

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1912.

WHAT A CAR FERRY MEANS TO THIS PROVINCE.

Some people talk of the coming Car Ferry between this Province and the mainland with apparently very little notion of what it may, and indeed must, mean to Prince Edward Island. They have the idea that it will be a small and unimportant affair doing a sort of peddling business and carrying a few cars of freight across the straits once a day by any old route in a sort of slow-coach fashion. The sooner they get rid of these notions the better for themselves and for all concerned.

Consider for a moment some of the possibilities of the potato trade alone. Arroostook County in the State of Maine in the year 1908 produced 20,000,000 bushels of potatoes on 70,000 acres of land. Our own Province has produced as much as 7,071,000 bushels on 43,000 acres. Ours was the smaller yield of the two, but potato culture has been developed to a degree of remarkable productiveness in Maine, by the use of fertilizers and the yield brought up to an average of 275 bushels per acre.

But the Arroostook land is not naturally more fertile than our Island soil, nor so well adapted to the growth of potatoes on a large scale. Given a market, and the market is coming in the Canadian West, and elsewhere, and our farmers could well devote 50,000 acres to the potato crop, and produce thereon, with skillful cultivation, a crop at the rate of 300 bushels per acre. That would make a total of 15,000,000 bushels. Experienced potato growers assure us that it would be easily possible to produce more than twice the quantity ever yet grown here. Arroostook has shown what can be done.

Let us assume that with a potato crop of fifteen million bushels five million bushels would be required for home consumption and for seed, leaving ten million bushels for exportation. That would mean 20,000 minimum carloads of 500 bushels each, or 10,000 maximum carloads of 1,000 bushels each. The season of shipment for potatoes may be set down at two hundred days in the year, and if the entire export crop should be shipped in that time, it follows that 50,000 bushels must cross the straits daily. That would be 100 minimum carloads, or sufficient to load the ferry steamer with sixteen cars for two, and seventeen cars for four trips, making six round trips during every day of the shipping period for potatoes.

We have been speaking of possibilities. Some doubter may rise to remark that what is possible may not be probable. All such would do well to bear in mind that our Province has other crops besides potatoes which would make demands upon the Ferry. There is hay, millions of bushels of oats and turnips to be provided for, to say nothing of livestock, fish, dairy products, meats, poultry, eggs, etc., so far left altogether out of account. If the potato calculation be thought to be too generous, these other products must be taken care of in some way.

It follows that during the busy season of shipment—at least, not one, two, or three round trips will be required to be made by the Ferry, but that five or six round trips daily will be an absolute necessity in the not distant future, and must be provided for. And it follows from this again that the Ferry route must be as short as can possibly be secured. On any but the shortest route the business cannot be done. Logic, common sense and reason all point to this conclusion as inevitable. The growing time for Prince Edward Island and for the Maritime Provinces is now coming, is near at hand and must be prepared for. The East is coming to its own. Calculations based upon the doings of the old days of stagnation will not do for the future.

The men who figure upon one trip a day for the Car Ferry belong to a past age. This is the age of progress, of swift movement and rapid development. The Ferry, if it is to be worthy of the name must make quick and frequent trips and the mass of progressive and up-to-date people will be satisfied with nothing less.

We know of no man who could have brought to the difficult task higher qualities of capacity, character and judgment, coupled with incorruptible integrity, than have been shown by Mr. Jenkins in his official capacity. For this reason and on personal grounds we regret that a change should be made. But under our constitution and the political system which exists the right of the Administration to select its own instruments for the conduct of the public service is indisputable. The exercise of that right carries with it the full responsibility of the Government to see that no public interest shall suffer by the changes that are from time to time made.

We have reason to believe that the people of Prince Edward Island have a strong desire and determination to have the prohibitory law continued in full and efficient operation. This with a and with many thousands of persons throughout the Province is a matter of more importance than any merely personal or party considerations. We therefore sincerely hope and trust that in the appointment of a successor to Mr. Jenkins care will be taken to secure an energetic, capable and honest man who will command the public confidence and will faithfully carry out and enforce the law. Both the Government and the new prosecutor will be judged by the results which may follow the changes now being made.

THE QUEBEC ELECTIONS.

As was generally expected, the Government of Sir Lomer Gouin was sustained by the Quebec electorate in the elections of Wednesday last. His majority is little changed from what it was before and is quite as large as the interests of efficient administration can require. There is, perhaps, not very much significance in the result, but Liberals will naturally be pleased with it and the disappointment felt will be wholly on the Conservative side, as the expectations of their party leaders failed of realization.

Sir Lomer Gouin had deserved well of the country; he had given it able, honest, energetic and progressive government and the people have shown their appreciation of what he has done. There seems no good reason to suppose that the Opposition leader, Mr. Tellier, had he succeeded in the election, would have done any better, if so well. Under Sir Lomer's leadership the Province has prospered greatly and will, no doubt, continue to make good progress in the future.

REMOVAL OF PROSECUTOR JENKINS.

The Guardian learns with regret that Robert Jenkins, Prosecutor under the Prohibition Act, has received official notice that after the end of the current month his services in that capacity will be no longer required. Mr. Jenkins was appointed under the Administration of the late Hon. Arthur Peters in November, 1902, on the recommendation of the active promoters of prohibition in this Province, and has held their confidence from the date of his appointment down to the present time. At the time of his appointment the law was new in its operation and the need of an active and energetic officer to look after its enforcement was greatly felt. He undertook the work, knowing it to be very arduous and at times unpleasant, and for nearly ten years, out of love for the cause, has devoted himself to the task of securing the enforcement of the law.

In our opinion and that of many in this Province, the success which the law has attained as an instrument for promoting sobriety, peace and public order has been in very large measure due to Mr. Jenkins. Largely through his efforts Charlottetown has become the sober city that it is today, while in Queen's County and throughout the Province the good results of his work appear on every hand. There are now on record in the police court thirty-seven commitments against the old-time violators of the law, every one of whom, with the exception of one who is dead, have been driven out of the city and Province, or are in hiding.

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We received last week a shipment of ladies' and children's rain-coats, which makes our stock complete. PATONS.

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We received our complete stock of hosiery for summer. In this lot is plain black, tan, pale blue, green, pink, mauve also alic blue in cotton and lisle also cotton with cashmere foot from 25 to 65c. Black silk stockings for evening wear from \$1.10 to 1.75. Nice fancy neckwear including linen collars, jabots, bows, ditch collars, fishies, string ties, ranging in price from 25c to \$2.00. PATONS.

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Pape's Diapepsin is a certain cure for out-of-order stomachs, because it takes hold of your food and digests it just the same as if your stomach wasn't there. Relief in five minutes from all stomach misery is waiting for you at any drug store. These large 50-cent cases contain more than sufficient to thoroughly cure almost any case of Dyspepsia, Indigestion or any other stomach disorder.

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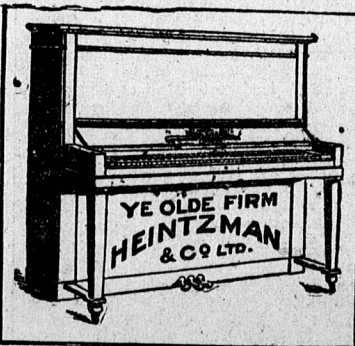
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