

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THE BRITISH CABINET CRISIS

Unwelcome and disconcerting to the news from London of the resignation of Mr. Bonar Law from the British Cabinet and from the leadership of the House of Commons. For years past he has been the right hand of Premier Lloyd George and a strong pillar of the coalition. The emotion under which the Premier labored in making the announcement strongly and fitly characterizes and expresses the gravity of the situation thus brought about.

His health is the assigned cause of Mr. Bonar Law's retirement but there is always in such cases possibility of some difference of opinion in regard to one or more of the important multifarious questions of public policies which confront the government. It is not surprising that the health of even so vigorous a man as the retiring minister should have failed; rather is it a matter of surprise that such arduous labors as his and the many grave emergencies and heavy shocks that he and the government have been compelled to meet should have been so long and successfully sustained.

For some considerable time past the coalition has been forcefully attacked by the powerful Harmsworth press and by the bludgeoning blows of Horatio Bottomley in his widely circulated weekly, John Bull. Extravagance in expenditure mismanagement of the Irish question and other important matters at home and abroad have formed the basis of these attacks and the enery and vindictiveness of this newspaper assault has had a very considerable influence upon the electorate as shown in the recent loss of several by-elections by the government.

Coincident with these occurrences has been the withdrawal from the coalition of Mr. Walter Hume Long, Lord Milner and the defection of the influential Cecil support. With such serious losses now followed by the disability and retirement of Mr. Bonar Law, it is but natural that speculation should arise in regard to the stability of the Union Government. It would seem especially desirable in such troublous times as these that the wisest and ablest men of all parties should remain united under one leader, and give their best mind and best efforts to guide the ship of state into calmer waters.

It may be that Mr. Lloyd George, able, versatile and resourceful as he has proved himself to be and sometimes absolutely indispensable may not be able longer to continue the leadership. That, however, remains to be seen. He has been many times threatened with defeat and has emerged triumphant. At this distance there is no one in sight who gives promise of being able successfully to fill his place, and a return to party leadership and government at the present time would seem to be of doubtful utility and possibly beset with national peril.

EDITORIAL NOTES

At the outset the leader of the Opposition gave them much to deprecate and to discourage them; he told them some truths about the manner of their coming and what their constituents thought of them and they spent an uncomfortable week-end. On reassembling they again sang their mutual praises and were once more happy with the expectation of some uncomfortable hours spent under the lash at the hands of Mr. H. D. McLean and Mr. J. D. Stewart.

The debate, so called, being now over they are face to face with the real work of the session. The various reports are to be examined; those tremendous road projects are to be looked into and the cost disclosed; the why and the wherefore of things to be enquired into and the things that looked so gloriously successful and beneficial under the mutual praises are likely to assume a different hue under the searchlight that will be thrown upon them.

While the members of the government, during these days of self-commendation, became almost happy, they are greatly mistaken if they think their mutual admiration has communicated itself to the electors whom they so flagrantly deceived. The electors will await further developments before changing their minds.

DISTRACTED RUSSIA

For four years past the people of the once great empire of Russia have lived in what may be fitly described as "a hell upon earth." Beginning with the cruel murder of the Emperor and his family, revolution after revolution ever proceeding from bad to worse, have reduced the populous and powerful nation to a condition of poverty, suffering and degradation for which human history affords no parallel. This much is clear, although few reliable details of recent events in that distracted country are available to outside readers.

We hear of uprising here and there in the north and the south against the Soviet-Bolshevist tyranny and its criminal leaders, Lenin and Trotsky and of Petrograd and other cities wrested from their murderous hands. But the news of one day very frequently contradicts or annuls that of the day before. So we are told of Lenin and Trotsky safely entrenched in the Kremlin at Moscow, of aggressive Soviet armies operating in the Crimea, the Caucasus and in Central Russia and of an army preparing again to invade Poland in the near future. The truth appears to be that the peasant millions are eager to throw off the tyrannous yoke of their oppressors, but they lack food, clothing, money, artillery, rifles, ammunition and all the essentials of warfare, and above all they lack a competent leader. In face of such undoubted facts it would be futile to attempt to predict the outcome.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Hon. W. M. Lea in explaining some deviations from the original program mapped out for the Agricultural High School, such as abandoning the boarding school idea and substituting general boarding, said this was not done because of the criticism of the Guardian, they would have made the change without such criticism. His explanation recalls that of the book agent who was kicked down stairs; he said it didn't matter, he was coming down anyway.

