

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THE BYE-ELECTIONS

It is generally taken for granted that all the vacant seats will be filled by Conservatives. Even Liberals who were instrumental in inducing candidates to accept nominations admit this. As a matter of policy, it is quite natural for the Liberal party to show fight; to let the elections go by default would be an admission of defeat, provided a candidate was at all available. There will therefore be a contest in every constituency. Conservatives are warned not to be so over-sanguine as to neglect going to the polls and casting their ballot. The Liberal party, what is left of it, is wide awake and thoroughly organized. They will leave no stone unturned that would help them win some of their seats. They have no excuse to offer for the methods by which they won the last general election; they have not repented; they are still defiant and still claim they had no other alternative; they could have resigned in a body if they found on assuming power that the conditions of the province were such that they could not keep their pre-election promises. That conditions were not as "deplorable" as they pretended they were, was evidenced by the fact that one of their first acts on coming into power was to double their own salaries. Had the province been as badly off and as deep in debt as they claimed, their drive into the empty treasury was a crime and an inexcusable one. Their usefulness is long since gone by, if they ever possessed it and this can be effectively emphasized by returning all their candidates to the bosoms of their respective families. This can best be done by everybody who has a vote, going to the polls and casting their ballot in the interest of the province.

THE PROHIBITIVE PRICE

In everything we do or undertake to do the price is the main factor. If we have not the price we must go without, be our need ever so great. The price wanted, both he who has to sell and he who wants to buy are obliged to hold up. The one cannot buy and the other cannot sell and stagnation follows. The great trouble with the world today is that it has not the price demanded by those who have the goods to sell. Let us illustrate. Canada needs a larger population. The population is available. Northern Europe is teeming with the kind of population we require, with this population desirous of emigrating from congested districts to a country where there is room and opportunity to work. Canada has such room and such opportunity; more over it needs men and women to help develop its millions of vacant acres of land, its illimitable forests, its mines, its industries. The people who are ready to come and who would come cannot because they have not the price which the trans-Atlantic ships demand. The excessive rates charged by the steamship companies is the largest factor in the prevention of immigration to Canada today. Only the wealthy can afford to pay the price demanded and the wealthy are not emigrants. The overcoming of this hindrance will be one of the first steps necessary if we are to get any considerable proportion of the emigrants from Europe. How it is going to be accomplished is the problem. The steamship companies have a monopoly of the business; they charge what they like and there are enough wealthy cus-

tomers to provide good business for them.

We have steamers of the Canadian Mercantile Marine to develop this trade and to place the price of passenger rates at a figure which would suit the purses of the emigrants and doubly pay Canada but our government has laid up our steamers and left the business in the hands of the monopolists. We preach the necessity of inducing immigrants to come to Canada; we appoint commissioners and immigration agents, we publish columns and even volumes regarding the great opportunities in Canada but as long as the cost of coming is prohibitive, so long will we look in vain for immigrants.

STAMP TAX ON RECEIPTS

Among the resolutions passed at the recent meeting of the N. S. and P. E. I. Retail Merchants was one condemning as an unnecessary and annoying arrangement the placing of stamps on all receipts of ten dollars and over for the purpose of raising revenue by the government. The resolution went on to state that this taxation measure would not accomplish the object aimed at and recommended that this legislation which comes into effect next January, be abolished. A recommendation from the convention is to be forwarded to the Dominion board of the Retailers' Association, requesting them to take up the matter with the Dominion Government in an endeavor to have the wishes of the convention complied with.

In the discussion which ensued upon the subject of the resolution the stamp tax on receipts was criticised as unfair not only to merchants but to farmers and the public in general inasmuch as all sales receipts over the amount specified, whether tendered over the counter, delivered to the house, or tendered between farmers or a farmer and a merchant in the ordinary course of business, would require a stamp to make the transaction legal, the omission of which would be a breach of the law. In paying instalments, on a purchase of ten dollars and over a stamp would be affixed to every receipt and in the case of a farmer delivering goods to a merchant's warehouse and taking the receipt to the store for payment of goods purchased, two stamps would be required if a second receipt were given at the store. This latter question was brought up by Mr. Gaudet of Wellington and the answer in the affirmative was given by Mr. Trowern, the Dominion secretary, upon whose explanation of the working of the act the Association acted in passing the resolution.

