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SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1916.

AMENDING ELECTION ACT

Mr. Bell made a great pretense in the House of righteous indignation against the Government for seeking to amend the Election Act of 1913. Mr. Bell tried to make out that as the law now stands Premier Mathieson is disqualified from sitting in the House and is liable to a fine of \$200 for every day he sits and votes. This, of course, like all the other "sensational discoveries" of Mr. Bell, is absolutely without foundation in fact. So far as Premier Mathieson is concerned, there is no necessity for altering the Act at all. But were he to give up the office, and a successor appointed who did not also fill the office of Attorney-General, he would be disqualified from sitting and drawing the salary attached to the office. The position was aptly illustrated by the Premier during the debate. He said it was well known that Mr. Bell had made a deal with Mr. Johnston whereby the latter agreed to support the former's claim to the leadership provided that when the Liberals attained to office—say twenty years hence—Mr. Johnston would be made Attorney-General, leaving the Premiership—and its salary—to Mr. Bell. Under the present law that deal is illegal and could not be carried into effect. The amending bill makes it legal, and should have had the approval of the parties to the deal. But in order to make a show Mr. Bell made a party question of the matter and landed himself and his party in a ludicrous position before a crowded audience in the Legislative Chamber.

The Attorney-General, or any other portfolio holder, may accept any other additional portfolio in the Executive without seeking re-election. Premier Asquith, on the resignation of Mayor Seeley, assumed the office and emoluments of the Secretaryship for War just to avoid a bye-election. Therefore if the Attorney-General assumes the additional office of Premier and President of the Council he is not disqualified. The Premier stated that he was satisfied to leave the present act as it is without amendment so far as he was concerned. But it is the business of the Government to legislate for the future as well as the present, hence in the interests of his successors, whoever they may be, Mr. McKinnon introduced the amending bill. The effect of this bill will be to allow the offices of Premier and Attorney-General to be held by two members, and surely Mr. Bell and Mr. Johnston are the last persons to object to such legislation. Mr. Saunders stated bluntly that the amendment was merely a technical one and should not be opposed, but Mr. Bell insisted upon making it a party question and insisted upon Mr. Saunders and other followers voting against their convictions. The exhibition made in the House by Mr. Bell was most discreditably. On the division which he demanded, he was the only member who voted against the bill. The Leader of the Opposition is sadly lacking in discretion and foresight, and also in appreciation of what may be termed statesmanlike comprehension. He grapples with little things, matters of minor importance, to the neglect of the great essentials.

VITAL STATISTICS

Interesting and valuable statistics are given in the Registrar General's report on births, marriages and deaths during the year ended December 31, 1915. It is gratifying to find that the births exceeded the deaths by the very fair margin of 658 and probably more as the birth statistics for the City of Charlottetown are entered as not complete. The total number of births for the province was 1743 and of deaths 1085. Prince County leads the list in the births column with 747; Queen's including Charlottetown (incomplete) having 597 and King's 399. An interesting fact, in view of the wastage of men by the war, is that of the total births in the province 888 were females as against 855 males.

There were 530 marriages, Queen's County leading with 252, Prince second with 207 and King's lamentably behind with only 71.

There were 1085 deaths during the year, and as in the case of the births, the male population suffered most, the numbers being 564 males and 509 females, the sex of 12 not being given.

Of the 1085 deaths 161 died in infancy, that is, under three years. The largest proportion of deaths,

198, occurred between the ages of 70 and 80 years, 130 between 21 and 40, 141 between 40 and 60, 132 between 60 and 70, 135 between 80 and 90 and 40 over 90 years of age. The number of deaths among children and young people was perhaps somewhat large, 47 dying between the ages of 3 and 10, and 76 between 10 and 21.

Among the causes of death, apart from old age, heart trouble leads with 113 victims, tuberculosis second with 105, pneumonia, 97, paralysis 58, cancer, 52.