The transitory character of human distinctions is again exemplified by the fact that the Hon. W. M. Lea, this year, been dubbed the Apostle of Taxation, a title held last year by the Hon. J. J. Johnston. In a few years, perhaps even sooner their names will be "mud" and there you are.

CURRENT COMMENT

We had supposed that in the three days recess Premier Bell would have raked up something, or that one of the powers from behind would have prompted him in something which he could offer to offset the ringing and stinging arraignment of his Government by the leader of the Opposition, but his concluding remarks on Tuesday dispelled this expectation. There was admittedly less of frustration and confusion, more of personal dogmatism and variation from facts, an increase in sophistry and dodging of issues, but absolutely nothing in the relation of facts or figures to palliate their treachery to the country, or to justify their existence as a government. True enough, he talked figures in connection with the Dalton Sanatorium, but experience has shown that both facts and figures are enormously elastic and contractible at will under Mr. Bell's manipulation. He seems conscious of the want of public confidence in anything he might say himself, and to meet a situation like this he has always some document to support him, but which he never exposes to the light of day, or some man's estimate to give, whose identity he is most careful not to disclose. In this weakness he bolsters up his opposition to the Sanatorium. "A man" told him that it would cost \$50,000 for upkeep of building, and \$125,000 for maintenance, or so he told the Legislature innocently pretending that he expected them to believe him.

There is an old saying that "bars should have good memories," which in this case surely exemplifies. The Technical and Agricultural School, on which the power behind the throne is staking what reputation he has, is a structure very little behind the Sanatorium in cost of construction. Is this \$175,000 estimate the scale upon which it is being conducted? Will the Premier or any of his henchmen give to this a STRAIGHT answer? Falconwood Hospital, with the Infirmary attached, are buildings costing, on the basis of present construction values, about twice as much as the Sanatorium, and is accommodating about 400 people on a necessarily very expensive scale.

As with the Patriot and the Devil himself, the Premier is apt in the quotation of Scripture. "Like Nathan to David," he said, "Thou art the man." About two thousand years ago there was another Prime Minister who quoted from the Good Book, and also for his own special purpose, but he was quickly refuted by the same method. In this case, while the Bell combination are laboring to lay the blame for their tribulations at the door of the Opposition, we give back the answer of Elijah to the profligate Ahab, "I am not he that troubleth Israel, but THOU AND ALL THY HOUSE IN THAT THOU HAST FORSAKEN THE LORD THY GOD, AND HAST FOLLOWED BAALAM."

Intermixed with his piety he followed up with the more vulgar suggestion that "Chickens sometimes have an unfortunate tendency to come home to roost." No man could proclaim this truth with an accuracy sustained by experience, as Mr. Bell could, for the hen coop of his Government was and is crowded to capacity with those ungainly and now detested birds, which, when in opposition he so delighted to admire. Honesty and candor in dealing with the people, truthfulness in the utterances of public men, clean and straight financial statements, and such things as these which were their happy texts in opposition, are now like the spirits from an outraged dead, worrying them to abstraction.

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. S. Louson

HOW? WHEN? WHY?

You ask me how I gave my heart to Christ? I do not know; There came a longing for Him in my soul So long ago.

I found earth's fairest flowers Yearning for something that would satisfy; And then at last somehow I seemed to dare To lift my broken heart to Him in prayer.

I do not know; I cannot tell you how; I only know He is my Saviour now.

You ask me when I gave my heart to Christ? I cannot tell; The day or just the hour I do not know Remember well, It must have been when I was all alone The light of His forgiving Spirit alone

Into my heart so clouded o'er with sin; I think 'twas then I trembling, let Him in.

I do not know; I cannot tell you when; I only know He is so dear since then.

You ask why I gave my heart to Christ? I can reply; It is a wondrous story; listen while I tell you why My heart was drawn at length to seek His face.

I was alone, I had no resting place; I heard of how He loved me, with a love Of depth so deep, of height so far above

All human ken, I longed such love to share, And sought it then Upon my knees in prayer.

You ask me why I thought this loving Christ? Would heed my prayer? I know He died upon the cross for me;

I named Him there, I heard His dying cry, "Father forgive!"

I saw Him drink death's cup that I might live; My heart was bowed upon my breast in shame, He called me and in penitence I came.

He heard my prayer—I cannot tell you how Or when or where; Only I love Him now.

As the Bell Government conducting this institution on the same ratio of cost as he so flippantly flaunted before the legislature, with the vain imagination that he could deceive either the members or the people?

