

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1924

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mr. S. F. Toimie, Conservative Organizer for Canada, complains of unfair and partisan reporting of the part of the Canadian Press which is supposed to be and is paid for being neutral in politics.

On Friday night, says Mr. Toimie, the 11th instant, "there took place in London, Ont., what was, perhaps, the most remarkable political demonstration ever seen in Canada. It took the form of a banquet at which, from the best information I can get, seventeen hundred and sixty had seats, in addition some hundred more were compelled to be denied admittance.

The Conservative leaders from the Province of Quebec travelled some three hundred miles to attend, and were accompanied by about twenty-five of their supporters. Not only in its numbers but in every feature it was a function of more complete success than I think I ever witnessed before.

Besides Mr. Melgib's speech addresses were delivered by Hon. Rodolphe Monty, Hon. L. G. Bellery, Hon. Hugh Guthrie and Hon. J. S. Martin. I am attaching herewith the Canadian Press report—something less than half a column. Beyond a few erroneous comments on Mr. Melgib's speech, nothing was said of the event at all and no mention made of the presence of a large delegation from the Province of Quebec.

Some of these came from as far East as Quebec City. Not a word is given of any speeches except Mr. Meighen's. Mr. Toimie proceeds to discuss the report at some length, comparing with it a long and elaborate report of a banquet given in Ottawa recently in honor of Premier King. "The Ottawa banquet," he states was "probably between a quarter and a fifth of the dimensions of the London function. I feel this matter the more keenly because of the studied ignoring of the presence of the other former ministers and write simply to state that anything further in the way of contention of the neutrality of the Canadian Press under its present management need not be addressed to Conservative leaders unless it is accompanied by more practical demonstrations of its sincerity when occasion arises."

The accusation is a serious one and it will be interesting to see how the Canadian Press Manager will treat it. Generally speaking the Canadian Press gives unbiased reports although, not infrequently, the political complexion of some correspondents reveals itself either by omission or commission. The Canadian Press is largely in the hands of its correspondents and they are not all political saints. The occasional deviation from the straight and narrow path mapped out for them emphasizes the necessity of careful selection of correspondents and the necessity also of seeing that they are not too closely allied with political organizations.

TRADE AT HOME

During the past few weeks quite a number of our young and even our middle aged men left for the lumber woods in New Brunswick and Maine. Preparatory to leaving they outfitted themselves in our stores with heavy boots, rubber boots, working clothes, underwear, &c. They will spend the winter in the woods and come home in the spring in time to resume work on the farm. With but few exceptions these men will bring home with them practically all of their earnings. This they will spend in our stores. As a rule these men

and their families do not patronize the outside departmental stores, they trade at home. It is a remarkable fact and frequently commented upon that laboring men, by which we mean those who are not regularly or permanently employed as wage earners, are not the confirmed patrons of the big departmental store. The fairly well to do, the larger salaried men and their dependents are generally speaking the men and women who buy abroad. There is much more of this buying abroad than most of us are aware of and this fact accounts very largely for the occasional "dull times" which we encounter. Buying at home helps all the home institutions while every dollar spent abroad is so much out of the legitimate revenue of the province, a revenue in which all share directly or indirectly.

We are maintaining many institutions, paying many large salaries out of the taxes, federal and provincial. These salaries spent at home help to lighten the burden of taxation, help to keep the wheels of industry turning and in many ways help to make our country a better place to live in.

MAJORITIES

In the nature of things majorities must rule; they constitute "the powers that be" and we have to do with them as we can. Hence it is that we must bend to the will of the majority in all matters of public or mutual administration and good citizenship demands that we do so.

It does not follow from this by any means that majorities are always right, that "the voice of the people is the voice of God." Indeed the opposite is quite often the case. The "hosannas" and "crucify him," both equally unreasonable were the outcries of majorities impelled by the mob spirit.

