

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1925

ALIBI POLITICS

The Liberal hope with regard to the coming general election is founded on the expectation that there is going to be a big crop of money in circulation and the people there in such good humor that they will forget the maladministration of the past four years, give the government credit for the good times and return it again to power. A bumper crop as an alibi to a discredited government is not much of a foundation to build on, but any excuse is better than none.

To go to the country on the government's bare record would indeed be a hopeless undertaking. To go while the people are gloating over their big crops, wallowing in affluence and so unexpectably happy that they can forgive almost anything, has an element of sport about it and is, in many ways a less alarming proposition than to have faced them in their anger and disappointment.

The fact that the party is relying on the prospects of a big crop and on the prosperity which is expected to flow from it, is in itself the strongest condemnation of the government. Had the administration had anything to do with the bumper crop, had it not, by its blundering and its clearly demonstrated incapacity, done more injury to Canada than can be made good by the bumper crops of years to come, the country might possibly take their eyes off the government and feast them on the harvest fields. But there is too much to forget, too much to overlook. The people in every province in Canada will remember the ruinous emigration of the past three years; they will remember their sons and neighbors who have been obliged to leave their homes and their employment because of the tariff tinkering and the continued uncertainty at Ottawa. They will have bumper crops, we believe, in every province in Canada and it is quite probable that there will be more money in circulation than in previous years but there is not a province in Canada that has not suffered industrially and commercially by the vacillating, time serving, and power-purchasing of the King government and no amount of vain boasting will cause the people to forget "what might have been" if there had been a stable administration at Ottawa. Canada was flourishing industrially, agriculturally, commercially when the King government came into power. Today it has nearly a million less of a population, more unemployment, heavier taxation and a debt increased by millions. This is what the people are thinking about and the bumper crop will prove no alibi.

WE NEED PLAYGROUNDS

A pathetic illustration has again been given of the need of room for the city children to play in. In this respect Charlottetown is much better off than many of our sister cities. We have quite a number of open spaces which afford good play ground for those in the vicinity but many of our residences are too far away to take advantage of these and, usually, the mothers are too busy to take their little ones out. But the children must have some outdoor life and, where the open spaces are not available, there is a natural tendency to let the little ones play on the street sides. Doubtless the children are cautioned and warned not to go on the street but when a ball or a toy rolls out on the street no child can resist the temptation to follow it and accidents are bound to happen. The question is what is to be done? We have no land for more open spaces in the city. We must make the best use of those we have and the children must be kept off the streets. How can this be done?

The supervised play ground of one in eight and Charlottetown should be able to afford such. A beginning along this line need not be expensive. No elaborate equipment would be required. The green grassy open spaces will give the young child all the means of enjoyment he or she requires. The great requirement is that the child is safe.

This safety provided, some means would be found by the mother to send the little ones to the square or park where they could romp and play and get the exercise that all children require. Boys and girls who are old enough to play ball or to indulge in athletics are usually able to look after themselves. The little ones however, from two to five or six years of age need supervision and the cost for our summer months at least would be little. This matter ought to be looked into. A modest beginning could be made at little expense to the city and the slides and swings and merry-go-rounds and the sand piles could come later. For the present the green grassy sward on the Squares or the Park would satisfy the little ones.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The next holiday is Labor Day, September 7th to be followed by Thanksgiving Day, November 9th. Then nothing left to look forward to but Christmas.

On September 15th the Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King will make the great announcement for which Canada has been anxiously looking for the past two years—if he can make up his mind to it.

Mr. Mackenzie King, judging by the evasive statement given by him to the Canadian Press is evidently hoping for something to turn up which will give an excuse for holding another session of parliament. Such a steal, if it is contemplated, at the cost of at least a million dollars in cash and the loss of another year in Canada's business, could find a parallel only in his deliberate continuance of the political uncertainty which he knows, if he knows anything, is crippling Canada.

