THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink".

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 1938

"The Only Plank"

This from the report of the proceedings of the first session of our anti-Liberal Legislature, Sept. 25, 1935. We republish it as a memory refresher:

Mr. Acorn, First Kings: "I believe, in fact I am sure, that the only plank in the Liberal platform which appealed to the electors in the provincial campaign was that in which we promised to make revenue and expenditure meet."

Mr. Hughes, Fifth Kings: "What in the world was the good of the other planks, then?"

Mr. Acorn: "So far as our campaign was concerned they did not count at all."

Premier Lea's Attitude

Our contemporary's comparison of the Campbell Government's record last year with the extraordinary expenditures incurred in 1935, the last election year, reminds us that the late Premier Lea took strong exception to this method of analysis. Speaking in the Legislature in 1935, he said:

"We know that it is a most unfair comparison to make at any time, because I have already pointed out, election year will always be the year in which some unusual or carried over expenses will be cleaned up. Every year under the administration of our governments there is a considerable amount of unpaid bills as at Dec. 31 in the Public Accounts; but when a government goes out of office in midsummer, and an auditor is brought in, and all of these outstanding bills over the past four years will be charged up to that one year, I submit it is an unfair comparison then to include our election year when their extraordinary expenses are yet to come."—Patriot, April 11, 1935.

That is just what our contemporary is doing,—fooling its readers, according to Premier Lea, by a "most unfair" comparison.

The Old Alibi Again

Last session, Premier Campbell's alibi for failing to balance the budget was the aliegedly "disgraceful financial blundering" of the Conservatives in 1935, which necessitated heavier interests payments than were anticipated.

This year, the same excuse has been trotted out. Our evening contemporary says solemnly: "It is quite obvious that the dead hand of Tory financial misrule is still to be reckoned with."

Unfortunately for this argument, the Premier stated in submitting the 1937 estimates, that though budgeting for a $63,000 deficit the prospects were "really much more hopeful" and that "we could easily adopt a more optimistic attitude and say that we are going to balance our budget this very year."

The difference between the anticipated balanced budget and the $120,174 deficit is evidence, sure enough, of "financial misrule" but this time it is impossible, by the most partisan misrepresentation, to bring the "Tories" into the picture.

Those Bond Transfers

The financing of the Campbell Government with regard to sinking funds has been to substitute bonds paying 4 per cent for bonds paying 3 per cent, applying the proceeds to sinking funds which otherwise would have had to be built up out of general revenue. The necessity of providing more sinking funds is one which the Government had to meet in any case. Its deficit would therefore have been $21,000 greater if it had not made this profit, as our contemporary admits, by exchange of bonds.

Paying The Piper

The Public Accounts show that last year the administration of the Fishermen's Loan Board, for which the estimate was $2,400, cost no less than $5,093. How much of this was paid in salaries to the Board members, all of whom are members of the Legislature?

Mr. Gallant, the only member of the Fishermen's Loan Board to speak on the Draft Address, confessed that many persons had improperly received loans; they "got by" his hands and he believed the chairman, Hon. B. W. LePage, had, like himself, "been fooled."

Why not deduct from the amount these gentlemen received for their services the loans they negligently made to improper persons?

They were the ones who were "fooled," but our taxpayers, and needy fishermen among whom all the available money should have been distributed, must pay the piper.

Spoils Of Office

Hon. Mr. LePage, we note, figures quite pointedly in the Accounts. In addition to his unspecified salary as chairman of the Fishermen's Loan Board and his $400 sessional indemnity he received, as President of the Executive Council, $1,000; also another $1,000 as Government representative at the Coronation; $50 as a trustee of Falconwood, and $200 under the heading "Treasury Board."