Overwhelming majorities, while indicating a general movement in a certain direction or a general protest against certain conditions, may by their very strength defeat their original purpose. Because of a certain human peculiarity the tendency of majorities is to become tyrannical and despotic. The "lust of power" is inherent in the race and it is when power finds itself, either in the individual or in the multitude, the tendency is to exert itself. This is the danger of majorities. The history of all the ages is filled with instances of the tyranny and the injustice of majorities. Even in our own Canada we have only to look back fifty years to find a striking example of the abuse of power by a majority. We

of the Maritime provinces placed ourselves at the mercy of our larger sister provinces and of provinces not then created and today we have our problems of unrecognition "Maritime rights." Majorities need watching and need dilution.

LOOKING BETTER

The unemployment situation in Great Britain shows a marked improvement over last year. The number of persons unemployed in Great Britain was reduced by about 350,000 during the year 1923. Compared to the high level of unemployment in 1921, the number out of work was 907,000 fewer at the end of 1923 than in 1921.

More than 300,000 of the workers for whom work has been provided in the past year are men. At the beginning of 1923, 1,165,057 male workers were on the unemployment registry. At the end of the year the number of men registered as unemployed had been reduced to 863,400, while the number of jobless women had decreased from 234,955 to 212,800.

Notes By the Way

This is the year for a Presidential election with our excellent neighbors across the border. Whoever shall be chosen for that high office must be a native citizen of the United States and at least 35 years of age. Women are not eligible to be elected. A President is elected for a term of four years and there is no constitutional limit as to the number of times that he may be re-elected, but the example and precedent of Washington have since been followed and no President has ever held the office for more than eight years. There is little reason to doubt that the next President will be the nominee of one of the two great parties, Republican or Democratic.

These respective parties usually nominate their candidates at national conventions held in June. The actual voting by the people will take place in November next, at which time the Electoral College is chosen which later elects the President, who is at length installed in office in March following. It has now been decided that the National Convention for the nomination of a Democratic candidate for the Presidency shall be held in New York. The place where the Republican National Convention shall meet has not yet been announced but will no doubt soon be made known.

It is publicly stated that the reason why New York was selected as the place of meeting was that it bid the highest. A national convention brings together a large number of important and wealthy people and sits for several days. It is therefore desirable from a monetary point of view. New York's bid was cash \$150,000 and \$250,000 more pledged for the entertainment of the visitors. San Francisco's bid was \$300,000 and Chicago, Philadelphia and other large cities also competed but New York was far ahead of them all and we are told was quite delighted to get the convention.

An impression prevails that the political surroundings of the convention in the city where it is held may influence the choice. For this reason the supporters of Al Smith, Democratic Governor of New York State are hopeful that with the convention in the Metropolitan city their favorite may secure the nomination. This is, however, thought to be unlikely by outsiders, as the Governor Smith is a Roman Catholic and so far no member of that religious faith has been elected to the Presidency. Canada makes no such narrow restrictions. Governor Smith being also opposed to prohibition of the liquor traffic would be objected to on that ground. There is little doubt that the majority of the electors are still in favor of the Constitutional Amendment which places the liquor trade under its ban.

At this distance and with no party candidates yet nominated, it would be idle to speculate upon the probable results of a national election to be held in November next. And yet it seems probable that Mr. Coolidge, who as Vice President succeeded the late President Harding at his death, may be the choice of the Republican party with a fair chance of being elected but by a much less majority than the very large one Mr. Harding received in 1920. There is a restless spirit abroad, due to high taxation and other causes, but a big cut in expenditure and taxes present and prospective, with a large reduction

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Daily Selections FOR Guardian Readers

THE SHADOW

Have courage, heart of mine! Altho' we seem To fight such odds alone, It is not so: The Father may be nearer than we dream. For His love that will not let us go.

By CONSTANCE J. DAVIES

The Public Forum

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetownian does not necessarily endorse the opinion expressed by its correspondents.

THE ISSUE

Sir,—In opening your columns to a discussion of Church Union you have performed a public service. May I suggest that you would be doing a further valuable service in elevating the tone of discussion if you would insist that your correspondents treat with common courtesy those who fall to see exactly as they do on this question?