The boys and girls who in a day or two must leave the green fields and the shore for the school-houses and the school-books have our sincere sympathy. Indeed many parents, anxious for the education and welfare of their children, have expressed a hope that the school opening be deferred until the 8th, the day after Labor Day. It seems a great hardship to bring the children in out of God's sunshine in such weather as the present. There will be lots of time for study when the sunshine is over.

When the Liberals want to declaim against the fiscal policy of the Conservatives, they always refer to it as "high protection." There is no such expression in the Conservative vocabulary. The National Policy, which made Canada what it is before the King Government took office, advocated only "adequate" protection. When experience proved that in certain cases the duty might be lowered in the interests both of revenue and the public it was lowered accordingly. This policy was followed by both Conservatives and Liberals, the latter preaching against it, but sticking tenaciously to it, for upwards of forty years and the country prospered. It was only when Mr. Mackenzie King, in order to hold office, departed from the policy of his party and the industrial depression and emigration kept off the streets. How can this be done?

Notes By The Way

In his two-column deliverance to the public Premier King affirmed that the term of the Parliament elected on 6th December, 1921 will not expire until early in January, 1927. Nobody has denied that fact. He also stated that it is for the government to decide whether they would ask the Governor General to dissolve Parliament this year. That also may be admitted. Furthermore he stated that he will not be stampeded by the Leader of the Opposition and the Conservative press into asking for a dissolution until in his judgment the best interests of the country call for such action. In all this oratorical statement he did not tell the loyal people the one thing that they wanted to know.

He did, however, tell the public that he intends to speak again. He will speak to his constituents in North York. It is now stated that his meeting will take place on September 5 and that then and there the date of the coming election will be made known. Not that it has been "stamped," although it seems not improbable that the good advice of Mr. Meighen and the opposition press may have hastened his decision and quickened his pace considerably. Be that as it may, the country will welcome the decision all the more fully from the fact that the leaders of both parties are now agreed that an election is in the public interest.

It is a perilous venture for Premier King and his government because of the prevalent unrest and discontent and the growing conviction that the present Administration is weak and vacillating when a strong Government and a stable policy were most urgently needed. The Premier it opens up the rather dark prospect that should he fail to carry the country he may probably be deposed from the leadership of his party at an early date as was the fate of Alexander Mackenzie in 1878.

Poor Alexander Mackenzie! His Government had won the election of 1874 by a majority of 60, only to be defeated four years later with an adverse majority of 68. Able, honest and patriotic public man as he was, the Liberal party once rejected him from its leadership. He had lost an election. The Conservative party, more loyal to Sir John Macdonald, whose government had been placed in a minority, restored him to power, which he continued to hold until his death. A warning to Premier King of what may happen in the coming election and afterward.

Another and later example of what may happen in an election occurred in the famous election of 1911 on the question of reciprocity. The Liberal party was in power, led by its eloquent and beloved Chieftain Sir Wilfrid Laurier. His government with many able and popular Ministers besides himself, had a majority of 48 in the House when it was dissolved. The result of the election showed a majority of 47 for the Conservative party under Sir Robert Borden.

Rumor has been busy for some time with the name of Premier Dunning of Saskatchewan as a possible accession to the King government on its much-needed reconstruction. The rumor gains credence from the fact that Mr. Dunning has been in Ottawa recently and that a long conference with the Federal Cabinet. He has been an able resourceful and popular leader in the affairs of his province and would be pretty sure of re-election should he accept a federal Cabinet position. But the Regina Leader and other Liberal journals in Saskatchewan urge him not to accept the offered honor on the double ground that he is much needed where he is and that it is very uncertain whether the King government may be sustained in the election.

A later rumor has to do with Premier Veniot whose government was recently defeated in New Brunswick. This rumor is to the effect that he aspires to federal advancement and may not retain the leadership of the diminished provincial Opposition; that he may be appointed to a Senatorship now vacant in his province, or that more probably Mr. J. G. Robichaud M. P., for Gloucester, may be induced to resign and make room for him to represent that seat in the House of Commons and the Cabinet at Ottawa. Mr. Veniot would be quite at home among the Ministers who toss the millions about so carelessly and has no fear of incurring public debt as long as the power to borrow continues to exist.

