

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (founded 1887) 24.00 per year (delivered) in advance \$5.00 per year (mailed) in advance in Canada, and \$6.00 to U. S. A. Mr. Charles Dalton, President. J. R. Burnett, Editor and Publisher. D. K. Currie, Associate Editor.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1921

MORE BUNGLING

Following almost immediately upon the heels of the Caneall Bill and its admission of incompetence, and worse came another pitiful exhibition of the same malady in the presentation of the Telephone Amendment bill. This bill was presented by the Premier and when asked if he had any information to give the House he admitted he practically had none.

The late government had made arrangements for the adjustment of the many difficulties connected with the Telephone service and by which the rights of the rural telephone companies would be safeguarded. The Bell government with its fatal propensity to look after no interests but its own, failed to take advantage of this arrangement and as a result the Telephone company and its patrons are now at the mercy of each other with nothing to protect either.

The financial mess revealed by the Public Accounts, the self confessed bungling in the Taxation Act, the multiplication of officials the extravagance which increased the expenditures of the province by a quarter of a million dollars since the last year of the Arsenault Government, all these and more point ominously to disaster unless something occurs to prevent it and the only preventive at present in sight is the resignation of the whole aggregation.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

The report of the Commission of Public Works gives through the Engineer's report a detailed statement of bridges repaired or rebuilt; cites the Canada Highways Act and the projects undertaken. This part of the report concludes with a recommendation that state labor on the improved roads be discontinued and the necessary repairs done by patrol men.

It appears according to the report, that many repairs have been made to the public buildings of the province. Among these are the following expenditures: Government House \$727.77; Provincial Building \$5,424.75; Prince of Wales College \$7,050.71; Falconwood Hospital \$118,166.34; Court House \$2,125.53.

notably the expenditure on the Provincial Building and Prince of Wales College, the consequent disturbance not having occasioned any inconvenience to the public.

We note also that \$582 was expended on a mud dredge, where or whether in operation, is not stated; also \$15.00 on a "mud track" at Oyster Bed Bridge.

On the roads there was expended \$24,757.97 less a revenue of \$1,047.06 from Inspectors and Overseers.

Road Masters salaries and commissions cost the province \$2,814.82; Road Inspectors salaries \$5,112.75. The total expenditure on Highways Improvement was \$369,110.91.

The list of "Public contracts accepted and entered into during the year 1920" is a long and apparently remunerative one. There is nothing to indicate whether these contracts grew out of tenders or not and nothing, except perhaps the amount of the contract to indicate the political sex of the contractor.

REPORT OF FALCONWOOD HOSPITAL

The report of Falconwood Hospital for the insane shows there were 279 patients at the beginning of the year. During the year 64 patients were admitted, making a total number of 343 registered during the year. Of this number 53 were discharged during the year; 29 of these were considered as recovered, 7 improved; 2 unimproved and 15 removed by death. There were two cases of suicide.

In a comparative statement for the years 1900 to the present year the number of patients admitted yearly shows no perceptible change, the figures ranging between 34 and 79 with no definite maximum or minimum indications.

The Engineer's report shows that considerable repair work was done during the year.

The Falconwood Farm furnished according to the report \$14,488.65 worth of supplies to the Hospital. The expenses of the farm are figured at \$11,774.45.

WHY THIS INDIGNATION

The Patriot waxes eloquently indignant because the Guardian has pointed out that the Bell government has increased the cost of administration by fifty per cent. We fail to see the logic in our contemporary's spasm. Previous to the last election the Patriot's great campaign and that of the Liberal candidates was that the then existing revenue was sufficient to provide for all the needs of the province, including the increase in teacher's salaries. In 1919 when they were responsible for one third of the year's expenditures, there might have been some excuse but for 1920 when they were in sole charge for the whole year they had an opportunity to make some show towards implementing their promises to the electors. Instead, they increased the expenditures by about a quarter of a million over what they had formerly declared was too much.

The Patriot says the road system of the province will be a monument to the Bell administration. Its hungering after a monument to the Bell administration is very generally reflected throughout the province. The sooner they are buried the better the public will appreciate the movement.

(Special to The Guardian) HALIFAX, Mar. 31.—Premier Murray of Nova Scotia contemplates retiring from active leadership of the government in Provincial Legislature on account of ill-health according to the Halifax Herald this morning. He will retain the premiership but will no longer take any active part in the House the newspaper says it earns from a gentleman closely in touch with inner circles of local government.