Recently a writer signing himself "Presbyterian" criticizes with great severity the position taken by Rev. G. A. Christie. His reference to that gentleman (whose intelligence and position in the Presbyterian culture and position in the "ecclesiastical puppet" does this writer even less credit than does his loose and erroneous characterization of his church as "the mother of contradictions.")

The Presbyterian church has made no such ridiculous claim. It is a matter of fact common knowledge among Presbyterians that, of the three common forms of church polity, the system in episcopacy is monarchical; in congregationalism, democratic; and in Presbyterianism, aristocratic, or representative.

"Presbyterian," if he had taken the trouble to inform himself as to his church's constitution, would have found Mr. Christie's position entirely logical—though of course, he would not have admitted it. "Presbyterian" should change his non-deplumè—or admit his ignorance.

Now, in your issue of the 18th inst. "Another Presbyterian"—this time evidently an aged gentleman—descends on the devoted head of my pastor. I say, aged, because in the last paragraph of his letter, he has found a real panacea for the church's ills, not in Union, or in any modern movement, but in a return to the conditions which existed generally in the Presbyterian church of sixty years ago, to wit, a ministry pitifully underpaid; a house of worship gutted of the profane "box of whistlers" which has pointed so many souls toward destruction;—and, I would suppose, the elimination from the service of those "dang hymns!"

Thus the "merger" of the "United" would be assured and the "dang hymns" speedily brought about! That, first, at least, of the above conditions will eventuate in a large proportion of congregations remaining non-concurring is, more indeed, than a distant possibility. Mr. Christie, says this writer, has become alarmed because of the circulation of petitions against Union. Possibly, but why? Because, in the main, signatures are being obtained by appeals to denomination, prejudice, and by lack of information; and for the plain purpose of intimidating our representatives in Parliament and legislature.

Another Presbyterian, in his blind zeal for an argument, has committed his literary and historical definitions of the word "merged," which though not applicable to the case in point, give him great comfort indeed. In Union, his traditional church would be "swallowed," "abolished," or "swallowed up." How the cockles of his heart must have warmed when he made this discovery! The definition which applies in this instance, under the word "Merger" in the standard dictionary, I find the following: "The extinguishment, by operation of law of lesser estate, right or liability, into a greater . . . where a lower 'form' is replaced by a higher."

Exactly what is proposed by the Three negotiating churches and exactly what will come about unless there are enough intolent Presbyterians to prevent it. As to the meaning, in plain everyday language, of all the frenzied oratory in the penultimate paragraph of the letter before me, I confess myself to be at sea. This French deplures "the uprooting and annihilation of the glorious traditions" (of the Presbyterian church.) He visualizes his descendants witnessing "the ruthless destruction of the cherished hope of their forbears" and generally lets his imagination run riot. I hope it has since occurred to him that the history of the last 367 years cannot be condensed out, nor are the negotiating churches, by common consent to forget their glorious past.

It is not time that these champions of Presbyterianism ceased their lamentations and gave us something constructive? Will they not tell us how they hope to improve conditions in scattered congregations which own their weakness generally to the intense denominational rivalry which disgraced protestantism in days gone by, and which these anti-unionists are endeavoring, by their obstructive tactics, to perpetuate today? What solution have they to offer in the event of the success of their propaganda, for the doubtful status of the thousands of Union congregations already existing in the West—and nearer home? How are these non-concurring congregations going to exist when their Unionist members, true to their principles, go over to the nearest Union congregation rather than be counted among such reactionaries?

How, then, can the youth and vigor of our church look to such a prospect for leadership? They have

WHERE THERE IS NO PEACE

Sir—"A little learning is a dangerous thing—as in bodies thus in souls we find what wants in blood and spirit swelled with wind." A little travelling may also be a dangerous thing.

We have a case in point:—A person who may once have been modest and kind, attending to his own simple affairs, seeking no notoriety in an evil day crossed the straits and, in the car-ferry into a strange land, went on the cars to Sackville, peering as far as Moncton or even further and came home again.

He was now an expert "Traveler" but utterly disenchanted with the world of men and ships and steam cars. The service he encountered was not adapted solely to his purposes. Other people and things were considered in the running of the boats and trains.