That Body of Ours



James W. Barton, M.D. THE REGULAR THING

One of our outstanding surgeons has been giving some wholesome advice to his brother practitioners. He points out that in accident cases where damage suits are likely to arise, or in regular practice where a physician may be sued for malpractice, a great deal of the physician's and self-criticism will be saved the physician, if he has every case undergo an X-ray examination, where there is a possibility of a broken bone.

The attending physician may decide that the bone is not broken, treat it as a slight injury, with the result that the patient feeling that the bone is not broken, takes greater chances with it than his physician has advised. It troubles results therefore, the physician may well be blamed for not making sure of his diagnosis by means of the X-ray. On the other hand if the physician is not known to the patient, and treats it as if it were a broken bone by using splints and so forth, the patient may later question the account and even the fact that the bone was really broken.

The physician therefore not only protects the patient by having this X-ray examination, but also protects his own name and reputation. Out in the country, many miles from an X-ray machine, some physicians feel reasonably sure of their diagnosis, and hesitate to put the patient to the expense and trouble of a trip to the nearest point where the X-ray examination can be made. Physicians are only human, and sometimes let the matter of the expense to the patient sway their decision in a doubtful case.

It would be well, our surgeon friend reminds us, to think past this matter of expense to the patient to the point of what the possibility of a mistake may mean to the whole after life of the patient. This surgeon goes further and states that before long, judges in these damage or malpractice suits would decide that it was an oversight on the part of the medical man if he did not have this test made. And not only should the test be taken at time of accident but in some cases it would be wise to have an examination made during the healing of the break to make sure that everything was all right.

As I've said before, the X-ray is a wonderful aid where it is needed and it does seem a great mistake not to take advantage of it.

Daily Selections FOR Guardian Readers

GOD IS GRACIOUS.—Thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness. Nehemiah 9:17. PRAYER.—We rejoice, O God, to know that like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him.

COMPANIONS OF THE NIGHT.

Countless gems robe the gentle heaven. Moon and stars companions of the night. A star spoke peace from on high. Conveying to a troubled world the light. Night, you are lovely even as day. The full moon beams on the mountain steep. Above the rays no mist, as clouds appear. The dewy world is hushed in sleep.

Night, how wonderful and perfect. A beautiful earth looks up, afar. On a thirsty land thy love descend. Beneath a wandering moon, and stars shine and guide the wayfarer home. And through the lonely casement gleams Light, the way of the wandering feet. On mansions and halls thy radiant beams. Moon and stars, protecting land and sea. Gleaning on the cradle and the grave. Light the thorny ways of those who roam. Watch from the distant heaven and save.

Earth then is divinely blest. With glorious inspiring light. Your silvery rays robe the heavens. Moon and stars companions of the night. —Barbara DeAndie.

Courteousness at his command and is bold even to recklessness and is quite as apparent as is the fact that he does not possess the confidence of his Province. If taken into the Cabinet he would presumably take the place of Hon. Mr. Copp whose uselessness as a Minister makes his defeat in Westmorland in almost certainty should he be nominated in the election. He will no doubt be otherwise provided for. Mr. Veniot could probably be elected in Gloucester, his present local seat and that lends probability to the rumor that he has federal aspirations.

ON THE CONTRARY Miss Prim—That woman in the sweater bathing suit goes in for display entirely too much. Mr. Hardax—It's rather struck me that she stays out for display.

Chapters In Our Island Story

The Twelfth Chapter.—Introduction of The Telephone, Wireless and Electric Light Systems.

A list of the first shareholders of the Prince Edward Island Telephone Company included only the names of Messrs. Malcolm McLeod, Charles Coulson Gardiner, Charles Palmer, John Innes, Thomas W. Dodd, Benjamin Rogers and Robert Angus. These gentlemen—now all gone to their reward—held the first meeting of the company on the 14th day of July 1885. At this meeting Mr. McLeod was unanimously elected president, Mr. Gardiner treasurer, and Mr. Angus secretary.

