

THE PUBLIC FORUM

Central Guardian

(Continued from Page Four.)

wagons were bought by horsemen instead of the substantial home built, it left no alternative to Mc-Kinnon & Fraser, J. & R. Scott, Younker & Offer, McDougall Hewson & Seaman and other carriage builders than to close shop. It is so in truth of woolens, tanneries and other industries.

Our friend is in error with regard to the Board of Trade not giving protection to industries. On the contrary they have made many efforts to induce capital to operate along the lines which he suggests. But when capital has been approached what has been their first objection? It was in line with the very thing Mr. Hughes has been standing out for—the craze for buying away from home. The writer has heard this protest repeated by from enterprising capitalists—“You can't get out people to patronize a home industry.” I am not of his opinion. I firmly believe in the home-loving and patriotic disposition of our people, and if you give them a fair deal in quality and price, I am convinced that they will profit by their experience of the past and stand nobly behind the industries of home production.

I would like to commend the last sixteen lines of Mr. Hughes' letter to our thinking people. It is full of the soundest of common sense, a sermon within itself, and one of the strongest arguments, for the work at home, buy at home, build up the home program that can possibly be put in print.

I am Sir, etc.,

FREE LANCE.

REPLY TO MR. B. W. LePAGE.

Sir,—In a letter in Wednesday's Patriot Mr. B. W. LePage undertakes to deal with Provincial finances. In doing so he makes the grave statement that “we find people twisting the Auditor's report in any way to suit their purpose,” accompanied with his personal boast, “I have made it a rule when speaking of the finances of the Province to quote only from the official records of the sworn Auditor.”

From the above statement, accompanied by any knowledge of Mr. LePage's professions in the higher ethics, the last thing I would expect of him would be the “twisting” of our public accounts, even to score a point for his party idols. He first starts with the broken down shillbboleth that in October 10th, 1923, the Stewart government issued a statement of our supposed standing to the prospective bond purchasers. Now Mr. LePage knows, or he ought to know, for the External audit is dated, that at that time there was no Stewart Government audit, internal or external, available upon which to determine our financial standing, and there was nothing to do but to take the figures given them in the Bell government's accounts as the temporary basis. Why does Mr. LePage twist himself away from this?

He next starts in with what he calls the Hughes-Hyndman external audit of 1919. None knows better than Mr. LePage that there was no external audit of provincial accounts made during the year 1919. He knows also that although loudly demanded by the opposition and their press, THE BELT GOVERNMENT ABSOLUTELY REFUSED TO HAVE THE ACCOUNTS AUDITED UP TO THE END OF THAT YEAR, and he knows also the reason why? It was plainly because if he had done so they could not have twisted the figures and misrepresented the accounts as they did that year. It was not until just before parliament was to meet, March 18th, 1920, that they ordered the Hughes-Hyndman audit, after they had the books for six months under their manipulation. Even then their instructions were to ONLY AUDIT UP TO September 8th, 1919, and not for the life of them to come within a forty rod distance of the accounts as they stood at December 31st, of that year. On this foundation of chaff and leaves our guileless (7) friend erects his financial edifice. It was not the fault of the External Auditors, Hughes and Hyndman, that this misleading statement went to the public; they only reported on what was before them. Mr. LePage lays a quarrelous stress upon his faith in “sworn Auditors.” He was not always so confiding. In 1920, at the unanimous request of the Public Accounts Committee, the sworn Auditor, Mr. Anderson, produced a carefully prepared statement of the finances of the Province, the items explained to them by the Auditor in detail. At the moment the Committee—Mr. LePage included—were prepared to adopt it. But the truth leaked out. To give these facts to the public meant political disaster, and the higher ups interfered. The Committee suppressed this, and reported without it. It was then submitted to the House by a minority report on which Premier Bell supported by Mr. Johnston and seconded by Mr. LePage, moved that it be not recorded in the Journals of the House. At the next session, (1921) it was again introduced to the House, by Mr. H. D. McLean, in a manner to compel publication. Mr. LePage can find it on pages 75 to 79 of the Journal of 1921.