This was unfortunate in many ways. There has been no peace in "Traveller" since. Our "Traveller" has been turned completely around. He has become a terrific fighter. He fought Captain Read on his own special ground as a ship-master and navigator up to the Captain had no more to learn. He fought the trainmen till they put their hands to their ears. They never heard such a noise. Now he is joined in battle with the Boards of Trade. He uses the same methods in commerce as in transportation. He selects the high cost heads and proceeds to smash them, though now and again he lets them pass in extreme cases.

He has been challenged to give his real name. I think he is, wise in refusing it. That would ruin any cause. My idea is that "Traveller" is merely English for "Trotsky."

I am, Sir, etc., SUFFERER Charlottetown, Jan. 22, 1924.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

Sir—"Traveller" has a mania for misrepresenting my motives, in fact he is so obsessed with the desire that he cannot even answer some one else without bringing me in the lime light.

The trouble with "Traveller" is that he has become an ego-maniac, and has such an exalted opinion of his own ability that he blindly claims he has been responsible for the reduced time taken at Emerald. If his claim be true then it is time he was muzzled, and the Board of Trade should take steps to have a delegation wait on him and implore him to quit writing letters before our trade is ruined altogether, for the truth is, the time saved at Emerald IS DUE TO THE FACT

that the mail and express is NOT NOW A QUARTER of what it was a month ago, and anyone with an atom of common sense would realize that for a month before and during the Christmas holidays, the mail and express is at its zenith while immediately after New Year's it is at its lowest.

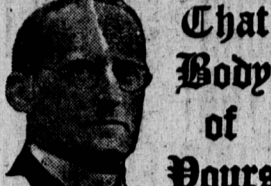
Mr. Hyndman says: "Traveller" is in absolute ignorance of what is going on," but I would like to point out that "Looks are very often deceiving" a man may have the appearance of being half asleep and still notice what is going on as proven by the fact that when "Traveller" was in Prince County a few days ago, he noticed the train hands did not take as long as they did before Christmas, but the great trouble with his reasoning was that it was biased, owing to the several letters he had already written demanding that the train crew take less time at Emerald so what would be more natural for a man suffering from his complaint than to jump at the conclusion (a very injudicious thing to do) that his letters alone were responsible for the change, never dreaming for a moment that the cause could be due to anything else.

The effect is apparent to all and the cause to everyone else except our critic.

"Traveller" first passed judgment on the "train crews," then on the "Members of the Board of Trade" and then on yours truly, who he is pleased to name as "the author of all your troubles" and

BOARD OF TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION

Sir,—I had no intention or desire to take any further notice of "Traveller" but as a letter appeared in your paper of the 21st inst., signed "Novis" and which "Traveller" evidently thinks I am responsible for, according to his letter appearing in the "Guardian" of the 22nd inst., I would like to state, that I was not the author of the letter signed "Novis." I have an idea who the author is, and further I never wrote an anonymous letter in my life, nor has any part in one. I am not afraid to put my name, whether I am dealing with a Judge of the Court or anyone else. To show how ridiculous the letters of "Traveller" are and to bear out the content in my previous letter that he is only attempting a re-hash of some of the matters that the Board of Trade have been dealing with for many years, and after having had the most careful consideration of shippers and business men generally, I would state, that as far back as 1919, the Charlottetown Board of Trade protested against the cutting out of the section for leadership? They have



By James W. Burton, M.P.

A SIMPLE METHOD OF BUILDING AND REDUCING

A health writer during the war made a very significant statement. In effect it was this "If the people of the United States and Canada would go to bed one hour earlier, and get up at their usual time, the food they would save would feed all the American and Canadian soldiers under arms."

Now there is not any war on at present and plain food can be obtained by almost everybody, so there is no need for this early to bed advice from the saving of food standpoint.

But what is the significance of an extra hour in bed? Simply that when we are at rest, there is very little call for maintaining the work of the body, as compared to the need when we are about on our feet.

It has been estimated that one lying in complete repose uses only one fifth of the energy that is required by the body when walking about.