PLEASED VISITORS

It is exceedingly gratifying to hear from visitors words of praise of Prince Edward Island. Probably never before in the history of the province have there been as many visitors as we have this season and, although in many respects the weather has not been as favorable as it often has been, the most complimentary references are heard on every hand. Hotels, the climate, the splendid crows and the general prosperity everywhere evident, all come in for their share of praise. Many are here for the first time and more than one has expressed surprise that so little is known of Prince Edward Island even in our own Canadian cities. "If your many attractions, your healthful and invigorating air, your delightful drives, your splendid bathing fac-

Notes By The Way

By a resolution adopted at the meeting of the N. S. and P. E. I. Board of the Dominion Retail Merchants Association the income tax was condemned as an annoying and uncertain tax, resting unfairly on all classes receiving salaries. The resolution was moved by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Mr. S. A. McDonald, and calls for an investigation of this tax. The opinion that the income tax is an annoying and uncertain and that it operates unfairly is widespread and general. And strangely enough, in this Province, which we are sometimes told has low taxation we have to submit to a double portion of income tax.

A Liberal government introduced it here in the nineties of last century. Painful experience tells how hard it is to get rid of a tax once laid on, for the revenue it gives is always wanted. So for almost a quarter of a century we have had a provincial income tax, the only example of the kind in the Dominion. The great war brought on a Dominion income tax as a matter of stern necessity and hence we have here a double tax on income and the load has proved a heavy one.

The land tax also had its origin with a Liberal government and once laid on has been continued to this day. The Bell Government has increased all these taxes which former Liberal governments first laid on and imposed several other new forms of taxation including the odious poll tax, which like the income tax is quite an unknown form of provincial taxation elsewhere in Canada. These are the cold facts with regard to local taxation and its origin. And the same government that laid these taxes upon the shoulders of the people have by lavish expenditure rendered it almost impossible for their successors to remove the burden.

In this particular the Bell government has literally out-heroded Herod. They admit having more than doubled the taxes. The public accounts show that interest charges on our debt have increased by nearly ten thousand dollars within the past three years. That shows the value of the boast that they are "paying as they go" and are "making revenue and expenditure meet." Now they have "ear-marked" from \$35,000 to \$40,000 a year—the motor license fees—to be taken out of the public revenues for 15 to 20 years to come and set aside to pay interest and sinking fund charges on the debt incurred for their road projects!

Where is the money to come from to carry on the ordinary public services of the country and pay these charges with the revenue thus depleted? Where, but from still heavier taxation? That is inevitable if the present mad riot of expenditure is continued. This year the revenue from taxes has fallen off and a big deficit must be announced at the next session of the Legislature. This fact is now conceded from the people. Premier Bell who delivers the annual budget and Commissioner Lea, who heads the tax-col-

lecting department have been talking to the electors, in the by-election districts, but so far they have studiously avoided any reference to the present condition of the provincial finances. They would have been voluble enough if they had anything pleasant to tell!

What is the record of the government now appealing to the electors for support? Doubled taxation with increasing debt, interest charges and deficits; public utilities closed down; nothing done or attempted to recover the provinces' just claims. For which of these are they entitled to credit? Shall their candidates be voted for because they deceived the people? or because they broke every promise and pledge they made in 1919? Or because they and their supporters grabbed eleven thousand dollars in extra indemnities, and salaries in 1920? Or because this has been since continued and repeal has been refused? We cannot believe that honest sensible and intelligent electors will do this.

We can all imagine how the officials, high and low, and the profiteers from Government jobs will vote. Naturally they want to keep their jobs and any hoodlum that appears there. But of those electors who realize they pay, and that they have been deceived and duped by faithless self-seeking public men whose first object was to line their own pockets, we expect a different verdict!

