

# Charlottetown Guardian

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President ..... A. A. Bartlett  
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SATURDAY, JANUARY 1ST, BEING NEW YEAR'S DAY, AND A STATUTORY PUBLIC HOLIDAY, THE MORNING GUARDIAN WILL NOT BE ISSUED ON MONDAY. THE EVENING GUARDIAN WILL NOT BE ISSUED ON SATURDAY, BUT WILL BE PUBLISHED AS USUAL ON MONDAY. ADVERTISERS PLEASE NOTE THESE CHANGES.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 31ST, 1915

## "THOUGH THE HEAVENS FALL"

The Press must do its duty though the heavens should fall. Thus sapiently quotes the Patriot yesterday in defence of its blackguardly conduct in deliberately leading itself to a foul attempt to defraud one of our most honourable and highly respected public men of that which is valued beyond the price of rubies.

"The duty of the Press" is not to defame a man first and find out the facts subsequently. "The duty of the Press" is to find out the truth and speak it fearlessly. "Truth! though the heavens crush me for following her" is the dictum which the Patriot is endeavouring to quote, but fails. Where would we be in this, or any other community, were we to allow the press, or any section of the press, to traduce public and private citizens on the pretext that it was doing its duty? Away with such sophistry—if it can be so dignified! The Patriot and the Patriot machine deliberately set out to blacken the character of the Hon. J. A. McNeill, a poor man, so far as this world's wealth is concerned, compared with Mr. J. H. Bell, the arch-conspirator in the plot, but a man whose reputation for honesty and integrity is second to none in Prince Edward Island. At no place where the Commissioner is known is there anything but indignation at this foul attempt to besmirch his honour and to reflect on his integrity.

"Truth though the heavens should fall," prates the Patriot. Think of it, and then recall what the Bard of Avon says:

"Who steals my purse steals trash; 'tis something, nothing; 'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands; But he that filches from me my good name Robs me of that which nothing ENRICHES HIM, And makes me poor indeed."

The Patriot would like now to hush up the "scandal," to let it drop. Why? Because it threw its bomb as the Germans threw their hand-grenades at our trenches, and our soldiers caught them and returned them with such effect that the enemy was annihilated. The band of Liberal conspirators led by Mr. J. H. Bell find that their bombshell has been returned to their own ranks and done effective damage, and now the Patriot whines about the disastrous consequences of the explosion. The Patriot and its friends will have enough "truth" to crush them before this matter ends. The Hon. J. A. McNeill is determined to probe this matter to the bottom, and has given instructions to proceed with an action for perjury against Mr. Philip Arsenault, who may be looked upon as the willing tool of a band of unprincipled politicians. Yes, the Hon. J. A. McNeill will do "his duty though the heavens fall," and crush the Patriot and the Patriot machine in the crash.

## CLERGY AS COMBATANTS

In a recent issue we referred to the controversy being carried on in the religious press at home over the duty of the clergy in connection with enlistment as combatants. Recent publications to hand indicate that the question has been satisfactorily settled in a conference and subsequent correspondence between the Archbishop of Canterbury and Lord Derby, Superintendent of Recruiting. In a letter from Lambeth Palace, dated Dec. 3, the Archbishop wrote:

Dear Lord Derby,—I am sorry to trouble you again upon the subject of the enlistment of clergy as combatants. But there is clearly so much confusion of thought and variety of action among many local recruiting authorities that I feel compelled to re-state the matter.

In accordance with your published letter to me of October 29, and your conversation with me on November 17, I and other bishops have instructed clergy who have sought our advice that they are following a perfectly legitimate course if, in reply to recruiting officers, they say that acting under the instruction of their bishops they are unable to offer themselves for combatant service. I now learn that clergy who have so acted are in some cases informed that their names, not having been starred by the local tribunals, will be placed on the list of those who, while at liberty to offer themselves for service, have declined to do so—in other words, among those who are popularly described as "shirkers." This seems to be an intolerable position in which to place men who

are eager and willing, in whatever way is fitting, to serve their country at this time. It is obvious that Parliament alone can ultimately decide on the terms of any Compulsion Act, should such an Act become necessary. Meantime are we at liberty to state that in your judgment the men who have followed the instruction of their bishops and relied upon your own words ought not to be discredited either by being placed upon any such list as I have indicated, or by being classed among those who have without due reason refused to offer themselves for combatant service?

We have repeatedly drawn the distinction between such combatant service and the non-combatant branches of army work. In such work clergy who can rightly be spared from their parishes may, in our judgment, most properly take their part.

I am, yours very truly,

RANDALL CANTUAR.

Writing from the War Office under same date, Lord Derby replied:

War Office, 3rd December, 1915.