There are some excellent public institutions in the province, notably St. Dunstan's University, the two Orphanages, three public Hospitals, two Convents, and also some jails, all institutions from which practical figures and facts in the cost of maintenance can be procured, which would be reliable in character and WOULD MOST EMPHATICALLY CONTRADICT THOSE GHOST STORIES REPEATED BY PREMIER BELL IN HIS WICKED EFFORTS TO PREJUDICE THE PEOPLE AGAINST THIS INSTITUTION.

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His "Bird of Paradise," the returned soldier, has evidently given Mr. Bell the greatest annoyance, for he floundered most heroically to escape its convicting presence. "Look around this room," he declared, and see the door-keepers and messengers and the Sergeant at Arms, all returned soldiers."

And we looked around, and true enough the errand boys and keepers of the wicket were selected from the savers of the Empire, and it was in these dunkey jobs that the Premier was making his proud boast.

But we looked further around the room, and observed the more remunerative positions of Clerk and Assistant, FOR WHICH THE WAR VETERANS HAD MADE APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF COMPETENT ONES IN THEIR NUMBER, were occupied by civilians who had won their spurs in the field of political battle. Mr. Bell then made a lousy do over the \$3 exemption from Poll Tax, which by the way, according to the Saturday end of his speech, those who are not soldiers, are also escaping and by multiplying this for the five year term of the Act, conjures up the magnificent sum of \$15 each.

Think of it! This would go a very short way towards paying the interest on the \$2,000 grant in which they defaulted, amounting, at six per cent, to \$120 per year for all time to come.

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A Considerate Service



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Happenings of The Week

The Earl and Countess of Minto are sailing for England on the 24th of the month.

Lady Rachael Cavendish, accompanied by Lady Margaret Scott and Miss Katherine Ryder, will sail for England on the Empress of France on March 27th.

Everyone was delighted with the presentation to Colonel D. A. McKinnon, D. S. O., of a valuable gold stop watch on Monday by the directors of the Victoria Hotel "Col. Dan" is a favorite of young and old.

Mr and Mrs James Paton left yesterday afternoon en route to New York where they will spend Easter.

The many friends of Mr. Donald Nicholson, M. P., will regret to learn of his indisposition in Ottawa.

Regretful farewells were said this week to M. J. Clarke of Cambridge, Mass., who has been here since the death of her brother, the late Mr. W. W. Clarke.

Miss Bessie Louson was expected home last night from Montreal after a delightful four months visit with relatives there.

Mrs A A Pomeroy left on Thursday morning on a months' visit to her daughter, Mrs Beale in Hamilton, Ont.

Dr. David McKenzie of the Royal Victoria, Montreal spent the week end in the city consulting on the illness of his uncle, Capt. Cameron whose many friends sympathise with him in his serious illness.

Rev. Dr. Alfred Hall, who is well known here in his connection as chaplain of the Navy League of Canada, has been seriously ill for the past three weeks at his home in Toronto.

A pretty bridal reception was held on Thursday at the residence of Mrs. A. Lord, Brighton Road when Mrs. Philip E. Palmer received for the first time since her marriage. The bride who was assisted in receiving by Mrs. Lord and Mrs. H. J. Palmer looked charming in black and gold with overskirt of gold embroidered satin and carried a bouquet of yellow tulips. Little Miss Dorothy Reay attended the door. The rooms were beautifully decorated with spring flowers, hyacinths, daffodils and the Irish Shamrock. The guests who in spite of the stormy weather numbered about one hundred and fifty were ushered into the tea room by Mrs. John Reay of Montreal. Tea was poured by Mrs. Wilfred Wright and Miss Amy Palmer who were assisted in serving by Mrs. G. D. Fitzgerald and Mrs. Aleck Scott.

The Diocesan Church meetings this week brought a number of

visitors to the city, and all the interesting meetings were largely attended.

St. Patrick's Day was royally celebrated with the usual service in St. Dunstan's Cathedral in the morning and in the evening by one of the nicest amateur shows yet staged in the Prince Edward, the crowded audience showing its appreciation by constant applause.

Mr and Mrs K J Martin have gone to Montreal where Mrs. Martin will remain for several weeks.

The end of Lent draws near, and with the approach of Holy Week there is an almost complete cessation of entertaining in any formal or large way. Already, however, there begin to be rumors of parties shortly after Easter, which this year falls so early that the most sanguine cannot be confident that it will be a very springlike festival, as to the weather, March is proverbial for rude surprises, but blustery as it usually is, it is the herald of very exquisite things—the real springtime follows swift upon it.

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