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.

Economy!

Sir.—Our population is decreasing, but the number of our farms must surely be increasing. In 1916 the Conservative Government had a re-valuation made at a cost of \$2372.20. In 1920 the Bell Government spent \$7,273.50 for the same work, and in 1921 paid the assessors another \$309.25 either for valuing the new crop of farms or for correcting the mistakes made the previous year. In 1916 the Prov. Sec. Treas. Department cost \$9,979.04. In 1920 it cost \$20,227.63. I wonder why? I am, Sir, etc. CURIOSITY.

Others' View Points

MARY ELLEN.

(New York Times.)

Whoever has interest to spare for the Mary Ellen to whom most newspapers gave columns of space a few months ago is soon to have a chance—precious privilege—to see her in whatever glory her brief notoriety gives her. Several of the Nova Scotia papers announce, seemingly as a matter of appreciable importance, that one P. O. Carroll, affectionately termed "Peachy" Carroll, is to take Mary Ellen on tour through Canada and the United States. Already she has appeared in the Opera House at Pictou for a run of two consecutive nights, and it is reported that a good many people went to hear Mr. Carroll lecture on the curious phenomena in the McDonald farmhouse that somehow were related to Mary Ellen.

There were mysterious fires, it will be remembered, and the tails of the cows were braided, and there were inexplicable noises. In other words "spirits." A New York psychologist thought it worth while to investigate these happenings, but in they all ceased on his arrival, and his conclusion was that, as in so many other like cases, it was Mary Ellen that had been playing tricks on the credulous relatives and neighbors.

This would seem to be a poor foundation for a "tour," but it has been given out that the "manifestations" began again as soon as the McDonalds moved back into their haunted house, and that finally they gave up in despair and moved away for good. Again Mary Ellen was not caught at any tricks and therefore she was innocent. At any rate, that is why she is expected to "draw."

Perhaps she will. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle did, and he only told about things no more wonderful than those that put Caledonia Mills on the map. It is not promised that the spirits are going to follow Mary Ellen about the two countries through which she is to peregrinate. Those who visit her show will be rewarded only by the sight of her and by hearing Mr. Carroll relate her history with eloquence and a fine semblance of faith.

lecting department have been talking to the electors, in the by-election districts, but so far they have studiously avoided any reference to the present condition of the provincial finances. They would have been voluble enough if they had anything pleasant to tell!

We can all imagine how the officials, high and low, and the profiteers from Government jobs will vote. Naturally they want to keep their jobs and any hoodlum that appears there. But of those electors who realize they pay, and that they have been deceived and duped by faithless self-seeking public men whose first object was to line their own pockets, we expect a different verdict!

Lightning's Queer Likes and Dishkes

The public has many illusions about lightning, its incidence and effects. The way lightning acts is in reality much different from what the average person imagines. For instance, there are superstitions against keeping in the hand anything of steel, even a penknife. You are told to keep away from windows or doors through which there is a draft. The iron in the wire of a screen door is believed to attract lightning. The vicinity of the cook stove is forbidden, because it, being iron, would have a tendency to draw lightning. All these are idle fancies, generally speaking. There are a few chances of being hit, but very few, and these chances consist in being in close contact with an isolated building or tree that offers the closest electrical connection with the lightning.

Few Bolts Hit Earth

It is said that of all the vivid lightning flashes in summer storms, only one per cent. strike the earth. The others are confined to the sky,—to making contact with other clouds. The chance of being hit by a falling brick or being bitten by a mad dog are greater than being hit by lightning. In the United States, about 500 persons a year are struck by lightning, or about one in every two hundred thousand. The ratio of suicides, accidental deaths, railway fatalities, drownings, deaths from heat, and other sources of mortality, is much larger.—from four to twenty times as much. When lightning does strike the earth, it takes the shortest path. Penknives, screen doors or drafts do not have any effect on its course. The bolt. There is, of course, only one really safe place, and that is a cellar or dug-out deep in the bowels of Mother Earth. Being a ready conductor, the earth immediately scatters lightning or any other electrical current, and no one in it would suffer any electrical shock.