Now that “sworn” statement—the only sworn statement ever made to Dec. 31st, of that year—placed the net liabilities at \$1,070,437.00, and referred to the fact that Permanent public works to the value of \$240,000.00 had been constructed by the Mathieson-Arsenault governments out of ordinary revenue. Our figurative friend then takes the Blanchet audit of Sept. 5, 1923, from which he makes the net liabilities at the conclusion of the Bell Govt. term to be \$1,091,936.96, after deducting nearly a half million of Highways debts. But he studiously avoids the Auditor's note (page 6), “subject to adjustment for UNASCERTAINED liability. With his Golden Rule accuracy he also conveniently forgot that a large part of the Highways

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MEN'S HEAVY WINTER CAPS Special clearing price 75c each.—Prowse Bros. Ltd. 7069-6-1-41

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MEN'S FLEECE LINED underwear—Penman's, Special Mid Winter Sale price 69c per garment.—Prowse Bros. Ltd. 7069-6-1-41

DOING NICELY.—The many friends of Mr. William O. Davey, Weymouth St., will be pleased to learn that he is now convalescing and well on the road to recovery after undergoing an operation for appendicitis.

SEE OUR ADVERTISEMENT in today's papers for bargains lots more not advertised.—Prowse Bros. Ltd. 7069-6-1-41

DUNSTAFFNAGE.—Prayer service in Dunstaffnage Church on Friday evening of this week at 7.30 p.m. Everybody welcome.

PRESBYTERIAN SERVICES.—Rev. George Cameron will preach Sabbath next, 10th inst., as follows: Harrington, 11 a.m. Marshfield 3 p.m. Mount Stewart 7.30 p.m. A cordial welcome extended to all. 7090-7-31

REPRESENTATIVE HERE.—Mr. L. Timmerhand, who is at present in the city, has been appointed through the Government of the French Republic, to inform and keep them advised of all matters regarding the fox business during his residence here.

EMERALD HOTEL.—Following were recent arrivals—J. Harold Doyle, Bloomfield; W. W. Lord, Summerside; H. H. Bishop, Charlottetown; E. J. Gill, Summerside; C. E. MacNutt, Charlottetown; E. Bearisto, Summerside; Edna Filmore, Summerside; Grace MacGougan, Summerside; Georgia H. Williams, Summerside; G. DesRoches, Charlottetown; A. E. Dughart, Summerside; P. A. Arsenault, Howland G. H. Dennis, O'Leary; Basil Greenan, Kinkora; C. S. Howatt, Los Angeles, Cal.; A. B. Cuthill, Hunter River; G. Stewart, Sea View; A. Leclair, Mt. Carmel; Elizabeth Fleming, Stanley; James Pendergast, Mrs. James Pendergast, Master Edward Pendergast, Miss Mary Pendergast, Kensington; J. J. Bethune, Charlottetown; W. A. Ready, Charlottetown; J. S. Palmer, J. R. H. Fleming, Charlottetown; Raymond Beaudain, Quebec.

costs were not payable till October, and he places the cost at \$142,937.11 while the Bell projects actually cost (Page 30) \$170,115.85 a little inside in his favor of only \$27,578.74.

Following Mr. LePage's predilection for “sworn” Auditors' statements let us take the only two sworn audits in existence for the period named. Auditor Anderson's statement to The Public Accounts Com. placed the net liability at \$1,070,437.00. Auditor Blanchet placed the net liability, Dec. 31st, 1923 at \$1,575,154.50. To meet our friend's argument let us deduct the Highways costs \$470,515.86, leaving the net ordinary debt at \$1,104,638.64, or an increase of the ordinary debt, during the Bell government term of \$34,201.64 instead of a decrease of over \$100,000.00 as claimed by our friend of figure “twisting” fame.

I need not go into his figures as to the increase under the Stewart government. Prem. Stewart does not claim to be getting public works for nothing as Mr. LePage's friends so vehemently did. In their language the half million dollars worth of highways was “not costing the Province a single dollar.” The half million dollar debt of the Bell government stands against us as a flat contradiction to this. The present government are paying for these Highways—at a saving of course of a paltry six or seven hundred dollars per mile—and they have to issue debentures to meet the cost. The only difference is they admit the truth, that they are an increase to our debt account—that they are not getting them, as Mr. LePage's friends pretended, without costing the people a single dollar.

I am, Sir, etc., LEWIS P. TANTON

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GLADSTONE SCHOOL.

The half yearly examination of Gladstone School was held in the School on Thursday afternoon Dec. 24, in the presence of about 35 visitors. The room was beautifully decorated with pictures and garlands.

A large and well laden Christmas tree occupied one corner of

the room. The pupils were examined in reading, spelling, geography, history mental arithmetic, geometry, English, Latin and French by their teacher Miss Ade-lyne Mabry, and showed by their ready answers that they had been carefully trained during the past term. After the general routine lessons, Mr. A. E. Richards was appointed chairman and an excellent programme was rendered by the pupils, consisting of recitations, dialogues and songs.