Dear Archbishop of Canterbury,—In answer to your letter of the 3rd December I would repeat what I said to you in my letter of October 29, namely, that "I am strongly of the opinion that ministers of all denominations, however much they may wish to enlist, are equally doing their duty when obeying the orders of those set in authority over them." That was my personal opinion then; it is my personal opinion now, and no slur can possibly be attached to any individual minister who, acting under your Grace's instructions, declines to join the army. He is only doing what I, in my letter, said I thought it was his duty to do—obey the orders of those who are set in authority over him in the Church to which he belongs.

I gladly recognize your Grace's statement that where it is possible to spare men in Orders to join non-combatant branches of His Majesty's Forces, you will be prepared to sanction and indeed will welcome their doing so.

Yours sincerely,

DERBY.

The situation is fittingly summed up by a correspondent of the Church Times, who writes as follows:

Sir,—In considering the duty of the clergy at this time we ought to bear in mind that the law treats the clergy as a class apart. They are treated as no other class is treated. No clergyman is allowed to sit in Parliament unless he first renounces his Orders, an Act of Parliament allowing him to do this, and to become in the eyes of the State a mere layman. Would not this also apply to soldiering? Could a priest legally become a soldier without first taking advantage of the Act? The dissenting minister stands upon quite a different footing legally. He can become an M.P. Of no other class of man is it solemnly demanded, "Do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost to take upon you this office and ministration?" Is this call for a shorter period or for life? I presume that Canon Torr would hold "Orders" to be indecible. No other class of man has solemnly promised to do the particular work to which they consider themselves called with all faithful diligence; to lay aside the study of the world and of the flesh; and to promote quietness, peace and love among all Christian people. The clergy have all promised to obey reverently their Bishops, and with a glad mind and will to submit themselves to their godly judgments. The Bishops have as a body declared against clerical enlistment for fighting. That ought to settle the matter for men under obedience.

## GREECE AND THE WAR

Since the early days of the war Greece has been one of the big conundrums. Italy, Bulgaria and Roumania have been big questions. Roumania still remains in doubt and no one seems to have any real clear idea as to just how she will go. The most likely course for her has seemed to favour the Allies. She has shown many indications of friendliness toward Russia, and her people are closely related to Russia in every way.

But Greece is a different proposition. Her royal family seem to be strongly pro-German, as is natural, her Queen being the Kaiser's sister. On the other hand, her people are strongly in favour of the Allies and have a special dislike for the Bulgarians in particular, whom they fought bitterly in the last and recent Balkan war.

The desire of the people as a whole is to join the Allies. This is clearly shown by the great demonstration in favour of former Premier Venizelos and his party. The Premier urged the King to join the Allies, but the King would not consent. Venizelos and his cabinet resigned. The King appointed a new Premier and a new cabinet was formed. An election was then held. Venizelos and his party were returned to power by a large vote. Again Venizelos urged the King to follow his advice. Another election was held and the government, appointed by the King, used every effort possible to get a large vote and to get a majority of it in favour of the King's party. Venizelos knew it would be useless for him to be returned to power, as he would simply have to resign again. So he decided to make a powerful but silent demonstration, by having his party simply refrain from voting at all.

A complete canvass showed that only a very small part of all voters had voted.

The great silent majority were in favour of Venizelos and his party in their policy of joining the Allies. This indicates clearly to the royal party that if they and their cabinet persist in a neutral stand they are going contrary to the repeatedly expressed desire of the great body of the Greek nation and thereby incurring the gravest danger both to themselves and their country.

## A VENTRILOQUIST BELL

Sir,—The function of the bell is to make a noise. It may be glad to make noise of the marriage bell or the Christmas bell, or the joyful solemn note of the church bell, calling upon devout souls to assemble for worship. It may be the stirring note of the alarm bell, wakening us from midnight slumber and telling that a home is in danger of destruction by fire, or that our foes are threatening our liberties. Or it may be the note of the tolling bell that bespeaks the departure of some fellow citizen to the Great Beyond. Of all these Edgar Allan Poe has told us in his great masterpiece of rhythm and melody. But it is of another bell that I am now to speak, a Bell in similitude of a man, a Bell with a very long clapper in his mouth and want to emit lugubrious noise at any time. This wonderful Bell is a ventriloquist, which being interpreted means that he "speaks from the stomach." At times the brain, the tongue and the vocal chords remain quiescent, while the stomach, and sometimes the spleen and the gall bladder, perform the functions of audible speech.