Until our self-seeking Liberal "economists" took office, members of the Treasury Board received nothing for their services, attendance at meetings of the Board being regarded as part of their official duties. The Lea-Campbell Government changed that at the special 1935 session by amending the Election Act, but not, allegedly, for the purpose of providing extra salaries to portfolio holders. Premier Campbell, who introduced the amendment in 1935 as Attorney General, explained that the Government having abolished the office of purchasing agent the supervision of purchases of supplies was now in the hands of the Treasury Board; that the majority of the members of the Board hold salaried portfolios "but there may be other members who do not receive any remuneration", and it was felt that these members should get "a nominal compensation" for their services. Mr. LePage at that time was a non-salaried member of the Government and it seems that it was for his benefit that the change was made. But when he became President of the Executive Council, with a $1,000 salary, he ceased to have any claim for extra compensation as a member of the Treasury Board.

The extent of the Government's transactions in purchasing shoes and other commodities for Falconwood do not appear in the Public Accounts, but enough has been shown to indicate the Executive Council President is a firm believer in the adage that to the victors belong the spoils.

Lopsided Economy

Speaking on the Draft Address, Mr. W. F. Alan Stewart stressed the increasing needs of the Department of Public Health, and the Government's responsibility to meet these requirements which "are growing every year." How did the Campbell Government do so last year?

In 1935 the expenditure in the Department of Public Health was $33,143. In 1936 it was cut to $31,066 and in 1937 to $28,563. This against an expenditure last year in Public Works Minister McIntyre's department of $334,937, $4,689 in excess of the Estimates. Here we have a striking example of Liberal "economy"; health demands growing every year, and every year neglected to a greater extent to meet extravagances in other and less vitally important departments.

In the Administration of Justice, over which Premier Campbell has control, (and in connection with which he complained that unnecessary costs were incurred under the Conservatives), we find another example. In 1935 the expenditures in this department were $68,762. In 1936, under the economical Mr. Campbell, they increased to $72,544 and last year there was another jump to $79,847, or an increase over the last year of Conservative rule of more than eleven thousand dollars.

Liquor Revenue

On page 23 of the Public Accounts, appendix "H", appears the following item listed under "Casual Revenue: "Special re Sanatorium, $15,000." Is this a camouflaged contribution from liquor revenue? If so, it should be added to the $40,000 liquor profits noted under "Wholesale Vendor and Enforcement Prohibition Act."

The last year the Conservatives were in office the revenue from this source was $22,000. Increased liquor sales by the Campbell Government resulted in a profit of $40,000 in 1936, and again last year the same figure is shown.

But what were the details of these transactions? Under the Conservatives a detailed report was presented by the Prohibition Commission. Under the one-man administration of Premier Campbell no information is available, and our Liberal legislators acquiesce in the conspiracy of silence.

Editorial Notes

Budget tonight.

* * * *

Lister born this date, 1827.

* * * *

Where is it going to end? is the question on everybody's lips regarding the Campbell Government's terrific deficits.

* * * *

If Lady Tweedsmuir is to fulfil her promise to visit the Island it cannot very well be before the Fall, as she expects to be in England till the end of June.

* * * *

Alas, a "just as good as" Ensol has resulted in the death of some eight or ten patients. Isn't this a warning lesson to avoid the "just as good" policy when buying advertised brands?

* * * *

They stick to their job those English school ma'ams. A woman who has just resigned as senior teacher of a school in Worthing, England, began there as a pupil in 1878 and became a teacher at 15.

* * * *

When Premier Campbell told the Rowell Commission we required $000,000 additional revenue to make our budgets balance, he must have had 1937 revenue and expenditure before him, for that is what it requires to square his accounts.

* * * *

Hon. Cyril Asquith, recorder of Salisbury since last year and fourth son of the first Earl of Oxford and Asquith, has been appointed a justice of the High Court of King's Bench in succession to Lord Porter, the former Sir Samuel Lowry Porter, who was appointed a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary. Mr. Asquith, whose father as H. H. Asquith was Prime Minister at the outbreak of the Great War, is 47. He has written a number of legal books and, with Mr. J. A. Spender, prepared his father's biography.