On a very pleasing item of the programme was a Darky Motion Picture Christmas Song rendered by Miss Jennet and Margaret Richards. Short speeches were made by Mr. Alex Richards secretary who complimented the teacher and pupils for good work done in the past term. Also by Mr. Bruce Butler, Murray River who expressed his delight at being present and further complimented the teacher and pupils. Home made candy was served to the visitors and pupils. While everybody sang an old favorite song Santa Claus put in an appearance, and after exchanging greetings, unloaded the tree assisted by Miss Mabry and Messrs Richards, Kirby and McKay.

Each child received a gift and a bag of candy from the teacher. The teacher was the recipient of many gifts from her pupils and others which goes to express the feeling of true friendship between patrons pupils and teacher.

A vote of thanks was extended to the teacher, Santa Claus, Chairman and all others who helped make the afternoon a success. The singing of God be with You till we meet again brought the afternoon to a close, and will long be remembered by all present.

British Purchase German Plant

BERLIN, Jan. 7.—The entire share capital of the Koholyt Aktiengesellschaft of Berlin owning sulphite and pulp mills at Koenigsberg and a paper mill and chemical works on the Rhine, has been purchased by a group of British financiers headed by William Harrison.

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ROYAL MAIL "The Comfort Route" TO EUROPE Regular sailings of the famous O' Steamers FROM HALIFAX, N.S. TO CHERBOURG AND SOUTHAMPTON S. S. "ORDUNA" February 8th THE ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY HALIFAX, N.S.

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“Buy at Home Sale” of Women's Coats

Here's a great range of women's coats in wool blanket velour grey, brown, sand and green clearing out during this “BUY AT HOME SALE AT \$6 95

This lot of coats, all new this season, dark and medium whitney, chinchilla and check back tweeds an extra special at each \$12 50

Other “Buy at Home” Sale Bargains at \$15, \$20, \$25, and \$29.

Children's all wool sweaters, shades rose, sand and copen for ages 2, 4 and 6. Price 98c each.

Girls' all wool sweaters, button front and belt, in shades of sand, red and sax blue, and copen, for ages 2, 4, 6 and 8 at \$1.45 each.

Buy at Home Sale Flannelette 16c

Stripe flannelette good Canadian make, 27 inch 16c yd. Heavy quality stripe flannelette 30 in. wide, 20c per yd. White Flannelette fine soft weave 27 in. 18c per yd. Extra heavy English make white flannelette 27in. at 25c yd. Dark Grey Donnet strong heavy quality 36 in. at 25c yd. Oxford Shirting Heavy English make 27 in, 22c per yd. Grey Union Shirting Flannel heavy quality great weaver, 27 in. at 25c. Striped gingham shirting, Black and white stripe 36 in. wide 25c yd. Print cottons, light and dark pattern, 30 in. wide at 20c per yd. Black sateen, good quality bright finish 27 in. at 25c per yd. Full size Quilt Batts, fine soft cotton 72-90 \$1.00.

“Buy at Home” Overcoats \$16.95

Men's all wool winter Overcoats English Tweeds, plaid back half belts and three piece belts \$16 95 Boys' Tweed Suits, one pair bloomers, Norfolk style, browns, greys and mixed tweeds. Sizes 8 to 12 years \$5.75 Sizes 13 to 17 years \$6.75 Men's Blue, black and stripe denim Overalls, \$1 45 usual pockets, elastic back braces

“Buy at Home” Mens' Suits \$19.50

Fancy Tweed and Worsted Suits single breasted models, two or three button styles, greys \$19 50 fawns and mixtures Boys' extra bloomer suits, fancy brown and dark tweeds, sizes 10 to 16 years, remember two \$7 65 Boys' Winter Overcoats, dark brown tweeds with full belt, good weight, for boys 10 to 17 years \$6 95 Scores of clothing bargains we have no room to describe.

“Buy at Home Sale” Fuji Silk 80c.

This is a lovely silk selling regularly at 99 cents, six attractive colours left in stock, white, black, pink, salmon and Gobelin Blue, mauve, sunset and Valencia 80c Mail your order early. All wool canton crepe 39 inches wide regular 1.50 to clear at 98c

All our chiffon velvets for dresses, black, sapphire, pencil blue, pearl grey, turquoise, crab apple, henna and cabaret \$2 99 green. Sold for \$4.50 clearing at

2 pieces Marvella coating cloth, Navy or Black, regular \$6.25, to clear \$3 13

Take this on our recommendation—it's a wonderful bargain.

Small lot of Tubular silk vesting white, flesh and mauve, “BUY AT HOME SALE” 59c

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