

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THE FARMERS' PARTY

While the movement to establish an exclusive farmers' party has created but little enthusiasm in this province, where both political parties are farmers' parties, it is interesting to note that in Ontario where the movement originated the movement is in the last stages of dissolution.

"Despite the frequent details of the Globe's stories, Premier E. C. Drury has apparently at last definitely decided to drop the distinctive farmer character of the political movement which placed him in power at Queen's Park, and form a third party—a progressive party along the line of the two old parties, with town and city people taking a definite part.

"The first definite move toward 'broadening out' was taken secretly by the Premier a month ago, and has only now become known. Premier Drury, it is stated, at that time, July 13, sent to practically every U.F.O. member, with one or two interesting exceptions, a communication practically suggesting the calling of a Provincial Progressive convention which, presumably, would organize a new party and draft a new platform."

Then follows a copy of the letter sent by Mr. Drury to his supporters. The Globe goes on to say that "the reception which greeted the letter is said to be not so enthusiastic as the Premier had hoped for. The rank and file of the farmers are said to have become distrustful of the trend of events, and see in the formation of a new party the eventual disappearance of the movement they fought so hard to get under way."

In this connection the Toronto Telegram says it is informed on "the best authority" that Premier Drury wants to go to Ottawa as a member of the King Cabinet, and the Telegram goes on to say: "The new leader of the people's party was discussed at the caucus last week, when the members present told the Premier that the U. F. clubs were not going into another election, and that J. J. Morrison would lead the farmers' political forces at the next election, when only certain constituencies would be contested."

There is a rumor also that Mr. N. W. Rowell may become Minister of Justice in the King Cabinet, which if true would indicate the early retirement of Sir Lomer Gouin. It is scarcely necessary to read between the lines to come to the conclusion that things are happening in the field of politics in Canada.

GOOD WILL

There is something that sounds peculiarly familiar to Prince Edward Islanders—particularly to those who interest themselves in politics—in a speech delivered by the Hon. W. L. MacKenzie King at a banquet tendered to him last Wednesday in the King Edward Hotel, Toronto.

Notes By The Way

In Quebec province the treasury overflows by reason of the abundant revenue derived from the government control of the liquor traffic which produces millions yearly. The city of Montreal on the contrary, is heavily burdened with debt and is sorely in need of more revenue to make ends meet.

Here as in Montreal a very large share of the motor cars operated in the province are owned in the city. The city has at great cost improved its streets to a degree of perfection far beyond what has been done or attempted by the province in its improved roads. There has been in the city no pretence that these streets have cost the city nothing. On the contrary we know that they have cost our citizens heavily and added to the city debt.

The precedent that gives to the city a share in the liquor prohibition fines is admittedly just and should be applied to the motor license fees. Anyway, we would like to see the matter publicly discussed and to learn what the city owners of automobiles think about it. As it is at present the car owners resident in this city and the various towns have not only to pay their full share of maintaining the streets at home but are, under the government plan, saddled with the burden of improving and maintaining hundreds of miles of country roads for all coming time.

Motor license fees are much higher here than in the Province of Quebec or in the United States. The provincial license fees alone are much higher and the cities in the French-speaking province are not allowed to get any revenue in this way. Here the city owner of an automobile must pay the provincial treasury an average of say \$24 and an additional \$10 to the civic treasury, or a total average of say \$34. Charlotte town car owners on their 500 cars pay about \$12,000 to the provincial government yearly, all of which practically goes for the improvement and support of the country roads, while they and their fellow citizens have to make and improve the city streets at their own cost.

Of the 2,000 motor cars of all sorts listed in this province, about one quarter are owned in Charlottetown, some 225 in Summerside and nearly as many more in the incorporated towns of Alberton, Kensington, Montague, Souris, Georgetown and Borden. All of these towns have their streets and local services to maintain at the cost of their own citizens, while the provincial government taxes their cars for the improvement and maintenance of highways that are almost entirely outside of city and town limits. We submit that this is neither a fair nor equitable arrangement.

The city sadly needs the money in question. Its debt and the annual interest charges thereon now approximate the net debt of the entire Province. The city debt alone last year's accounts stood at \$885,443, or over \$68 per head, or \$340 per family for every man, woman and child of our 13,000 city population. Last year the city paid in interest alone \$48,156, and both debt and interest will be increased by the street work of this year. If as we believe, the provincial government is taking from the city moneys that properly belong to our citizens, as we believe to be the case, there is urgent need for the city fathers to put up a fight for their rights.

THE SILENT PARTNER

(From the Tatler)

Two men who were "something in the City" were lunching at their club one day. "Oa," said one, "my partner formerly used always oppose my views, but now he agrees with me in everything." "How do you account for it?" asked the other. "Don't know," said the first, "I'm not sure whether I convince him, or only make him tired."

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.

Prince of Wales College Curriculum

Sir:—A second letter concerning the curriculum of Prince of Wales College appeared in your paper this morning. It is indeed regrettable that such destructive criticism should be levelled at any institution in our Province which seeks to maintain a true and proper standard of education. The letters signed "Educationalist" do not show evidence of serious investigation of the conditions criticised, their causes or remedies, and are therefore of little or no interest to the majority of your readers. However, as the efficiency of Prince of Wales College has been challenged, it might be profitable to consider briefly the position of the College in relation to our educational system.

As is generally understood, Prince of Wales College exists for (1) the training of school teachers and (2) the preparation of students for matriculation into universities. Considering the broad general training necessary for the attainment of these objects, it will readily be seen, that the resulting curriculum is also well adapted for those students whose collegiate education ends with their years at the College. After years of tested experience, the time allotted to the various subjects has been worked out by competent authorities, with due regard to the staff, equipment, etc., available. If proof of a well balanced curriculum at Prince of Wales College were needed, one has only to refer to the enviable reputation for efficiency and successful graduates which this College enjoys among preparatory colleges throughout Canada.