The causes of death are classified into five groups as follows: (1) Zymotic, including croup, cholera infantum, diphtheria, dysentery, fever, meningitis and whooping cough. In this class there were 47 deaths. (2) Constitutional, including anaemia, arterial degeneration, cold, decline, diabetes, epilepsy, dyspepsia, dropsy, la grippe and similar ailments. From these and kindred causes there were 177 deaths. (3) Local, including such localised affections as appendicitis, asthma, Bright's disease, etc., 137 deaths. (4) Developmental, including children's diseases, convulsions, natural causes, old age, etc., 182 deaths. (5) Violent, unknown or accidental, including operations, accidents, suicide, etc., 18 deaths.

It is to be regretted that similar statistics had not been kept in past years. Comparisons year by year for, say twenty or thirty years, would afford a valuable index as to the progress of medical and surgical science, the continued healthfulness or otherwise of our people, the effect of climatic conditions on longevity, etc., but it is gratifying to know that a beginning has been made and foundations laid which will prove of inestimable value in years to come.

The vital statistics of the province are of serious importance. In the past twenty years we have lost by exodus alone a very large proportion of our young manhood and womanhood. We are now losing temporarily at least, some 2,000 of our young manhood through the war. The importance of getting these men back to the province is one of the great problems that confront us at present and it is a hopeful sign of the times that steps are already in progress to meet it. There is much to be done, much which will require the whole united strength of our people to adjust to the advantage of the province.

RECOGNIZING FUR INDUSTRY

The Monetary Times, recognized as probably the most influential and authoritative trade and financial periodical in Canada, in its issue of April 14th, gives an editorial on "Fur Farming," which we publish below. It is significant that the Monetary Times, which during its early stages regarded the fox industry with caution bordering on suspicion, is now very outspoken in its favour. The fact that such authorities as the Monetary Times and other strong trade journals which at first shied at the extraordinary growth of the fox business and had conscientious scruples about it, have learned to see its wonderful possibilities and are now as ready to boost it as they were at first to express doubts about it, is one of the strongest proofs of its stability. Following is the editorial above referred to:

"Reference was made in the Monetary Times recently to the interesting report of the fur sales board of the Silver Black Fox Breeders Association of Prince Edward Island. The fur farming industry in that province is one of particular interest to that community. But as the prosperity of each province enhances that of the entire country it would not be amiss for other communities to take a greater interest in this industry, one which means so much to the conservative and active people of Prince Edward Island. One of the most important features noted in the report of the fur sales board, referred to above, is the fact that excellent prices were received for the small assortment of pelts offered by the board early this year in the New York market. Prices received for ten pelts ranged from \$800 to \$1,000, an average of \$945 each. That average would have been much higher had the vendors had sufficient skins to make matched pairs. They also sold ten pelts at prices ranging from \$325 to \$750, the twenty skins yielding an average of \$726.25 each. These were excellent prices, especially in view of the prevailing war conditions and the fact that the fur sales board visited the New York market at the worst time of the year, the fur season being practically over and most fur houses there offering their surplus stock at reduced prices. Two of the members of the fur sales board have just returned to Prince Edward Island from attendance at the March fur sales in New York. They took with them silver fox pelts, selling these and also those left unsold during the previous visit in January. They report prices 20 per cent. better than those of three months ago, and are enthusiastic as to the outlook for silver fox farming.

"The spring crop of young foxes is now arriving, but it is too early to hazard a conjecture as to the probable number of young. One man, however, in close touch with the industry, thinks there should be raised in the ranches of Prince Edward Island this year anywhere from 2,000 to 2,500 young silver black foxes."

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

The beautiful Easter season has come and gone issuing in a week full of gayety and pleasant anticipations. The sun shone warm and bright, a forecast of the Summer so quickly advancing.

On Monday the Ladies Aid of the Charlottetown Hospital entertained at a delightful whist drive at which prizes were given and a program of carefully chosen talent ably performed. This was followed on Tuesday by a dance given in honor of the performers and all those who assisted, which was equally enjoyed.