CURRENT COMMENT

Little interest has been taken in the question of the vacant Judgeship, due no doubt to the fact that it has passed as a forgone conclusion that the mantle will, almost automatically, fall upon the shoulders of the Hon. A. E. Arsenault, ex-Premier and ex-Attorney General of the Province. And there is no man in the province whose appointment would be more universally popular with all classes of the community, or who can carry into this high and important office such excellent, and so many qualifications. As a public man his name has been the synonym for honor and his record has been exceptionally clean. He is without enemies, and some of the highest testimonies to his worth have come from his strongest political opponents. Both at the last session and the present meeting of the House these tributes were accorded him by Premier Bell and more notably by the Hon. Attorney General Johnston, who would not be adverse himself to filling the position. He has carried into his public conduct those principles of fairness, justice and gentility which was the ornament of his private and professional life, and today there is no one at the bar in this province who holds a higher place in the esteem of his confreres, or in the confidence of the people of his native province.

His elevation to the Judgeship, for we cannot conceive of the Government making any other selection, will deprive our local Conservative party of a valued and efficient leader. The Hon. Mr. Arsenault was a man of high ideals in public life, who stuck closely to the doctrines of a politician's first duty was to his country and the people who elected him, and that the word of a public man should be above reproach. In the formation of his party policy there was nothing of the haphazard methods, but that careful investigation and mature deliberation which has brought about those results from which the province is benefitting today. His successor, whoever may be selected for this important position, will not only be engaged in a service already honored, but will have a pace set for him which will call for the highest stamp of statesmanship. The Conservative party has never yet failed in securing efficient leaders, and, while we have no mandate to declare for those who have the choosing, we believe the man is already in sight, should such a change be required, who will amply measure up to the high standards set by his predecessor, the Hon. A. E. Arsenault. And at the furthest possible date it will only be about two years before he will inherit the Premiership.

The Bell Government have adopted a new role. They are now legislating for fun, or as the caricaturist describe it, for the purpose of "keeping up with the Joneses." Or at least this is the practical meaning for the excuses offered by Premier Bell and Attorney General Johnston, for the TAXATION "cure all" act which they are railroading through the House. The Taxation Act is all right, so they say, there is nothing wrong with it, everything has been done correctly, and in order, but just because of some lingering fear that something

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. S. Louton.

INFLUENCE

Friend; His is love beyond a brother's. Costly, free and knows no end; They who once His kindness prove, Find it everlasting love.

STRONGER MEN

Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle. You shall be a miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself at the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God.

mightn't be just "all right," they are weaving this pure all-wool "blanket" around it to assure its future warmth and comfort when it comes again within the chill atmosphere of the Guardian's "nefarious" propaganda. And not that it is necessary but because the Jones family, or the other provinces, have passed just such legislation, our combination of parrots are practicing what they imagine to be an imitation. Premier Bell has frequently some document in his possession, or some precedent or authority which he "CAN PRODUCE, IF REQUIRED," to give jurisdiction to his utterances, but which he has never yet been able to "produce" when the demand was made. That is his predicament in this case also, for no province in Canada resorts to this kind of "BLANKET" cure.

The amusing feature of the thing is, that according to Hon. Mr. Johnston, the driest humorist in the House, that the purpose of this act is not to correct errors, for he says public mind and "WITH ONE STROKE OF THE PEN" offset and put an end to the propaganda of that "nefarious press" of the Opposition. Where the real fun of laughable part comes in is in the fact THAT THE CLAUSE UNDER DISCUSSION, which was to correct their own blunders in the 1920 Act, dealt with matters which were never once referred to, EITHER FAVOURABLY OR UNFAVOURABLY, by the Opposition press, NOT SINCE THE BELL GOVERNMENT CAME INTO POWER. It is their chronic defect of not being able to read or understand that has led the Hon. Attorney General and his colleagues to this insane act of "wiping out with a single stroke of the pen" something which had absolutely no existence outside of their fevered imaginations. Perhaps after all there is a method in their madness, and that they are legislating against air bubbles and straw constructions of their own as an expedient to kill time and fill in where they have no better employment.

