

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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SOCIAL SERVICE AND POLITICS

With every wisely conducted effort for the betterment of social conditions, here and elsewhere, all good men and women are in hearty accord and it is to be regretted that a more general interest had not been shown in the Social Service Congress held here this week.

It was fitting that at a congress whose aim is the general betterment of social conditions the question of education should be given a prominent place. This was done and a resolution which expressed the general attitude of our people towards education was submitted.

Mr. J. J. McLeod of Bonshaw, who is an official of the Bell government, and who sees his duty more clearly through official lenses than otherwise had made the remark that in their action last year, when they "struck", the college staff had adopted "the methods of people who are ruining the country" and that ninety per cent of the people were against them.

Mr. O. C. Lepage, who is a keen Bell government partizan at Rustico, declared that the action of the College staff had "lowered them in the eyes of the scholars." These were some of the statements which exhausted the patience of Mrs. Smith and her defence of the college staff well deserved the attentive hearing it received.

We hold no brief for the Prince of Wales College staff; the dispute is between them and the government but it will be remembered that the question at issue was not of salary alone but of alleged broken promises and continued contemptuous disregard on the part of the government towards the representations made by the staff.

Beyond the fact that the government organ, the Patriot characterized the action of the college staff as Bolshevism, no further development has been reported. There are rumors in circulation that the dispute between the staff and the government is still unsettled and that at any time the college may be closed again.

WATCHMAN CEASES PUBLICATION

With its yesterday's issue the Watchman, edited and published weekly, for many years by Mr. Peter McCourt ceased publication. In addition to his editorial duties Mr. McCourt has taken an active part in political and public affairs, employing both voice and pen in furthering what he considered to be in the best interests of his province and country.

RAILWAYS AND GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP

Whether or not the prediction of certain bank directors and general managers that the government system of railways shall shortly revert to private ownership, is fulfilled or not, the question is arousing considerable interest, especially in the eastern provinces. At several of the annual meetings of the banks national ownership and control of railways was severely criticized and there is no doubt a movement on foot, or about to be set on foot with a view to relieve the government of railway management.

With one phase of the question Eastern Canada especially will be interested, namely, the disposition of the Intercolonial section. Figures have recently been given showing that there will be a deficit on the whole government railway system this year of between sixty and seventy million dollars. This is one of the bug-bears held up to show why it is desirable that the burden of carrying such a load should be removed from the shoulders of the public.

CURRENT COMMENT

In the coming session of the provincial legislature, which even the procrastinating Bell Government will not be able to delay very long, we are likely to have an interesting, not to say exciting session. Unfortunately the seating accommodation in the Assembly chamber is limited, affording scarcely any room for the placing of party groups, for which there promises to be a certain need.

By an unusual anomaly, both of these will occupy the peculiar position of self-chosen representatives, not having the constitutional standing of election by the party they presume to represent. Mr. Brodie was elected as a supporter of the Bell Government, and when he found that to support such a combination was revolting to him as well as to the country, it was his plain duty to go back to his constituents and ask them to approve his identification with the western farmers party.

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

SECRET PRAYER

It was David Livingstone's habit every birthday to write a prayer. On the next to the last birthday of all this was his prayer: "Oh, divine one, I have not loved Thee earnestly, deeply, sincerely enough. Give me Thy grace, that before this year is ended I may have finished my task." Says Robert E. Speer: "It was on the threshold of the year, as they looked into the light of Bala, while the rain dripped from his knees beside his bed in the attitude of prayer." He had died on his knees in prayer.

Samuel Rutherford was a man of prayer. Prayer brought the Saviour near to him. When confined in jail for conscience sake, he records in his diary: "Jesus came into my cell tonight, and every stone flashed like a ruby. I saw the Saviour near to me. I never take a letter from the post without a brief sentence of my thoughts heavenward, never change my classes in the lecture-room without a minute's petition for the cadets who go out on far for those who come in." James Gilmore, the pioneer missionary to Mongolia, was a man of prayer. He had the habit of never using a blotter. He made it a rule when he got to the bottom of any page to wash the ink dried and sheet the time in prayer. That kind of habit drives prayer right into all the cracks and corners of our lives like the mortar that holds the building stones together.

that as a party leader, he above all others should hold a straight mandate from the people to uphold him in his course. Supposedly he was elected as an Independent Conservative, at least that was his announced platform, although the Patriot hinted some time ago about some secret compact with the Bell Government. As such he was elected and it is puzzling to the gods to know how he can square his conscience without going back to the district for re-election.

