

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1926

PRISON LABOUR

Many were surprised to learn during the debate on the Prisoners' Labour Bill in the legislature on Tuesday, that there are at present 26 or 30 prisoners in Queen's County Jail. It is quite conclusive evidence that there is pretty rigid enforcement of law or, if all the offenders are not in jail, we are making slow progress in law observance. None, however, were surprised that an Act has been passed to compel prisoners of certain classes to work. The idea of the province providing board and comfortable quarters for 20 or 30 men, as a reward for their having broken the law of the land, has long been deprecated and Premier Stewart is to be complimented on bringing the custom to a close. It is to the credit of the legislature that unanimous concurrence was given to the bill by both government and opposition. The discussion on the second reading was both interesting and instructive. All admitted the necessity for it, all agreed that prisoners should be obliged to work and without remuneration. Of course the Act is still in the experimental stage and some details are yet to be worked out as necessarily may dictate. The proposal to provide a prison yard at the back of the jail will commend itself to the people generally. Such a yard would afford many opportunities for doing useful work, such as could not be done outside although there should be plenty of the latter to do also. The main thing is that our jails are no longer to be boarding houses maintained at the expense of the province and that law breakers shall be compelled to work for their board while undergoing punishment for lawlessness.

THE LOWERED TONE

If the highest administrative body in the country the Dominion Parliament, represents the general tone of public life in Canada we must conclude that we have reached a very low level indeed. Recent investigations reveal a veritable epidemic of public and official immorality such as has probably never disgraced any country claiming to be civilized. In yesterday's Guardian the story is partly told from the Police Court records of Edmonton, Alberta, of Liberal crooks who acted as election officials at the general election in October last. Fines of \$200, imprisonment, commitment to the Supreme Court, imposed by the Court upon the men who secured the election of supporters of Mr. Mackenzie King. Verily "the people have spoken" as we have repeatedly been told in the Liberal press. "The people have spoken" through the mouths of election crooks whom the court found guilty of securing alien voters for Liberal candidates, of stuffing ballot boxes, of destroying ballots! This on the heels of the Customs revelations which proved to the hilt that government officials were implicated in the wholesale robbery of the country's revenues, smuggling goods into and out of Canada with the knowledge, if not the consent, of the Premier and Ministers of the Crown! Now we do not pretend to charge the whole Liberal party or all the Liberal representatives with participating in these crimes or even with a guilty knowledge of them. What has been revealed both in the former is a watertight compartment at Edmonton and in the latter is a public bath, as some say today that has never existed before ready call them will be and indeed in the history of this country. And already are a public nuisance and this condition is a direct product of King Liberalism which is a separate and distinct brand of Liberalism. There always have been self-seeking politicians, job hunters and to before further mischief is done.

healers in both political parties, but their numbers have been comparatively few and their operations confined to the lowest stratum of political life. During the regime of the King government the floodgates of political corruption have been thrown wide open and that by the higher ups in the party. Bribes in many forms have been offered to constituencies, railways, elevators, senators, cabinet positions and offices have been publicly and openly offered for support of Liberal candidates. With this kind of corruption at the seat of government, what is to be expected from the rank and file. If cabinet ministers, sworn to administer righteous government openly and with full knowledge of the conditions condone such offences and profit by them, why should not the underlings and the hirelings go and do likewise? And they do it. In the courts as in the Edmonton Police court above referred to, the guilty ones usually receive the punishment they deserve. In the investigation now in progress over the Customs scandal, what will the result be? Will it be a "not guilty" or a "not proven" verdict or a whitewash? Or will it be a prison term as was given to some other higher ups not so long ago? We shall see. In the meantime the dominating anxiety seems to be that the revelations shall not injure the party, not that the country shall be relieved of the organized and systematized robbery of which it has been the victim in the past few years.

FEDERAL ESTIMATES

The main estimates, brought down in the House of Commons on Monday are designed to show how economical the King government is going to be during the coming year—if it lives. There is a "saving" of \$5,652,672 as compared with the estimates for 1925-6. The estimates for the Canadian National Railways is cut down from \$50,000,000 last year to \$31,000,000. This also is going to be "saved." And there are other reductions and some additions, all of which inevitably point to a big "surplus" at the end of the fiscal year. It is somewhat significant that after the four surpluses of the present regime and all the debt reductions the estimated amount for services under the heading "Public Debt, for sinking funds and other liabilities show an increase over last year's of \$121,659. It will have been noted that the sum of \$25,000 is provided for the expenses of a Royal Commission "to enquire fully into the claims of the Maritime Provinces." Premier King, when in the Maritime Provinces during the October election campaign, wanted some one to show him the Maritime grievances. Wonder if the \$25,000 Royal Commission can show them to him. Like the Speech from the Throne which opened the present session of parliament, the main Estimates are largely bluff and the Supplementaries are to come yet.

SUPERVISION NEEDED

The City fathers should exercise some sort of supervision over the operations at present in progress on the sidewalks. Some are cutting through a foot or 18 inches of ice, the clear down to the concrete in front of their own residences. Their next steping in these crimes or even with a guilty knowledge of them. What has been revealed both in the former is a watertight compartment at Edmonton and in the latter is a public bath, as some say today that has never existed before ready call them will be and indeed in the history of this country. And already are a public nuisance and this condition is a direct product of King Liberalism which is a separate and distinct brand of Liberalism. There always have been self-seeking politicians, job hunters and to before further mischief is done.

