evidence to make me believe that his condition was as stated. As to who is responsible for the presence of the man in the community in such a condition I will not venture to say, but I, like others who know the circumstances, am sure that it could not have been the intention to have him removed from prison, where his presence was regarded as a menace by the other occupants, to be cast loose as a menace to the citizens at large.

I am Sir, etc.,
ANOTHER WHO KNOWS.

CURIOSITIES OF THE SKY

Sir,—In looking over the issue of the Guardian of April 8th, I was somewhat amused in finding a bit of correspondence under the heading "Curiosities of the Sky". Some bod must have been mixing in and got things misplaced. This little reminder of the far-distant past should have appeared under this heading, 'A Mundane Curiosity." One is surprised, in this age of rapid transit and wonderful advancement to find a Lone Weary Willy tramping along in the rear of scientific progress. The author of this echo of by gone days appears to be a shadow of Don Quixote, but unlike sturdy knight of windmill fame he does not seek an encounter in the open. Acting the part of a sniper and having discharged his Blunder-buss, he like that cur of animal biology commonly known as the hermit crab crawls away leaving just the shell of a name behind. With marvelous pretence, reference is made to the "Great Authorities". Who ever laid claim to such distinction? Search the records and you will fail to find any except the Scribes and Pharisees, those stand-pat traditionists and intellectual highbrows who "ventured" to ask the Man of Nazareth pre-eminently the great authority, "by what authority doest thou these things?" As the divine Master answered them I will reply to the present request by asking a question: Do you wish to have it understood that the signature "I am, etc, L. W. W. represents those words.

The great scientists of the past never considered their deductions as "conclusive" and therefore never did they initial their manuscripts L. W. (last words). They noted observations, made deductions, formulated theories and having passed on, left the door of research open behind them.

I would like to remind L. W. W. that many theories have been advanced "to explain the whole geological process of the formations of the earth and her fellow planets two of which representing theories 'diametrically opposed", I will cite, namely, the Laplace Nebular theory and the Planetesimal Hypothesis. Judging from the drift of the article I presume it is the Laplace Hypothesis that is here attempted to defend. To dispel any scepticism in the mind of L. W. W. I would suggest the following works: (1) The productions of Sir Robert Ball, M. A., L. L. D., F. R. S., F. R. A. S., Professor of Astronomony and Mathematics in the University of Cambridge and Director of the Cambridge Observatory, etc., I will quote what he has to say about the "teaching" of the Nebular Theory of Leplace in a work entitled 'A story of the Sky... He says: "Such is, in fact, the doctrine of the origin of our system which has been advanced in that celebrated speculation known as the Nebular Theory of Leplace, nor can it be ever more than a speculation; it cannot be established by observation, nor can it be proved by calculation." (2) The works of Professor Garret P. Serviss. Let me suggest a passage from one, namely "the Curiosities of the Sky". "Leplace was one of the ablest mathematicians that ever lived and he had never seen a spiral nebulae; if he had he might have invented a hypothesis to suit its phenomena. His actual hypothesis was intended only for our solar system, and he left it in the form of a 'note' for the consideration of his successors, with the hope that they might be able to discover the full truth which he confessed was hidden

(Continued on page eight)

Spring's Crowning Glory
A Fetching New Hat

With the first breeze of Spring the mind turned to a new hat—but now that the sunshine is here for good a new hat is imperative. Our milliners are ready to fill your order, with the latest Canadian and American models for tailor or dress wear, for the mother, daughter or kiddies.

THE FINAL TOUCH—THE VEIL

Meshes that enhance beauty—meshes that soften facial lines—meshes that give the desired privacy. Marvelous how much a thin Veil can do and be.
New kinds—so original in effects—so smart.
You're sure to find just the sort you like or need.

BRIGHT COLORS PREDOMINATE THIS YEAR

The robin redbreast has put on his new jacket; the blue-bird is brilliant again; but, first of all in the galaxy of beauty are Miss and Madam "P. E. Islander"—blooming girls and radiant woman who this Spring are doing their shopping at Patons.

SILK PETTICOATS WITH NEW ATTRACTIVENESS

New Spring Styles, as to silks, as to shapes, as to trimmings, as to weight.
Taffetas, jerseys, satins—in colorings to meet the requirements of the new fashions.
And besides—the new prices are lower.

THE CORSET THAT IS, BUT IS NOT

Such is the fashionable accessory that must support both gown and body, but must not detract one iota from the graceful uppleness of the wearer.
The new modes were designed with that thought; selected and brought here for that service.
The fitting is most important of all, and for that depend upon us completely.

UNDERWEAR COMFORT FOR LOVELY SPRING DAYS

What a pity to fail to enjoy the finest days of the year because one hasn't ready the light-weight Underwear, to change with the thermometer.
Here are the best kinds for now and the near future.

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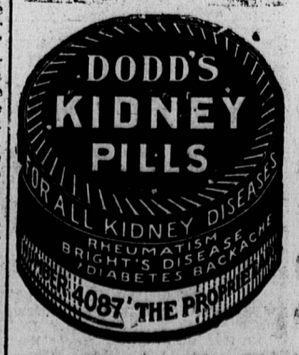
The Old Gardener Says

If you want extra early potatoes you can sprout the seed tubers in the house, simply place them in trays in a single layer, and keep them where they will get the sun all day. They will soon make stout green sprouts, after which you can cut them up and plant them out about four inches deep, taking care not to break the sprouts. This will give potatoes in six or seven weeks. You can have them still earlier by dividing a box into compartments three inches square and planting the cut tubers one to a section in two inches of earth. When they have sprouted set them out without disturbing the roots.