The first military wedding of the season, that of Miss Mary F. Bartlett to Lieut. Allen B. Cosh, of the 105th Highland Regiment was the social event of the season and one of the prettiest weddings ever held in Charlottetown. The bride, in her exquisite gown of white faille, brocaded in silver with an overdress of tulle, abright with orange blossoms and silver flowers and train of silver brocade and carrying an exquisite bouquet of lilies of the valley and white heather, looked charming as she passed to the carriage under the arch of flashing swords, on the arm of Lieut. Cosh. Mrs. Bartlett wore a most becoming gown of grey Georgette crepe over pink with large grey hat with pink roses. The presence of the commanding officer of the 105th and the officers of "B" Company lent a pleasing background to the other dainty costumes so becomingly worn by the guests. A reception at "The Hill" followed the ceremony. Lieut. and Mrs. Cosh left on a short honeymoon trip amid showers of confetti and good wishes and cheers from the men of "B" Company who were lined up in front of the Barracks as the bridal party passed on their way to the Railway Station.

Mr. Donald Nicholson, M. P., and Mrs. Nicholson spent the Easter Holidays in New York and Atlantic City. Their daughters Misses Emma and Gladys left early in the week to join them after which they will proceed on an extended visit to Vancouver and Seattle. They will return about July 1st, and will also spend sometime in Saskatoon the guest of their sister Mrs. J. D. McCallum.

Mr. A. A. McLean, M. P., and Mrs. McLean spent Easter in Montreal returning to Ottawa early in the week.

It is deeply regretted that owing to bronchial trouble Captain, the Rev. H. E. Thomas of the 55th Battalion has been ordered home and is expected to arrive in the very near future.

The sudden illness of Miss Rose Longworth, who with her mother Mrs. H. W. Longworth, had gone to New York, for Easter caused her friends here much uneasiness for a few days. It is pleasing to know, however, that she is now steadily improving after a successful operation for appendicitis.

Lieut. Weston Peake, is being welcomed home this week from Halifax where he was attending Military College.

Colonel Moore, who has been on an extended trip to the Southern States, left Santa Anna, California, some days ago en route home after a thoroughly delightful visit.

Mrs. Bartlett entertained a few friends at a pleasantly arranged Bridge at "The Hill" on Wednesday evening.

The House of Quality

Remember PATON & CO., are going out of the Furniture Business. There are some real bargains there. Baby's GO-CARTS and CARRIAGES Special.



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Goods shipped to any part of the world insured by first class Sailing Vessels or Steamships, at current rates, also War Risks covered when required.

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We show a splendid variety in soft bosoms with starched cuffs, soft bosoms with roll cuffs, collars to match if desired. Semi-stiff bosoms with starched cuffs. Soft bosom with collars attached Sport shirts with half or full length sleeves. Silk front and cuff shirts or all silk shirts. In fact we can supply any style of shirt your fancy dictates.

We have also in stock special length sleeve shirts for long armed men and a range of "stouts" for extra large men 6 inches wider in body than average shirts. Neck sizes 15 1-2 to 18 inches.

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IMPORTANT

Relatives of soldiers returning from the front are asked to communicate with the Secretary of the Provincial Committee of Wounded Soldiers' Commission, Miss Nellie Gillespie, Charlottetown, intimating the date of expected arrival, cause of return and any other particulars, in order that preparation may be made for a fitting reception.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

BEST.

Mother, I see you with your nursery light.
Leading your babies, all in white.
To their sweet rest;
Christ, the Good Shepherd, carries mine tonight.
And that is best.
I cannot help tears when I see

them twine
Their fingers in yours, and their bright curls shine
On your warm breast.
But the Saviour's is purer than yours or mine.
He can love the best.
You tremble each hour because your arms

Are weak; your heart is wrung with alarms
And sorely oppress:
My darlings are safe, out of reach of harm
And that is best.
You know over yours may hang even now
Pain and disease, whose fulfilling slow,
Naught can arrest.

Mine in God's gardens run to and fro,
And that is best.
But grief is selfish. I cannot see
Always why I should sicken be,
More than the rest:
But I know that, as well as for them,
for me
God did the best.

HELEN HUNT JACKSON.

I consider MINARD'S LINIMENT the BEST Liniment in use.
I got my foot badly jammed lately.
I bathed it well with MINARD'S LINIMENT, and it was as well as ever next day.
Yours very truly,
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