Steel Frames Safe

The next safest place is in a building with steel frames. The great skyscrapers, for instance, that are built on steel framework, are among the safest of buildings, even though they tower into the sky far over any other buildings, and offer the finest target for a bolt of lightning. If lightning does strike, as might happen, it immediately takes to the steel frame, and courses down to earth without damage. As long as a quick safe contact to earth is provided, there is no danger to persons in or near the building. If these buildings were struck, the people inside would never know it, even though outsiders might see the contact. The Eiffel Tower in Paris has been hit many times, but has never been damaged because it is steel. When lightning takes the shortest course, a house on a hill is much more in danger of being hit than one in a hollow. A low house in a valley is immune. Wood, stone, brick and stucco houses are all equally liable to be struck, and, if struck, to be damaged, because the materials in them are poor conductors. When lightning strikes a poor conductor, it heats the elements and shatters it. Then a fire starts if the material is inflammable. The bark may be ripped off a tree by the sudden expansion of air cells, or the clothing or shoes ripped off a person in the path of a bolt. Any upright object is a better target than the air surrounding it. A house, barn, tree or other projection from the earth's surface is a better conductor than so much empty space. All buildings with tall chimneys, steeples, or high roofs are most susceptible, unless they have steel frames.

Dangerous Places.

The places of real danger are under a solitary tree in the middle of a field. Beneath a hanging lamp with metal chains to the ceiling is dangerous. To stand between two metal objects, such as a stove and kitchen radiator, is also dangerous, because lightning will jump more readily from one to the other than go through conductors of greater resistance. On the average, however, one part of a home is about as safe as another. There is no particular use in lying between the folds of a feather bed, hiding in a closet or sinking into a dark corner. The only safe place is in the cellar. Small, isolated pieces of iron are not attractors of lightning. Some golfers might throw away their steel sticks, but when they do that they show ignorance of the way lightning acts. What the current in a bolt wants is an easy, short path to the earth, and it will not deviate to touch an object was to line their own pockets, we expect a different verdict!

Boy of Catacombs Alarms Paris Again

The French people are being feverishly agitated by a rumor that the Boy of the Catacombs is galloping again. When he gallops through the vast subterranean passages under Paris—the old stone quarries that extend for miles—war is said to be coming. The boy and his wagon galloped in January of 1914, and in August came the rush of the Germans. He galloped, according to stories and tradition, when Napoleon rose and fell, he galloped for Louis Philippe, for Louis Napoleon, and the war of 1870. And in 1914! Not only did Paris hear about the Boy and his wagon then, but an actual photograph is said to have been taken of him and it, standing still in one of the far recesses of the Catacombs. A Paris boy, Gideon, sent down to plant mushrooms, was the first to discover the roaming of the ghost, and, frightened to death, rushed up the stairway to the street to report.

An Upsetting Discovery.

One morning as he planted spores for Monsieur Roupe, a mushroom dealer, he heard a rumbling noise. "Mon Dieu, what can it be?" asked the lad. He knew it was not the subway, which was too far away to be heard. The noise was coming nearer and nearer, growing with terrific intensity. It was like a heavy train coming in the dark passages, jarring, scraping, bumping and echoing the clang of steps. As he ran for the stairway to the street, and stumbled on it, the noise passed with a tremendous roar; there was a dark shape, and a pandemonium of nameless noises. Gideon staggered upstairs to Monsieur Roupe's store, and stuttered out his tale, as much as fright would let him. Monsieur Roupe was familiar with the tradition of the boy, and soothed his worker. "Let us find out about this," he declared. He and a brave party formed an exploring group. They descended into the Catacombs from his cellar and began to hunt.

Found in the "Dome."