When "Educationalist" mentions the large number of failures among students of Prince of Wales College, he touches upon the result of a serious defect in our educational system. Why should so many fail to pass the Entrance Examinations, or having passed these, fail in the subsequent college Examinations. The answer to this question is to be found in the high standard of the College, but rather in the low standard of our primary schools. If students entered the college with the preliminary training they should have, the work of that institution would be immeasurably lightened, leaving time for any special training desired. As it is, so much time is taken up in covering essential elementary ground, that specialization in scientific or industrial subjects is rendered impossible.

In a report on the proposed federation of the universities of the Maritime Provinces, recently issued by the Carnegie Foundation, the deplorable state of our primary education is fully discussed. In the preparation of this report, two able educationalists made a careful investigation of our entire educational system. On reading this report, we find their criticisms constructive, their suggestions carefully considered, and their signatures at the end—(the nom de plume "Educationalist" being obviously unnecessary in this case). Briefly, the cause of our faulty system of primary education is stated to be, underpaid and consequently undertrained teachers of mostly third and second class rating, receiving little or no support from an apparently indifferent public. As a natural result, the elementary training of the pupils is inadequate, and their subsequent efforts at Prince of Wales College are seriously handicapped. Surely then our prime need in this Province is improved conditions in the elementary schools. After this has been done the increase in staff, building of laboratories, and purchase of equipment, all of which are essential to any alteration in the curriculum of Prince of Wales College, should be undertaken. Those who conscientiously desire to improve educational conditions in the Province would do well to direct their attention to the Primary Schools instead of endeavouring to find fault with the efficiency of such an eminently successful institution as Prince of Wales College.

"Thanking you for your valuable space. I am Sir etc., C. J. TIDMARSH"

Prince of Wales College Curriculum

Sir:—A few days ago there appeared in your columns a letter signed "Veritas" in reply to some of my comments on the excessive number of failures at Prince of Wales College, showing a reason why English and Latin are "weighted" subjects. English may be passed over, as in this English speaking country one cannot know too much English, and it is right to have it "weighted." As regards Latin it is different. He states that Latin includes three subjects, Latin authors, Latin Grammars and Ancient History. Who ever heard of a language being taught without its grammar and composition? And who ever heard of Latin and Greek being taught without a reference to the incidents in ancient history arising from the context? Of course there would be some reason offered for the "weighting"

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of any subject. Here the reason is that Latin is divided into three subjects so as to account for the time given to it.

It would be equally cogent to divide Geometry into six books, or Algebra into factors, theory of square and cubic roots binomial and logarithmic theorems, etc., and proceed to build up an argument for "weighting" them.

Subjects should not be so "weighted," but on account of the difficulty of acquiring them, I take it that Geometry is more difficult than Latin is, let alone chemistry and Algebra. Indeed it is a marvel to me how the students get all they do from the lectures on these subjects, seeing the amount of ground covered in so short a time.

Of course the pupils who are successful in standing the grind at Prince of Wales College would be leaders anywhere else. I am not pleading for them but for many poor beggars who have failed and to prevent a similar condition from continuing. The question I would like to ask "veritas" is, whether more than 50 per cent of a class is a reasonable number to fail. In what other college or university does this happen? I do not think so many should fail, and in order to account for this slaughter of the innocents, because it is nothing short of slaughter, I have pointed out that the "weighting" of the classics and the exacting of 65 per cent to pass is at least partly responsible.

matters that the College should serve the pressing wants of the province first and the universities next.

To my mind the third year, as it now is, should be cut out, and normal training under a "college man trained in Pedagogics" be substituted, and the abnormal system of plucking be abolished.

Why could not one obtain his education anywhere basing it with in text books as laid down by the Board of Education and having passed in his educational subjects then take a normal training worthy the name at Prince of Wales College together with English, French and one or two other subjects? He could then receive a provisional teachers licence of the second degree or class. If the pupils had their educational subjects over they would be older entering the college and moreover they would not have the dread of failing in them hanging over them. Besides they could obtain their education at home if they so wished it.

If they did not choose to teach but wished to proceed to a higher licence they could take the educational subjects as laid down in the second year at Prince of Wales College, with a further normal training when they would receive a provisional first class licence, and after one year's teaching and the approval of the Inspector they could receive a permanent first class licence.

In this way the college would serve as a training school for teachers only as it was primarily designed to be, but now it seems to be primarily a preparatory school for the universities.

Daily Selections for Guardian Readers

From the W. S. Louson collection

THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The first day of school is the best day of all. You feel so important and happy and tall! You have some new dresses, and in your new books, New studies with lovely queer jumbles and crooks.

And teacher looks fresh and a little bit fat. And wears the most flummery summery hat. You wonder how someday 'twill feel to be old. And never be scolded and never be 'told.

We don't have to study the first day at all. And teacher quite often goes out in the hall; We whisper but teacher comes back with a smile— We'll have to behave better after a while.

Oh, summer vacation is splendid of course, With the lake and the farm, and the boat and the horse, But truly I love the first day in the fall. When school seems real fun—'tis the best day of all.

PLANT GROWTH

German experimenters are trying to increase plant growth by the use of waste carbon dioxide from motors and furnaces fed to the soil as a fertilizer through perforated pipes.

Corns Go Blue-jay to your druggist. The simplest way to end a corn is Blue-jay. A touch stops the pain instantly. Then the corn loosens and comes out. Made in a colorless clear liquid (one drop does it) and in extra thin plasters. The action is the same. Pain Stops Instantly

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