And thus many thin folks wonder why they remain so thin, notwithstanding the fair amount of food they eat every day.

They seem to forget that they are more or less on the move all the time. Their friends tell them that they don't know what it means to sit down and rest themselves. They are often late to bed and up early in the morning.

Gluttony minded people who just have to eat to be happy. It is just here they should think of the words of the health writer, and the saving of food by the extra hour's sleep. This extra hour would perhaps see some of their food made into flesh.

And so whenever the opportunity comes throughout the day, they should try and get a few minutes complete repose, even a few minutes sleep.

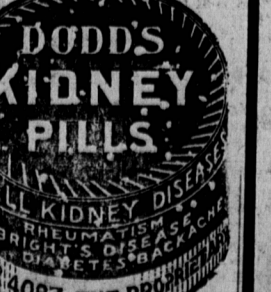
It can readily be seen that if such a one is willing to do without the extra hour at night, and to get to bed as often as possible throughout the day.

The person who is overweight usually—not always—likes to take a full night's sleep, and to get to bed as often as possible throughout the day.

It can readily be seen that if such a one is willing to do without the extra hour at night, and to get to bed as often as possible throughout the day.

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Recollections of a Private Secretary

By J. L. PAYNE (Article Six) Hon. A. G. Blair—Essentially a Home Man—The Railway Crisis—Affection for Laurier—The Entry of David Russell—Blair's Resignation and his Pathetic Collapse

I became private secretary to Hon. A. G. Blair under somewhat peculiar circumstances. Sir Wilfrid Laurier had asked me to be his English secretary, and for a week or two it seemed that I was fated to serve the third Prime Minister of Canada in sequence. But eight years in the poor pasturage of opposition had made the Liberals suspicious. No one could blame them for feeling that way about one who had been for ten years living in the tents of their political enemy. It looked like a risky thing, and risks at that stage of the new order at Ottawa were regarded as impolitic. Sir Wilfrid himself—big, trusting, and knowing his needs—had no misgivings. "I will keep you in the background for a short time," he explained to me, "and the apprehensions of my friends will disappear."

It did not so work out. Mr. Blair, in the meantime, had relinquished the Premiership of New Brunswick and come to Ottawa to take the portfolio of Railways and Canals. He had been at that post for about six months when he told Sir Wilfrid he might have to give up, because he had found no way of keeping up with his heavy correspondence. He was then two thousand letters behind. Without going into details, let it be said at once that Sir Wilfrid offered to loan him his secretary from the office, and I was sent over to West Block. It was early in February, 1897, on the morning after the top story of that block had been destroyed by fire.

I had set eyes on Mr. Blair but once before. He made a most favorable impression on me at once. He explained his difficulties, which were really due to a faulty system, and agreed to try my plan for a week or two to test its merits. I remained with him until he resigned on 13th July, 1903.

Years later I was one day talking with Sir Wilfrid Laurier about the administration of the Interior, and something I said led him to remark that I was depressed by Mr. Blair. I hasten to correct the false impression, and Sir Wilfrid said: "I am glad I misunderstood you; for Blair was a big man; yes, a very big man." That was also my estimate of the man. With none of my chiefs did I live as closely as I did with Mr. Blair. During my last three years with him, I can say without the slightest exaggeration that we were not only in the closest relations throughout every working day, but I spent at least four nights out of seven with him in his library until midnight or later.

A HOME MAN. He was a home man. His domestic life was so strong that he had no place for clubs of any sort. He loved his family and his library. During my more than six years with him he bought a great many books. He was fond of pictures, too, and when he died his books and art gallery constituted an important part of his estate. Incidentally, I may say that he had nine children. A son died in 1897, and on 6th December, 1902, he lost a beautiful daughter in a drowning accident on the Ottawa River. Mrs. Blair, sweet and true companion, survived him for about eight years.