There are no street lights, no marked ways, no wellused paths in the Catacombs. A man could become lost in five minutes, and wander until he dropped from exhaustion, to die of hunger and thirst. So the party took balls of twine with them, and left a string out to indicate their way, as they commenced exploration. Past crumbling pillars, they went until they came to the "dome," the fabled meeting place of the French revolutionists. There was the wagon, and the "boy" at its head, holding the tongue. Afraid to look, and afraid to turn away, the party mustered courage to take a flashlight photograph, that was later reproduced all over France. That wagon and the boy were the makers of the vast array of subterranean noises, they were sure, and the old tradition of the Catacombs was confirmed. That was in January, 1914, it is said, and before the year was out Prussian hordes were marching against Alsace-Lorraine, Nancy, Longwy, Verdun and the Argonne.

Royal Bones in Box.

What is this strong tradition? When the famous revolution took place, mobs of the common people sacked the royal vaults at St. Denis. They packed together, with a fine contempt, the bones of France's kings. "What shall we do with them?" someone asked. The answer was found in the suggestion that they be put down in the Catacombs. That was where the early revolutionists met to plot out their agitation and schemes against the royal house. So the bones of France's royalty were dumped into an old packing case and carted to the "dome," the meeting place of the conspirators. There someone set it on a quarry roller, and modelled out of cement the figure of a working boy, typical of the masses of Paris. He made the figure grasp the tongue of the quarry wagon and left it there, to be forgotten. The boy and the wagon have made merry in the Catacombs since then, and have heralded every great war, or disaster, by rolling about with unearthly noises. Monsieur Roupe and his party caught the wagon and boy in their recognized position, but who, liking a ghost story, will refuse to believe that on an emergency, they do not do their traditional duty of warning Paris. The old kings, whose bones are in the wagon, must care for their beloved France, no matter what or who may be the rulers thereof.

Superstitions Are Many.

Already through France the story is spreading again. The villages in the Pyrenees have heard it, is there more war ahead for France? The overseas visitor who wants to penetrate the Catacombs finds it difficult to get any French guide who will go more than a few steps into

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the dark passages. For about 200 francs, the visitor may get a peep at the foot of the staircases that in spots give entrance, but Paris is well content to remain above ground in this particular section. The French are noted for their logic but they also have quite a superstitious vein in their bodies, and when they have had so many world-stirring events buzzing around their ears, they are justified in watching for "signs."

Daily Selections for Guardian Readers From the W. S. Louson collection THE FUNNY FELLOWS Funny people here below! For only hear 'em cry! "Praise God from whom all blessings flow. But keep your powder dry. We race for fame and worldly profit. "Neath cloudless skies, or dim; Its love your neighbors as your self. But—train your guns on him!" Good brethren all for peace we call— In love we live and die. But—Strengthen every fort and wall. And keep your powder dry. From Life CORRECTED. Father—If you want to make a hit, my son, you must strike out for yourself. Son—You're mixed in your baseball talk, dad; if you strike out you can't make a hit.

Lest You Forget! Let Us Remind You That Goffs promise to meet all lowest prices quoted in this city on regular staple boots and shoes. We never make anniversary sales. We don't have to, for our prices are always best. Do you want a pair of our \$7.00 Men's Hip Boots for \$3.90. This lot will all be gone in a day or two and may never be replaced. 20 per cent. off all our already low priced men's oxfords. 20 per cent. to 50 per cent. off all women's and children's white oxfords, ties, straps, etc. New goods arriving daily and always priced at the lowest margin of profit possible. Headquarters for Holeproof Hosiery. COFF BROS., LTD.

Last Week of the SMOKE SALE Saturday ends this big sale of Men's Wear and to make this week the best one we are cutting prices away down. Plenty of goods left to choose from. None damaged and the smoke smell has disappeared. ONE THIRD OFF ONE QUARTER OFF Suits Overcoats Trousers Raincoats Underwear Felt Hats Sweaters Neckwear Shirts Gloves Suspenders Collars Suit Cases Club Bags Trunks Caps, etc. Shop Today and Save Money OPEN EVERY EVENING D. A. BRUCE 158 Queen St.