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**THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN**

Dr. Charles Dalton, President. J. R. Burnett, Editor and Publisher. D. A. Currie, Associate Editor.

Morning Daily (founded 1887) \$5.00 per year delivered in advance. \$3.00 per year (mailed) in advance in Canada and \$4.50 to U. S. A.

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1922

**THE GENOA CONFERENCE**

Long before the economic conference opened at Genoa its possibilities were regarded with a good deal of anxiety. It was generally felt that the difficulties in the way of an amicable agreement upon the many intricate problems involved were well-nigh insuperable. The task before the conference was a gigantic one, the reconstruction of Europe, the removal of after-war conditions which not only retarded the progress of the world but threatened to estrange nations formerly living in peace with each other.

Thirty-four national governments are represented at the conference by 790 delegates and attendant counsellors. These nations were by no means in accord before the conference as to the methods to be adopted to effect the purpose for which the conference was called. Germany, defeated and humiliated, was sullen, sneakily looking for a way out of the hole into which she had fallen by her own act. France was suspicious; she feared Germany, her action on naval disarmament and her treaty with Turkey threatened to make a breach with her Allies, Great Britain and Italy. Russia was not only irresponsible but crooked and unreliable.

Under these conditions the conference opened, but under the guidance of the master diplomat Premier Lloyd George, the clouds were apparently rolled away and prospects looked bright for settlement of many, if not all, the difficulties.

Then, out of the blue sky came the discovery of Germany's crookedness and Russia's treachery, referred to at length in the Guardian's despatches yesterday. This or something similar might have been expected from Germany which has been the villain in the play since 1914 and which is likely to play the part till the end, whatever the end may be. From the day war was declared Germany has demonstrated to the world that she cannot or will not play the game fairly. In her excess for going to war, in her carrying on of the war, in her conduct since the war she has been false, crooked and treacherous. As for Russia, the dupe of Germany in war and in peace nothing else could have been expected.

In the reconstruction of Europe Germany must be taken into account; in the economic progress of the world she must take her share but only with hands and feet shackled; she can no more be trusted than the uncaged tiger of the hyena. She has been beaten and humiliated, she has stood before the world as a dishonored and discredited nation but unrepentant and even defiant. What course the Allied nations will now take will be awaited with interest and the next few days will probably tell the tale.

are being expended over and above the expenditures of former years it is necessary that the public be kept informed but the Bell government thinks it safer to keep the public in the dark, to give as little information as possible. They have never taken the public into their confidence on anything that the public are interested in. Only the other day we referred to their particular reticence with reference to their own doings. The Belgic and the Plant in Prince County had been taken over a year ago and the public were informed of it only at the opening of the present session in the Governor's speech. During the present session we were informed that a year ago the government made overtures to the federal authorities for a proportion of the Highways to be used on the streets of Charlottetown, and it was then revealed by Mr. Higgs only in an attempted self defence in connection with promises he had made at an indignation meeting of citizens a year ago which promises were never kept.

There are among the things that make the public suspicious. The meetings in camera of the Public Accounts Committee and the exclusion of the press is another suspicious occurrence. The government should have nothing to hide, when it has there is something wrong.

**China Point Bridge**

Sir—I wish very much to bring up and lay before the notice of our independent readers, the two great general travelling public, the proposed new bridge across the China Point Ferry. There were at least seven petitions made out and signed by the residents of Orwell Cove and China Point for this said bridge and presented to the local representatives and I regret that without consulting the public, the only one petition was received by the Commissioner and the others remained in the private desks of the respective homes of the members. I therefore wish to state that in the summer season of 1918, I petitioned the residents of Cherry Valley, Eastcliffe, China Point, Orwell Cove and Newburg, of all without a dissenting voice signed the petition, and in all I had nearly one hundred and fifty names, all with one voice saying we want the bridge. I therefore presented the petition to Mr. James Patton, ex-M. L. A., who presented it to the government with a strong recommendation and during the session of 1919 Mr. Patton brought up the matter before the Commissioner who referred that the matter would be investigated during recess. During recess the elections were held and your independent readers know the result and nothing was done. In the session of 1920 he wrote Mr. James C. Irving, Belfast member to bring up this matter and Mr. Irving was answered by the Commissioner that the matter would be investigated during recess and now wish to assert that recess upon recess has passed and no investigation made and the matter is still in abeyance, and will be until the next local election, when the elections of Orwell Cove and China Point will be held and the local representatives and election judges about the erection of the China Point Ferry bridge, I therefore wish to give a word of advice and warning to the independent electors of Orwell Cove, China Point, Eastcliffe and Cherry Valley not to be misled with any promises and election doles re China Point bridge but to use their own common sense and judgment. Mr. James C. Irving, Belfast member, is a resident of Cherry Valley and lives about three miles from China Point Ferry, a five minutes drive, and every day he sees the residents and can see the said ferry and seems reluctant to push the matter.

**GOVERNMENT HAY AND OATS**

A correspondent, under the heading "Eastern Jottings" says in yesterday's issue of the Examiner: "Two cars of Government oats were sold to the farmers of Pease's and vicinity on Friday the 14th. The price was 30 cents a bushel. This was passed out as choice seed oats, although it contained a very large percentage of wild oats, wild buckwheat, wild turnip and other noxious weeds. As this was distributed mostly among the friends of the Government, one wonders what they would do to an enemy."

No doubt some of the faithful will rush to the assistance of the government with testimonials certifying that the quality of the seed oats is all that man or beast could desire but there does not appear to be much of a rush to the importation.

Whatever the general opinion may be about the quality, the price or the distribution of the hay; there is but one opinion about the importation of seed oats, that is, that if the statement be true that it is mixed with wild oats and noxious weed seeds it would have been better to have let it where it was.