This strange and unnatural endowment is the fountain source of both confusion and embarrassment among his hearers and admirers. They all know very well that Providence has placed the brain and all the nobler faculties of man at the summit of his physical structure. The throat, the mouth and the vocal chords are the organs of speech; we have located the affections in the heart, their home is yet "above the bell" which divides the nobler from the less honorable and less dignified portions of our anatomy. He himself and those who hear him are puzzled to know who is speaking to them. He is puzzled because of the long and laborious effort and the constant practice necessary to acquire and retain the strange art of speaking from the stomach, that he passes involuntarily sometimes, and at other times unconsciously from mental speech to ventriloquism. His hearers are both puzzled and afraid as they listen; puzzled, even when that which serves him as a brain and vocal organs seem to be making a noise like a statesman, puzzled to know whether it is real or stimulated; afraid, even when he is doing his best, that he may slip a cog, and unconsciously make vocal connection with his stomach, his gall or his spleen. And indeed the danger is great. Those inferior organs, so long cultivated, pampered and encouraged to execute activities for which they were not made or intended, now at times boldly assert the right to speak at any time, and relegate his intellect to a state of silence and subjection.

All of which is unfortunate for the Bell and for those who listen to it, for the Leader and for those who follow him. By swift transition they have had one leader who resigned, another who suffered a crushing defeat and now another whose prolixity is so wearying that they may find perchance some poor relief in listening while he speaks from "below the bell!"

I am Sir, etc., J. A.

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND TEACHERS' CONTRIBUTION.

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Additional and delayed contributions will be acknowledged in a few days. This fund must now be closed. Inspectors will therefore please send their List or additional contributions AT ONCE.

M. E. FRANCIS, Secretary Treasurer.  
 "Please arrange to pay that overdraft bill today.—MOORE & McLEOD.  
 6363-12-31M31.

## DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

## THE TURNED DOWN PAGE.

There's a turned down page in every one's life  
 I have read, or heard some one say;  
 I wonder if mine's at the end of my book  
 Or in this year, just passing away.  
 Perhaps in the future, there's some thing so bright  
 It will smooth out this page turned down  
 If faithfully carried my cross until night  
 The bright morn shall bring me a crown.

NOTE: In looking over my Mother's Bible (shortly after her departure from this life), among several helpful selections written out in her own handwriting were these beautiful verses quoted above. I do not know the author, but pass them along hoping that they may be of comfort to others at this time.

## PROVINCIAL AUDITOR

### Shadows No Cause for Even a Hint of a Suspicion of Wrong Doing.

Sir,—In this evening's Patriot there appear some inquiries by an anonymous correspondent about the duties of Provincial Auditor that require an answer.

When a claim comes to the office it is his duty to see that it is properly checked for and made up correctly, otherwise it is refused. But to ask the Auditor to go into every Department and examine every account before making payments would be to impose an impossible condition. In the Public Works Dept. alone so far this year over 12,000 cheques equal to 1,000 per month have been issued and it is not manifest that the Auditor must accept the guarantees of the accountants as to their accuracy and not be compelled to go from one Department to another and examine the accounts before signing the cheques. Such a plan could not be carried out by three men instead of one.

"Tomorrow morning I have to sign 400 cheques for the Education Department, and if I had to prove the accuracy of the amounts and not accept the Secretary's work it would easily take me nearly a week and do nothing else. In the larger provinces a complete set of books being practically duplicated of those of each Department is kept in the Auditor's office. Were we to adopt that plan it would require a staff of 3 or 4 clerks. To meet our case instead we have a system of checking that does well. The objection to it is that checking cannot delay in discovering errors. The error in the recent case, however, was discovered and a refund demanded several days before the sensational misuse of the incident, and why this man did not refund the money, instead of afterwards swearing he got too much is a mystery.

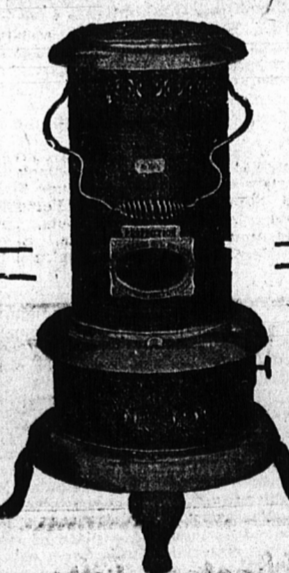
For myself I am devoting my time closely to the work, and this error is not one of carelessness nor negligence but just a human error. For Mr. McMillan I know what I am saying when I say that he cannot keep up his work without working overtime and to the limit of his strength.

I am nearly four years in my office, and no man ever attempted to have me pass a claim I did not approve of. I can say for the Honourable Mr. McNeill that he never asked me for a favor nor complained at my holding up payments till I was fully satisfied about them, although some of these delays must have caused him unpleasantness.

I have gone fully into this case and find no cause for even a shadow of a suspicion of wrong doing on the part of the Secretary or anyone else in the Department.

I am, Sir etc..... JOHN ANDERSON.

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