Then Mr. A. E. McLean, as leader of the Independent Liberals, has a rather unique record. He, too, was elected as a supporter of the Bell Government, but apparently is not enjoying the advantage, if there are any, of the position. Their whole programme was too narrow, and not to take it in the form in which it was administered would be political treason. His position was difficult and critical, and strangely enough, so far as the local house was concerned he didn't care a continental. The whole trouble is centred in that Prince County federal nomination. If he dared to support the Bell bannister throughout, it meant absolute annihilation by the electorate, and if he didn't support them it meant being read out of the party in so far as getting the nomination was concerned. Appointment as Chairman of the House in committee relieved the necessity for voting and enabled him to adopt the semi-independent tone in his controversy with the Pioneer.

Mr. Irving is also classed as of the independent stripe, but not of the kind who is looking for cheap notoriety. His opposition is rather influenced by the higher sense of right and duty. In plain language the combination are not doing the right thing and he does not esteem it his duty to back up the wrong.

There are no doubt others of course, whose honest honesty whose views run along similar lines whom we fully expect to see in open revolt when the House opens. Whether there will be sufficient to turn the scale and relieve the country of the incubus it is hard to say just at present, but if the members are in any way representative of the expressed feelings of their constituents, they will certainly not fail to take this the only correct course. In any case it is evident that the Sergeant-at-Arms has the trying task before him of adjusting the limited accommodation to the extent of providing an ample supply of cross benches to satisfy the emergency.

There will also be the puzzling questions of legislation, which would be hard enough for ordinary men to grapple with, but worse than hard to the workmen in charge. With a revenue in excess of every requirement and a large surplus of cash on hand, the question which the Patriot asked of the Guardian a few days ago, "Which will not unlikely to come into prominence. The public have made demands of this character, at inter-organ meetings, and the Liberal organs application to an intelligent source for information, gives color to the belief that it may be in prospect. If so they will have the clamouring of the different interests within, each looking for relief in his own direction, with the promise of some exciting times interesting at least to the onlookers. In the case of a non-agreement or dead-lock they may make a compromise by putting the surplus into another increase of salary and indemnity, on the conclusion that

agements would be more economical than government management the fact of a large deficit would not help matters: the road whether publicly or privately owned, must be kept going by the public. The crux of the question, however, is in the fact, as shown by recent statistics, that the Intercolonial section provided sixty per cent of the total business of the whole Canadian Railway system while the great bulk of the operating cost was incurred by the Grand Trunk and the Canadian Northern both of which are operated through sparsely populated territory which adds little or nothing to the revenue. The question then arises, should the well-paying Intercolonial section be pooled with the ill paying and more expensive lines?

One of the conditions of confederation was the construction of the Intercolonial railway to connect Halifax and St. John with the city of Quebec. This section is now merged in the other divisions, some of them unprofitable if not bankrupt. Freight rates once merely nominal and barely sufficient to pay operating expenses in order that the eastern provinces should have the accommodation, have been raised to meet the expenses of the non-paying sections and the question of accommodation no longer enters into consideration.

Should government control be abolished, and the whole system be handed over to private ownership, the Eastern provinces will have a just cause for special consideration if indeed they have not the right to refuse acquiescence altogether. In any case the movement will be watched with special interest in these provinces.

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Ladies' Black and Coloured coats just a few left but all must be cleared out at Clearance prices. Sizes limited.

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it is their last term in any case, and it is best to make hay while the sun shines.

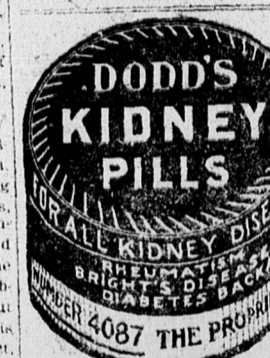
Following the course of correct procedure there should be some vacant seats. Nearly a year ago a very large and influential meeting of the electors of Charlottetown passed a unanimous resolution calling upon the two city members to resign in protest against the Government's taxation measures. In obedience to the publicly expressed wish of those who elected them these men will surely be honorable enough to tender their resignation. Then likewise a meeting of constituents of Messrs Cox and McIntyre, requested these gentlemen to resign. Premier Bell and his colleague, Hon. Mr. Lea, were similarly asked by their constituents to step out, and only very lately, at

several indignation meetings, the Hon. Mr. Crosby was called upon to vacate. Surely these men have sufficient of honor and manhood in their composition not to hold on to a position or stay in a place where they are distinctly told THAT THEY ARE NOT WANTED. Yes, there should be quite a number of resignations in the speakers' bands, including his own.

The Hon. Mr. Crosby is especially in a rather delicate position. Not so hardened to political wrong doing as some of his colleagues, rumor has it that he is not comfortable in their company, and some are expecting that if he doesn't throw up the sponge absolutely, he will at least come out from among them and take his seat on the cross benches. The fact, as we noted some time ago, that

the purchasing of supplies for Falconwood and the Infirmary was removed from his department, was intended to indicate that he is of too ten-

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Advertisement for SHARP'S BALSAM, featuring an illustration of a family and text describing its benefits for colds and coughs.

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Advertisement for The Central Job Printery, offering printing services and contact information.