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THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

In Charles Dalton, President, J. R. Burnett, Editor and Publisher, D. K. Currie, Associate Editor.

Monday, Dec. 26th being Christmas Day, and a public holiday, the Guardian will not be issued on Tuesday.

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1921

THE BYE-ELECTIONS

The Patriot is at present engaged in defending the Bell government against attacks that have not been made against it. The real attacks, the real objections raised not by the press but at indignation meetings held throughout the country immediately after the government came into power and showed its hand, the Patriot avoids all mention of.

In its Friday's issue the Patriot valiantly defends the increase of sessional indemnity which was one of the first acts of the Bell administration when it found itself in possession of power that it did not know how to make use of except in making provision for itself and its friends, or in the classic language of one of its supporters, "after they told us the country was ruined and hadn't enough money to pay the teachers' salaries."

The objection taken to the increase in the sessional indemnity was that when, according to their own pre-election showing, in which the Patriot figured with capital letters, the country was pictured as being head over heels in debt and the poor people burdened with taxes they could not afford to pay, those who wept loudly about the alleged woe of the province dipped their hands into the treasury and gave themselves higher salaries and their friends more offices.

The principle adopted in connection with the increase in sessional indemnities was the principle followed by the Bell administration to secure their election and, after the election to retain their seats. They blackguarded their predecessors; they dragged the fair name of the province through the dust, declaring it bankrupt and overburdened with taxes; they promised to reduce the number of officials, to reduce taxation, to administer the affairs of the province economically. What did they do? They not only "riz their own salaries," but they about quadrupled taxation, increased the army of officials by an indefinite percentage and, in all their acts since attaining power, demonstrated the falsity of their pre-election story of bankruptcy and extravagance.

As to their expenditures during the past year nothing is known nor will be known until after the bye-elections, for nothing has been told. We are being told through the government organ that an immense amount of roadwork has been done and this is true. Who pays for it? We were given to understand that the increased taxation would be utilized in defraying the enormous cost. Is it true that not a dollar of the increased revenue has been spent on the roads? It is known that forty per cent of the cost is a grant from the Dominion Government; is it true that the whole of the balance or 60 per cent, was borrowed to be paid with interest in a few years?

Current Comment

Another cycle in the Christian era is melted into the past, and with it the birthday of another period in the sacred life which has been opened up for traverse and occupation. The small boy and girl have had their innings in the exploration of their stocking contents, and in the kindly act of the retiring Government at Ottawa, today has been added as a further gift to the business and labouring world, that they may have two days of Xmas joys instead of one. How far realization in the seasons' expectation has measured up to anticipation, none of us poor mortals will ever know. The child does know what was in his stocking, and the adult

Princess' Dowry May be Declined

It is suggested by Frederick Cunliffe-Owen, C.B.E., a newspaper contributor who is usually well informed upon court affairs, that Princess Mary may decline the customary grant and dowry to which she is entitled upon the occasion of her coming marriage. According to precedent, Parliament would be asked to grant her a dowry of \$150,000 and settle upon her \$30,000 for life. This was the provision made for the three sisters of King George when King Edward came to the throne. King Edward's sisters received the same amount as daughters of Queen Victoria. It is understood that this provision was refused on the occasion of the marriage of King George's eldest sister to the Duke of Fife, for he was a very wealthy man and felt that by declining the grant the Duchess would be freed from maintaining something like Royal state.

APPRECIATION

Some one has said that the children of today have lost the sense of appreciation. If this be true, and it is undoubtedly true in many cases, it is a serious loss, for appreciation is the basis of gratitude and the child or the adult that is ungrateful is to be pitied. There are many reasons why the older folk of today imagine that their younger contemporaries are more sumptuously in the matter of their enjoyment than they themselves did when children. The automobile and the movies of today present a striking contrast to the one horse carriage and the occasional magic lantern show of half a century ago. What the older generation of today enjoyed only in dreams and in fairy tales in their youth the children of today inherit waking with additions that even the dreams of fifty years ago would not dare conjure up. Sensationalism is a characteristic of today, in literature, in amusement, in sport. What does not break a record is tame and uninteresting; our heroes and heroines in literature or in movies must escape death by a hair's breadth or murder the pursuer. There is nothing left for the imagination to frame up, every sensation is a climax, everything is presented in the superlative, nothing can be more thrilling than what has been presented in picture and story and there is no new sensation left for future thrills. In such an atmosphere appreciation naturally starves; what has been equalled or surpassed in previous experiences; what comes as an expected treat is disappointing because it is no more thrilling than the last.

It were more wholesome for the child if his or her experiences with the sensational were curtailed somewhat even at the expense of disappointment, better that the wonders should not succeed each other too rapidly, better that they should miss some treats than that in seeing too many they wearied of them. We need to cultivate the sense of appreciation especially in the young. With a measure of appreciation we learn relative values, without it we have no standard of values and no sense of proportion, much less of gratitude and absence of gratitude means misery, unprogressiveness and uselessness.

Daily Selections for Guardian Readers

From the collection of the late Mr. W. S. Louson

FAILURE

What is a failure? It's only a spur. To a man who receives it right, And it makes the spirit within him stir.

To go in once more and fight, If you never have failed it's an even guess, You never have won a high success.

What is a miss? It's a practice shot, Which we often must make to enter, The list of those who can hit the spot.

Of the bull's eye in the centre, If you never have sent your bullet wide, You never have put a mark inside.

What is a knock-down? A count of ten, Which man may take for a rest, It will give him a chance to come up again.

And do his particular best, If you never have more than met your match, I guess you never have toed the scratch. Edmund Vance Cooke.

Perilous Paris

Free of Chaperons.