Notes by the Way

Premier King has informed Mr. Meighen and Parliament and the country that he has decided to reduce the number of Ministers in his Cabinet to fourteen. Formerly there were eighteen of them. The Premier did not refer to the fact that owing to an accident of some sort late in October last nine of the eighteen had been unable to sit in the House of Commons since that date. Now we honestly think that fourteen Ministers are quite enough for Canada with its nine millions of people, seeing that in the States across the border where they have twelve times as many people they manage to struggle along with a Cabinet of ten. And Premier King loves the United States, as his grandfather, the late lamented William Lyon Mackenzie did, and has from time to time gone over there to live. And he has shown almost as much desire to reciprocate with the American people as he has to co-operate with the dear Progressives of the West. Some may think that Mr. King has decided to cut down the size of his Cabinet in order that it might look more like the Cabinet at Washington. Others are of the opinion that perhaps the October accident to himself and so many of his colleagues may have had something to do with it. Mr. King having been elected in Prince Albert has taken his seat in the House. He has now a government of ten and wants four more to make up the complement of fourteen. He has two more, Mr. Dunning and Mr. Elliot whom he is expecting to join him at Ottawa, before March is out. They are up on the road, so to speak, as were John Gilpin's hat and wig upon a memorable occasion. In fact they would be at Ottawa very shortly but for some bad Tories who are wickedly obstructing their progress. It is strange about these wicked Tories, with which the Dominion has been infested for years. We are told that they are never at rest unless they are obstructing some admirable and excellent Liberal or Progressive Government. So the excellent Liberal papers tell us. There was the Drury government in Ontario. They obstructed it until it could not carry on and had to give up the job. And there was the Bell government in this Province, which was pronounced on high Liberal authority to be "the best Government we ever had." Well, the wicked Tories attacked it "in their rage and fury" and obstructed it and actually destroyed it. And only last year the same bad Tories obstructed the worthy Armstrong Government in Nova Scotia and the excellent Veniot government in New Brunswick and, horrible to relate actually wrecked and ruined them both. Time would fail to tell how these bad Tories obstructed Premier King and his colleagues and supporters in October last. In their "rage and fury" they fought against the able and statesmanlike Liberal and Progressive leaders and tried to defeat them and actually did shut a lot of them out of Parliament. Could obstruction go further than that? It did. When Parliament met, Tory obstructionist members talked and moved amendments and had the audacity to make nearly as many speeches, if not such long ones, as good supporters of the government. That's what they did. In their "rage and fury" and shameless greed for office what did they do next to obstruct? Pursued Mr. King to Prince Albert where a worthy and patriotic Liberal member had given up his seat to Mr. King and they tried to defeat him there! And only for the co-operation of the worthy Progressives they might have succeeded in their dastardly purpose. One would think they might have some respect for a fair bargain. When one good Liberal gives up his seat to Mr. King and another good Liberal gives up his seat to Mr. Dunning what right has any Tory to interfere? Stronger measures must be resorted to if these wicked Tories are to be suppressed. Closure in Parliament has been tried but it has proved to be only a partial remedy. It has come to a pretty pass in this country that when Premier King wants a new Minister of Railways, or Labor, or for any other Department these wicked Tories will oppose him, and this when there are so few places where a Liberal Minister can be elected. Ought not such opposition and obstruction to be forbidden by law? And why should these nefarious Tories be allowed to vote, either at the polls or as members in Parliament? The co-operating Liberals and

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That Body of Hours

By James W. Burton, M.D.

IDENTIFICATION BY X RAY

Some months ago a newly married man disappeared from home leaving no trace whatever that would enable his friends and others to locate him. He had insured his life for a large amount just prior to his marriage but as that was a reasonable thing to do there was not much comment thereon. A couple of months afterwards a body was found in a bad state of decomposition. However, one of the friends of the missing man came forward and identified the body as that of the missing man by the peculiar location and marking of the vaccination scar on the arm. The insurance company was not convinced however, and learning that the missing man had an X ray of his teeth on the advice of his dentist, the records of same and the films were obtained, and it was found that they in no way resembled the teeth and jaws of the body that was found. This was sufficient proof that he was not the missing man. Was this fair? Yes, because the X ray of your particular teeth and jaws cannot be exactly like that of any other person. There is the formation of the jaw itself, the markings on it, the quality of the bone of the jaw, its "porousness," that is the little spaces in the bone resembling the holes in a sponge. Then there are the sockets in which the teeth rest, they will have their own individual shapes for each of your teeth. And finally the teeth themselves, the number complete or otherwise, the shape of the crowns and of the roots, the different fillings and bridge work of your later years. A few years ago the elaborate system of measurements for identifying criminals founded by Bertillon the famous Frenchman, was used all over the world. The identity finger prints have been used because no two finger prints are alike. And now we have the X ray which cannot make a mistake, because in your teeth, as elsewhere in your body, your particular bony structure cannot be confused with that of any other person in the world. We sometimes think of ourselves as just a mass of people, and yet every one of us has his or her individuality in body structure.

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The Public Forum

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest to the Charlottetown Guardian. Correspondents do not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

EDUCATION SITUATION

Sir.—Most of us, no doubt, still remember that luckless schoolboy of our childhood days, who, when hopelessly defeated, by some more fortunate rival, in his rage and helplessness, would resort to "making faces and calling names," as the only means left him to assuage his offended dignity and wounded feelings. Some of these schoolboys have since graduated into the teacher class, if we may judge by the letter of Mr. Johnston and Mr. Yeo, Vice-Principals, in your issue of the 8th inst. under the heading "Reply to Prof. Blanchard." Now, if it were not so painfully evident that Mr. Johnston and Mr. Yeo, are trying to "cover up their retreat" and to "let themselves