Mr. Blair had about as nearly a perfect judicial mind as it was ever my privilege to know. When called upon to make a decision, he seemed able to divest himself of every trace of personal feeling or prejudice—and that must be a rare way. His training in the law had led him to adopt certain principles of reasoning, and from those principles he never departed. Back of that was a tremendous strength of character. I am confident that he despised politics, which he often told me led to humiliating compromises. Yet he was a politician, in even the narrow sense. As he explained to me, "One must play the game in the only way it can be played, or give it up."

It would have been impossible for Mr. Blair to descend to anything small or mean. He was a man who reflected his moral attitude in his bearing. He was a big man physically, and always walked with his head up and a firm step. He was actually a giant in strength, and told me that he had never but once in his life known what people meant when they said they were tired. He could walk in his vigorous way all day, and then take a turn of a couple of miles, as he put it, "just to freshen up before going to bed." I fancy he was also a stranger to fear. No one can be dogmatic as to that, however. Every man is probably afraid of something.

Some little time after his resignation Mr. Blair was asked to take the Chairmanship of the new Railway Commission, and he accepted. No better choice could have been made by the Government; for

Mr. Blair was a man of the mental calibre. He should no sooner be in the Department of Railways and Canals than he was in the planning of the enlargement of the canal system and the extension of the International to Montreal. The terms on which he carried out the latter project will always stand as testimony to his astuteness and presence. Having done that fine stroke of business for Canada, and reorganized the Government railway system in all its departments, he turned to wider aspects of the transportation problem. The Railway Act of 1903, which brought into existence the Railway Commission, was as far as he got when he found himself out of touch with his chief and colleagues on the policy of assisting the Grand Trunk Pacific and building the National Transcontinental Railways.

However ready Mr. Blair might have been to engage in the compromises which even the late Lord Morley has assured us are the very warp and woof of successful politics, he could not be a party to a thing which his judgment told him was from every point of view a colossal blunder. We may now all admit that Mr. Blair was right, and that out of the madness in railway building of that period has grown a problem more serious than that which at this moment confronts any other nation on earth. If anyone doubts that Mr. Blair clearly foresaw the situation as it has developed, let him read his speech as delivered in the House of Commons when explaining his resignation. I should like to quote from it, but it would take up too much space.

THE RAILWAY CRISIS. That month of July, 1903, saw Canada facing a crisis with but one man open-eyed, looking clearly into the future. I was with Mr. Blair for many hours of every day during that momentous period, and know what was his mind on the subject. He believed that Messrs. Mackenzie and Mann were innately seeking to create a second continental railway out of their loosely built and makeshift lines in the West and East. He saw very plainly that weakness rather than strength would supervene. To him the Canadian Northern was a source of real national danger, and when to the situation was added the project of a third railway from ocean to ocean, he was prepared to sacrifice every personal ambition, and the high place he held, rather than approve it even by his silence. What infinite loss and menace Canada would have avoided if Blair's prophetic vision and judgment had prevailed at that time!

What strange influence was it that blinded men at the helm of state from 1903 to 1917? Looking back on all that happened during those fateful eleven years, it would seem that the power to reason from definite promises to logical conclusions had been taken from the brains of those who shaped public judgment. It was only when the crash came, and Mackenzie and Mann stood at the threshold of Parliament asking for \$30,000,000 to remedy the immediate collapse, that men with the reins of government in their hands opened their eyes to the truth. As subsequent events have made plain, ten times sixty millions would not have made a sound thing out of the Mackenzie and Mann enterprises.

AFFECTION FOR LAURIER. How far above his fellows Mr. Blair towers in the retrospect! Yet, clearly as he foresaw what would happen, he never for a moment wavered in his affection for Sir Wilfrid Laurier; nor did he doubt the Prime Minister's sincerity. "Poor Sir Wilfrid" has been hypnotized by Senator Cox," he always said; and Senator Cox was merely the central figure in a large group, both in and out of Parliament. Of several of his colleagues he spoke never indifferently. He was usually close-lipped in such matters. A year later, however, he said to me one afternoon when I met him: "I cannot hold in much longer. There are some things that have got to be told." But he died with the seal of silence unbroken, and shall never cease to believe that the strain had much to do with his sudden end.

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