Unconsciously the Attorney-General gave an emphatic endorsement to what we have frequently insisted upon in this column, and that is that "YOU CANNOT ARGUE WITH IGNORANCE." Solomon once said, "answer a fool according to his folly," but almost with the same breath he advised to "answer not a fool according to his folly," leaving us up against the difficulty as to which was the proper course to pursue. The judgment of our experience is that so far as the subject of ignorance is concerned it would be wasted effort to try and inject sound sense into such density, and we long ago abandoned the task. But when such as these are holding positions where they are capable of untold mischief and irreparable harm and wrong to the community, which we have no time to waste in arguing, it is our duty as advisers to the people to expose the transactions of these men and hold up the danger signals of warning when the madmen are at large. This we have faithfully done, this we will continue to do, and it is because we are doing it effectively that they are unable to conceal that they temper when they find their misdoings are brought to light.

There is a ground or spot on which 'tis said that, "fools rush in where angels fear to tread." Hitherto Mr. E. T. Higgs, member for Charlottetown has carefully considered his statements in the legislature before delivery, but on Tuesday, while discussing the Taxation Blanket Whitewash act he has either lost his bearings, or has reached a definite decision to traverse the pons asinorum with the rest of the aggregation, regardless of the gaping chasm, that great void space at the other end, which is open to envelop them in oblivion. Hitherto whatever our exception mya have been to his political attitude, we have not had occasion to check him in statements which were wanting in the element of truth. We DO SO NOW. In the speech referred to he said, "it is not justice to collect tax from one and let another go free." In that he was body and soul in line with the ground taken and ADVOCATED BY THE GUARDIAN. But he went further and said that there "WAS A NEWSPAPER CAMPAIGN PUT UP AGAINST THE PAYMENT OF TAXES." If there was, IT WAS BEFORE THE BELL GOVERNMENT ASSUMED POWER. In those days when all kinds of scare stuff was dished out in the columns of the Patriot, BUT NONE SINCE, WHICH MR. HIGGS KNOWS QUITE WELL, and if he doesn't he should know it.

Our Ottawa Letter

OTTAWA, March 28th, 1921.—Parliament resumes its sittings after the Easter recess with little accomplished in the way of solid legislation. The debate on the Address the substance of which could have been compressed into the speeches of the leaders was dragged through two weeks of barren, futile oratory, while considerable precious time was therefore consumed with academic discussions of moss-covered topics that produced nothing but dullness in the House. The effect of such a waste of time, serious under any circumstances, is more unpardonable at the present juncture inasmuch as there are many pressing matters to be dealt with, and also because of the fact that Mr. Meighen has to go to England in early June to attend the conference of Premiers. As it is, it is doubtful whether the budget can now be disposed of before his departure this involving the danger of its being delayed far into the summer, as it is not likely that such an important matter particularly if tariff revision is gone on with, can be brought to Parliament in the premier's absence.

RAILWAYS AND FINANCE

Thus far the two most important subjects to come before the house were the estimates and the railway statement. Both disclose a financial condition that dizzy and appalling. The gravity of the position revealed by the estimates is indicated by the fact that they call for an expenditure 100 millions in excess of the estimated revenue this year. The seriousness of the railway statement by the fact that it disclosed a deficit of seventy millions. It is a combination of circumstances calculated to produce thought; but it is not all. For, in addition to deficits and advancing expenditure, the country finds itself faced with the fact that customs revenue—the backbone of national income—is falling and that, with the decline in trade, other sources of revenue are bound to shrink. Moreover, there are hints, which appear to be well-founded; that the financial position of the Grand Trunk, liability for which the Government is about to assume, is much more serious than believed, and that, in addition, the annual report of the Mercantile Marine will disclose considerable losses. The Mercantile marine last year showed a profit. This year however, the conditions have been different. There have been a falling off of imports and exports, which mean small cargoes or empty bottoms, a surplus of marine tonnage such as has not existed since pre-war days, and a tremendous decline of ocean freight rates. The result for shipping was bound to be bad. In England and Sweden in the United States the consequence has been that thousands of ships are idle, that severe losses have been sustained, and that shipping values have had an enormous decline. Canada has not been so hard hit but has not entirely escaped, and there is small comfort for the Canadian Treasury in the fact that the exchequers of other countries are worse off than our own. Nor is it a situation from which it is easy to emerge. Last year, the argument was used, and with force, that at any time the forty or more ships which are government owned could be disposed of at least at cost but this argument no longer holds. The price of ships has fallen by more than 50 per cent.