So organized, the company proceeded at once to business. On the 29th of August, 1885, Mr. Gardiner was authorized to proceed to Chatham, New Brunswick, for the purchase of posts for a telephone line between Charlottetown and Summerside. This initial work of the company was promptly and satisfactorily performed. Mr. Angus was made manager of the service which was then begun. He accepted the position on condition that he should receive a percentage of the gross receipts of the company from the operation and maintenance of the plant. Nine years later he resigned, and Mr. John L. Reid was, in March of the year 1894, appointed manager of the company. Mr. J. L. Cook acted as manager for a short time in the year 1892, during Mr. Reid's illness. Then in June of the following year Mr. W. A. Winfield was appointed to the manager's office. Mr. Winfield held this position until 1909, when Mr. Walter S. Grant was appointed to it. He was succeeded on the first of April, 1915, by Mr. H. M. VanBuskirk. Finally, in 1921, Mr. Grant was recalled to the position which he now holds.

It was under the management of Mr. VanBuskirk that the circuit between the lines of the New Brunswick and P. E. Island telephone systems was established on the 10th of August, 1918, and under that of Mr. Grant that the first telephone cable between Prince Edward Island and the mainland of the continent was, in conjunction with the Maritime Telephone Company laid between Wood Island in this Province, and Charlottetown, Nova Scotia. An underground telephone cable was laid in Charlottetown while Mr. VanBuskirk was manager. Other improvements in the telephone system have been made year by year. In 1913 new new copper circuits were set up between Charlottetown and Summerside, one new copper circuit between Summerside and Orwell, one new copper circuit from Orwell to Wood Islands, two new copper circuits from Orwell to Montague, and one new copper circuit from Charlottetown to Souris, via St. Peters.

In conjunction with numerous other telephone companies, the Island Telephone Company is a part of the great telephone communication system which covers every part of the Province. A large number of the homes of farmers throughout the island, as well as the offices of men of business, have obtained means of communication not only with their neighbors but with all the centres of population and information. The Prince Edward Island Telephone System also affords means of communication by radio with those who have "wireless" receivers in their homes, and offices here, and within radio range of the adjoining provinces and the nearby United States. From the United Church on Prince Street, the Centre of the Cross Hall, the Victoria Hotel, the Prince of Wales College Hall, the Casino Dancing Hall and the residence of Mr. Keith Rogers, on Bayfield Street, sermons, speeches, concerts, and sounds of every kind may now be "re-broadcast" by radio to the residence of Mr. Walter Burke, whence they are "broadcast" by radio to all parts of the Province as well as to points on the mainland and to be heard by all persons who have receivers.

(Continued on Page 5)

Your Birthdays

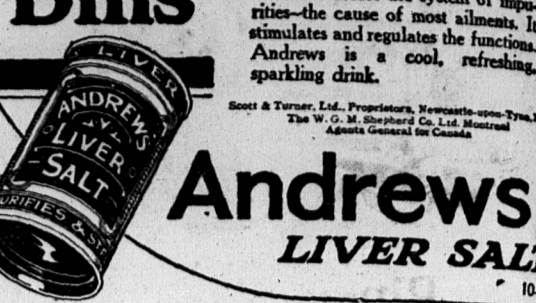
AUGUST 27.—You are loving, kind, and noble-minded, and always generous to a foe. You will select a mate who will make you very happy. You are inclined to out of doors as much as you can. You will travel a lot. Your birthstone is the sardonyx, which means a happy married life. Your lucky colors are orange and red.

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"General Fur Farms Ltd., Mount Edward Road, P. E. I.
"General Fur Farms Ltd., North River Road, P. E. I.
"Charlottetown Silver Black Fox Co., Ltd., Mount Edward Road, P. E. I.
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