Royal etiquette demands the attendance of ladies-in-waiting and a staff of equerries, which is not only a serious expense, but must often be a nuisance, and only tolerated by Royalty because it is the immemorial custom, and because, perhaps, the public demands it. But the Duchess of Fife was glad to dispense with this entourage, and no doubt Princess Mary will be glad, too, because both she and her future husband have democratic tastes. Lord Lascelles, as is well known, is a very rich man, and the marriage settlement would not be an object with him. One can easily imagine that for the Princess to be able to dispense with the perpetual attendance and chaperonage of ladies-in-waiting would be a welcome relief. Probably King George, too, would prefer that there should be no other settlement upon his daughter, except what he himself and Lord Lascelles are able to make, but so far as he is concerned it is not likely to be a large one, for judged by the standards of commoners, he is not a rich man.

Noisy Nights

There is no rest for city dwellers, for far into the night the motors pass hooting and shrieking to the east. And, then, the great carts come bearing produce to the markets amidst a fiendish cracking of whips and the loud objurgations of the drivers to the steaming beasts.

A Loss to Demagogues

Mr. Owen suggests that if no proposal is brought forward for a settlement upon Princess Mary, some demagogues will be deprived of the opportunity of making harangues concerning the impropriety of giving any of the people's money to fatten Royalty. The truth is that none of the people's money is spent for that purpose, and that the British Royal family is a profitable investment for the British people. Instead of the people giving them money, they give the people money and lighten the taxpayers' burden to the extent of millions of dollars. The money for Royal requirements comes from what is known as the Consolidated Fund, which is under the control of the National Treasury. Into this fund all the revenues of Crown lands are paid according to an arrangement made by George V, and his immediate predecessors. Formerly the revenue of the Crown lands were insufficient to meet the expenses of the monarch, who had to go before Parliament every now and then for a grant, a proceeding that was no more agreeable to the monarch than to Parliament.

Good for the State

When Victoria came to the throne she surrendered to the State for the term of her life and reign all the revenues of the Crown property which were hers by inheritance, in return for an allowance from the Consolidated Fund. She was granted a civil list of \$2,500,000 and it was understood that any unexpended balance should be turned into the National Exchequer. The bargain proved a good one for the State, because, as a result of improved management of the Crown properties, the revenue showed a considerable increase and it is said that in the past forty years the State has had an average profit of \$1,000,000 a year after paying all the expenses of the court, and the various allowances to members of the Royal family. It should be understood that the Crown property is, of was, the property of the reigning monarch. In exactly the same way that a private individual might inherit his. Originally it may have been the property of the nation, just as originally the billions of Mr. Rockefeller belonged to somebody else. The British Royal family, as regards its wealth, is in no respect different from other families who have inherited fortunes.

Grants Are Restricted

These grants from the Consolidated Fund, though they are made formally by Parliament, could not be refused by Parliament unless it were to claim the right to confiscate property. They are restricted to the children of the Sovereign and the eldest son of the Prince of Wales for the time being. From this fund the Duke of Connaught derives \$125,000 a year, but his son, Prince Arthur, Governor-General of South Africa, receives nothing. It is understood, however, that the Duke is a very rich man, and it was said that he had a great inheritance from his mother, who was convinced that he would not misuse any property which he might acquire. Incidentally, we learn from Mr. Owen that the status of Royalty lapses in the fourth generation from the throne, and that, therefore, Prince Arthur's little son and namesake is not a Prince at all, but in the eyes of the law a commoner, and that his title, Earl of Macduff, is a courtesy one only.

"The Haberdashery"

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas Henderson & Cudmore

In Paris within earshot of the Boulevards, you have to bawl to make yourself heard, says Charles Dawbarn, writing in the London Daily Chronicle. Parisians have caught the trick of raising their voices to an astonishing pitch. Generally, in offices when important conversations are on, the windows have to be closed to keep out the noise of the passing traffic. It is pandemonium, particularly in the late afternoon, when every motorist uses his horn apparently for the pure love of it. The noise is indescribable. The new taxis, diminutive (about half the size of the others), low-placed upon correspondingly small wheels, dart about like lizards with green bodies, marked with a line of white, uttering a particularly strident note. Never was there a noisier town than Paris and never for a single instant does the noise cease for 20 out of the 24 hours. The heavy motor buses, more comfortable than those of London, but much noisier of tongue, roar and push through the streets, broad and narrow.

Local Life and Color

Armenoville, the Pre-Catalan in the Bois de Boulogne, Fontaine, in the Champs Elysees, the crowd round the Guignol—these are redolent of local life and color. They have changed in nothing, these Parisians, save that they live more intensively.

If there is no real poverty and much apparent prosperity, no sign of "hunger" begging in the street such as shocks the eyes in London living is three or four times the pre-war rate, as against twice as much in England. And yet, though?

The Policeman's Lot

The police struggle gamely with the amazing stream. Their exertions remind me of a "chef d'orchestre" faced by angry trombones and a disobedient drum. Some take more kindly to the unaccustomed work than others, but real placidity in traffic direction is only found by the Thames.

Little Douglas

"I was awake when Santa Claus came, dad." Father: "Were you? And what was he like, eh?" Little Douglas: "Oh, I couldn't see him, it was dark, you know, but when he bumped himself on the washstand, he said—" Father (quickly): "There, that'll do, Douglas. Get on with your mince pie!"

than ever to Topsy and other goddesses and places where they dispense tea, but there are more theatres, purely French, than ever before.

markets have been destroyed, everybody works. There is no unemployment. Explain it how you will I cannot; help thinking that the calm and good sense of the working class, their freedom from strikes, have much to do with it, and in spite of the high price of meat and butter and the other needs of life, all classes spread themselves over the "terrasses" of the cafes as if they had no cares. In the quiet corners Paris is still divinely Paris.

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