Under the circumstances, it is perhaps little wonder that the Government is remorselessly paring down any and all expenditure that is not absolutely inescapable. The great trouble is that the bulk of the expenditure is for items over which it has absolutely no control. As for the railways, Parliament as a whole realizes that there is no short cut to a solution. Impartial observers, except for a few partisans like Mr. King, who are bent on making political capital out of the matter, know that the situation is not of the present Government's making, that on the contrary, it is one for which the people of Canada as a whole are

responsible and the proposition that a committee of the House be appointed representing all three parties to study the situation and make helpful suggestions upon matters of policy has been well received. The Government, for its part, is not in a position to take any drastic action one way or the other, but there is reason to believe that reorganization of the Board of Directors will shortly be brought about.

THE POLITICAL ASPECT

Politically, the session thus far has not been momentous. Mr. King, as leader of the Opposition has not increased in stature, and Mr. Crerar, now full-fledged leader of the National Progressives, has done little better. Mr. King is eloquent and has good parliamentary style. But he lacks the force and the magnetism necessary to hold together a party that at best is a fortuitous collection of conflicting ingredients, a curious mixture of economic Toryism and constitutional Liberalism, as antagonistic as oil and water. Nor is there behind him any outstanding figure who impresses or appeals to the House. Mr. Fielding, who was a salient personality in the great Parliament Tupper and Richard Cartwright, is still a great parliamentary figure of a quarter of a century ago which includes Wilfrid Laurier, Charles respected and admired by all, but he is too old; Mr. Lemieux sits on the front benches, silent and seemingly bored; Mr. Ernest Lepoint, undoubtedly able, is not yet of leadership calibre; Mr. Jacques Bureau

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lacks the fire and impetuosity of iam and Mr. Stevens of Vancouver have hardly enhanced their reputations and the cabinet benches of interest, and there is nobody on the back benches who gives promise. Mr. Meighen, in his initial session as Prime Minister, easily dominates the House. His speeches have become less bitter and more tolerant, his intellectual qualities more marked, his outlook upon national problems more broad. What ever weaknesses some may profess to see in his party or in his Ministry, his leadership of the House has demonstrated to all not blinded by prejudice that there is no one in Parliament today as well equipped to be Prime Minister of this country.



A Problem of Vital Importance to Thousands of Homes in P. E. I.

Let every married man who has not yet adequately protected his wife and children with Life Insurance face the question and face it squarely: "What could my widow do to earn her living?" It is not a question to be lightly considered, and it should not be shelved or pigeonholed for future attention. It involves a problem of vital importance to thousands of women and children in this Island, and as the welfare of these, is, or should be the first concern of the husband, it is well that they can be confronted with it and see if they can satisfactorily answer it. "What can my widow do?" Wives can do wonders in a home. They can and do make it the one place worth while working for and fighting for, if need be. Wife and home are always associated together in a man's mind. So long as a wife has a home she is happy, busy and contented; she is in her natural environment and can carry out her part in the great scheme of things. But she is dependent on the husband for that home and its maintenance. It is hers to manage the home, not to maintain it. If the provider be taken from her, what is she to do? She must quit the home and endeavor to be a provider herself. Now how many women later years of domestic life could go out and compete successfully in the world of business. It is astonishing how few men have left their wives free from want, and so some widows do cleaning, some take boarders and some do sewing. There are some also who go under in the struggle. "What could my widow do?" for she may have to do it some day. No man would want his wife and kiddies turned out on the street. At the cost of only a few cents a day you can purchase sufficient insurance to guarantee them a living income and support the home. Do not think that because you carry a Policy for \$1000 or \$2000 insurance that you have sufficient protection. You require to carry an amount that when invested at 6 per cent will give the required income.

Insure your own insurance and be guardian of your own estate by carrying a Monthly Income Policy. For the best insurance at the lowest net cost, consult the Great West Life Agent in your District.

Table with columns: COST PER \$1000. OF INSURANCE, Annual Premiums, Age 21, Age 30, Age 40. Rows include 5 Year Term, All Life, 20 Payment Life with profits, 20 Year Endowment with profits.

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