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THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 8, 1908.

AN EGYPTIAN QUESTION.

Egypt has a Nationalist party, whose leader, Mohamed Farid Bey, recently secured publication of a letter in the Manchester Guardian, outlining the grievances and just claims of the Egyptian people as he sees them. The claims begin with the evacuation of Egypt by the British armed forces, which was indeed promised in Mr. Gladstone's term of power, but since delayed. After that the demand is for a constitution and a representative Parliament. Tewfik Pacha, who was then Viceroy of Egypt, in 1881 granted a constitution to the country, but took it away again, as is alleged on the advice of Lord Dufferin in 1883 after the revolt of the army. Another demand is for free compulsory education.

"We demand a Parliament," say the Nationalist leader, "in order to put an end to arbitrary rule in Egypt and to extravagance in the finances badly managed and badly spent. Europe believes we have the best finance in the world. This is a delusion fostered by Lord Cromer in Europe, which, as long as the coupons of the bonds of the Egyptian Debt are regularly paid, believes that all is for the best in the best possible world, and pays no attention to the way in which the budget is devoured, to the detriment of the country and for the advantage of contractors and others. What is there illogical or abnormal in that the Egyptians who pay the taxes should control the mode of their expenditure?"

The new trouble in Egypt is much the same as the trouble in India. Following the introduction of railways, telegraphs, newspapers and some education of the masses has come the not unnatural demand for a portion of self-government. Russia, Persia and Japan among the peoples holding control in Asia have parliamentary institutions and why should no Egypt? Sooner or later this question of representative government must be solved both in India and Egypt, and as for the latter it must come more fully under British control or the occupation by British troops must come to an end. It will not be surprising if the Egyptian question in its new form becomes urgent in the near future.

THE HUDSON'S BAY RAILWAY.

It is given out from Ottawa that the railway to Hudson Bay will not be constructed and operated as a Government undertaking but by an arrangement with the Canadian Northern Railway Company, on the basis of a liberal mileage subsidy and a guarantee of a portion of the bonds. As to the wisdom of the arrangement much will depend upon the amount of the bonus and guarantee. The distance to be covered beyond the C.N.R.'s already projected lines is 480 miles to Fort Churchill.

The Canadian Northern people (MacKenzie and Mann) already own an extensive railway system, chiefly in the Northwest, but also in Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia, and are looking forward to completing a trans-continental system of their own. They are most energetic railway

builders and managers. The arrangement with them may have behind it some sort of political alliance intended to strengthen the Government in the Northwest. Both the Grand Trunk and the Canadian Northern can exercise a good deal of influence in an election if they try.

Apart from these considerations and on purely public grounds there will be some sense of relief on learning that the Government will not undertake the building and operation of the line to Hudson Bay. It will be a costly road to build and a very costly one to operate. The cost of operation will be great in proportion to the earning power because the Hudson Bay route will be only open about three months in the year. In that brief space the railway must earn its dividends, while the permanent staff must be paid for the full year. Think, too, of costly rolling stock lying idle for nine months out of the twelve, while bridges, sleepers and stations decay as rapidly as on a road in constant use and interest charges are rolling up.

BETTER BUSINESS COMING.

The Toronto World remarks that every business is now down to haphazard and that every one is cutting things down fine. But, it goes on to remark, one by one, trade by trade line by line, things are opening up. Mill after mill that was shut down or on half time is increasing its output; orders for goods are coming in and money from abroad is steadily coming into the country for Canadian securities. The railways are still crying low earnings, but even earnings are looking up and the roads will be forced to put more men at work on or after July first in order to handle the increased business. The crop reports are of the most encouraging kind. As one observer the other day put it: "Nature is now growing more in two days than she did in two weeks some time ago," and finance will suddenly loosen up in the same way before many days.

Everyone is now confident of the outlook and that is half way over the hill.

TEMPERANCE IN POLITICS.

The Toronto papers give evidence that the temperance question will be at the front in the polling in Ontario to-day. The Globe makes reference from time to time to "the iniquitous three-fifths clause" and has printed several cartoons from Ben Gough's pencil designed to appeal to the temperance electors. One of these directs attention to the fact that Gooderham, of distilling fame, is the running mate of Attorney General Foy in South Toronto.

The News on the Government's behalf defends the three-fifths clause as calculated to give stability to local option and cites the fact that the late Liberal Government under Premier Ross, passed a prohibitory law conditional on its endorsement by the people, but although there was a vote of 199,749 for the law and only 103,548 against it, refused to put the law in operation on the ground that the majority was not sufficient.

This is good enough as a mere tu quoque answer, but hardly sufficient in the face of certain facts. The Liberal party's breach of faith in regard to prohibition was one of the causes of their overwhelming defeat in 1905, and besides, temperance sentiment has advanced by rapid strides since then. Moreover the fact that the liquor interest is largely supporting the Whitney Government at present on account of the three-fifths clause, tends to throw the temperance vote the other way.

We will not venture a prediction on the result of the election the result of which will be announced tomorrow, but we shall not be surprised if temperance sentiment proves a larger factor in reducing Mr. Whitney's majority than any question of party politics aside from that issue.

Today will be a busy day among the Politicians of Ontario and Quebec.

The Liberals of Prince County are calling conventions shortly in the Third, Fourth and Fifth Districts. The Patriot, apparently anxious not to frighten the Opposition unduly, remarks that "this does not necessarily mean that the election is to take place immediately."



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JAS. PATON & CO.

The political storm centre of Canada today will be Ontario and Quebec. Look for the result in tomorrow's Guardian.

UNDER TWO FLAGS.

"Under Two Flags," a dramatic version of "Quda's" famous masterpiece, will be presented at the Opera House, tonight by a company headed by Miss Louise Coleman, a talented young New York actress who has just completed a long engagement with David Belasco. During the season just closed she played with David Warfield in "A Grand Army Man" receiving the highest praise not only from the manager but also from the metropolitan critics who saw in her usual promise for the future.

In selecting "Under Two Flags" as the vehicle for her present tour Miss Coleman has had the advice of her former manager, Mr. Belasco, who says that the role of Cigarette—the part she will play in this piece—is one exactly suited to her talents. Special pains have been taken in engaging the company which is to support her and the production throughout is of the highest standard. Indeed, such theatrical organizations visit this city far too seldom and when one does come it ought to receive the most substantial encouragement and support.

Canada Life Facts

THE CANADA LIFE at the end of 1906 had on its books 20 per cent of the total business in force in the twenty-two Canadian companies. During the past five years, however, The CANADA LIFE paid 40 per cent of the total cash profits paid by all the Canadian companies during the same period.

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ALFRED STOCKES,
General Secretary.

Wednesday, June 10th
is the last day for receiving discounts on electric light bills for May lighting. Pay to-day and save money.
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