When the government under takes to supply seed grain too much care cannot be exercised in ensuring its purity and it is very apparent that such care has not been exercised. Established seed importing houses who have their reputation and their business at stake take every precaution, even to the extent of personal examination, to ensure freedom from noxious weeds which are the bane of every farmer. The government may order seeds from Ontario or else where and give strict instructions that it be clean and free from objectionable seeds but without personal knowledge that is so it should not be sold to farmers. The reliable seedsmen know that if he sells bad seed he will never sell any more in the same locality; the government looks no further ahead than the next election. Farmers buying imported seed should examine it very carefully before buying and especially before sowing, otherwise they may be laying up trouble for themselves and their neighbors for years to come.

**IN CAMERA**

The Public Accounts Committee holds its meetings this year in camera; the public and the press are excluded. It is quite true that in ordinary circumstances the press takes little stock in those meetings which are often held without previous notice except to the members of the committee, but it is also true that the meetings previously have been open to the press if they chose to attend. This year the press is excluded, why?

In the House of Commons at Ottawa meetings of the Public Accounts Committee are open and when anything important comes up that had not been discussed on the floor of the House it is reported by the press.

In this province at present when hundreds of thousands of dollars

**The Public Forum**

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

**Bell Government's Negligence**

Dear Sir—A recent progressive states that the Government, of P. E. Island has issued a license to some person to bore for oil and gas. Some time ago I wrote to the Provincial Secretary inquiring (1) if the report was correct, (2) where the area to be prospected is situated, (3) whether there is any further territory that can be acquired under License or lease. I have had no reply. A somewhat similar letter addressed to your Government on another occasion has never been replied to, and as it seems hopeless to address the Government of P. E. Island and obtain the treatment that the British Canadian, United States or Nova Scotia Government accord me when I address them, I now take the liberty of making these inquiries of you. Will you be so good as to afford me the above information, giving if possible the name of the Licensee.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I am Sir, etc.

**C. OCHILTREE McDONALD,**  
Author of "The Coal and Iron Industries of Nova Scotia,"  
9 Young Avenue,  
St. John's, Nfld.,  
Fall 1911, 1922.

**Notes By The Way**

(From 'The Examiner')

Any government with a sufficient following in the legislature can always obtain revenue up to what the people can pay by the simple process of finding new taxes to be laid on and raising such taxes as are ready in force. It is as simple as giving an additional turn to a screw. That was what happened when the Bell government set its machinery in operation during the session of 1920. They increased existing taxes and added new ones according to their merciless program of taxing "everything tangible and intangible."

By this process \$250,000 was squeezed out of the pockets of the people and into the government treasury. Highway robbery in which the robber knocks his victim senseless and seizes his money is a lawless and brutal act. The imposition of taxes is made lawful by enactment of the legislatures. Moreover, taxation for the necessary purposes of providing money to carry on the government and public services of the country is neither illegal, immoral nor oppressive, if it is kept within reasonable and justifiable limits. It is in the excess of the demands made and of the pressure to enforce such demands that the immorality, injustice and oppression of taxation are to be found.

No sane and intelligent man can be made to believe that in 1920 it had suddenly become necessary to increase the revenue of the province by direct taxation to the extent that was then imposed. The tyranny of the majority in the legislature imposed this injustice and extortion upon the people. It was done under the formality of law, but it was done without warrant of necessity, without knowledge or consent of the people and the sum exacted and abstracted from the pockets of the people by force of law was unjustly taken. Just as far as it was excessive so far as it was comparable to the act of the robber who bludgeons his victim.

Out of their own mouths and their own acts let the perpetrators of this outrage be judged. They had themselves for years before they came into power proclaimed that the provincial revenues were ample to provide for all the country's needs. They had affirmed that the government of the day was extravagant and wasteful of the public moneys beyond measure. Put us in power, they said and without another dollar of revenue, by simple economy and the stopping of waste we will provide for all the country's needs, give the teachers increased salaries and make revenue and expenditure meet. Despite their denials, these were the promises and professions they made and upon the faith of which they were entrusted with power.

Once seated in office they immediately began to deny these promises, falsify every profession they had made to affirm that "hundreds of thousands more revenue was urgently needed and enacted their taxation act as the thumb-screw by which it would be exacted. By the tyranny of their majority in the legislature the outrage was given the form of law. As if a statute based upon deception and fraud, could sanctify such a transaction as that and make it appear honorable and just!

Amazed and astounded at the audacity of the outrage, the people in their inherited respect for law and constituted authority, and in

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**Daily Selections for Guardian Reader**

From the W. R. Louzon collection

**"NOT AS I WILL"**

Blindfolded and alone I stand  
With unknown thresholds on each hand;  
The darkness deepens as I grope,  
Afraid to fear, afraid to hope;  
'Tis this one thing I learn to know  
Each day more surely as I go,  
'Tis that doors are opened, ways are made,  
Burdens are lifted, or are laid,  
By some great law unseen and still  
'Tis that purpose to fulfill,  
'Not as I will."

Blindfolded and alone I wait,  
Loss soiled too bitter, gain too  
'Tis that heavy burdens in the load,  
And too few helpers on the road,  
And joy is weak and grief is strong  
And years and days so long, so long  
'Tis this one thing I learn to know  
Each day more surely as I go,  
'Tis that I am glad the good and ill  
By changeless law are ordered still,  
'Not as I will."



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is always ready to give you personal attention.

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4087 THE PRINCE OF WELLES STREET

Such are features of the black record of the Bell government, as they are now compelled to meet it and to answer for it to an indignant and outraged people. None know better than they themselves the deceptions they have attempted with too much success, the perfidy they have practised, the by-paths and crooked ways by which