* * * *

The U. S. A. Treasury has declined to send $1,000,000 to a resident of a Kentucky poor farm for a perfect ear of corn. He had written to Treasury officials that he understood the Treasury would pay $1,000,000 for a perfect ear of corn, each row having the same number of kernels. "I think I have found it," he wrote, "so will be looking for a check soon." The perfect ear of corn accompanied his letter.

* * * *

Living animals were imported to the value of $16,983 during February compared with $19,039 in the previous month and $13,754 in the corresponding month last year. Increased imports of animals for exhibition purposes during the eleven months ended February to $626,847 from $149,441 in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year, were largely responsible for raising the total value of imported living animals in the cumulative period to $1,353,873 from $791,861.

* * * *

Meats were imported to the value of $90,966 during February compared with $51,624 in the previous month and $9,264 in February, 1937. The increase over the corresponding month last year, was accounted for mainly by larger purchases of fresh mutton and lamb, canned beef, extracts of meats and fluid beef and barrelled pork in brine. Total meat imports were $1,176,621 during the eleven months ended February compared with $1,072,716 in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A cube of radium worth more than $2,000 dropped off the cheek of a woman patient during course of treatment at the Cincinati General Hospital and thus was instituted a frantic search by hospital attaches. Their search revealed nothing. No one had a clue. But one physician had a friend. The friend was Dr. Ysay Balinkin of the University of Cincinnati Physics Department. He was summoned, and brought with him what he called an 'electroscope'—a kind of "divining rod." This radium-finding gadget was poied into every nook and cranny of the hospital, and finally revealed the radium—in the kitchen garbage-can.

The condition of Arthur Petit, 15-year-old boy shot through the chest by the Montreal police, was reported to be much worse by authorities at the Notre Dame Hospital. Inspector Brodeur agreed that the police carried firearms primarily to protect themselves, but they also had to protect the public and guard private property too. "It is very difficult indeed to say when a constable should use his gun and when he should not. Many officers have paid with their lives through not wishing to draw their weapons. Again, most reasonable people will agree that an honest citizen will explain his business to the police if asked to do so, while only the apparently guilty will run away." Constables during the course of their training are warned to fire low so that shots will take effect in the legs, but it is impossible to guarantee how a shot will go when fired by a man on the run, the Inspector added

Not even during the "lean" years of the depression has such a horde of young men, still in their teen years, roamed the country as during the last three weeks, according to A.P. Keppele Hamilton, Ont., welfare commissioner, who this morning described the situation as "shocking." "Never in all my experience in the welfare department have I see so many young men, many of them just kids and most of them between the ages of 16 and 21 years, roaming about the country."

If favorable weather prevails, another month will see Alberta farmers on the land and spring work for the 1938 season fairly well launched. There is a degree of hopefulness manifest in the province this year which was not in evidence to the same extent in immediate past years. This is due to the improved moisture conditions and the expectation that a series of wet years is in sight. The farmer is a natural optimist, particularly in the spring of the year. He would need to be in view of the adversity experienced in many parts of the province since 1930.—Calgary Herald.

Even a magician like Lord Beaverbrook cannot have been born in two widely separated places, and that is why some interest attaches to a cable he sent a New Yorker last week in which he said: "There will be no war in Europe this year or next year either. You will have inflation in England and no more balanced budget and rise in raw material prices. A prophet has no honor in his own country, so don't tell New Brunswick, where I was born." That is Beaverbrook's cabled reference to his birthplace. It is also what more than half the clippings about him say, and the Encyclopaedia Britannica agrees that he was born in Newcastle, New Brunswick. But he was actually born at Maple, north of Toronto. Whitaker's Peerage gives his birthplace correctly as Vaughan, Ontario—Vaughan is the township. In 1924, while visiting hereabout Beaverbrook made a special pilgrimage to Maple to see the Presbyterian manse where he spent his first year and the graveyard where his grandparents (Noble) and sister were buried. The old frame manse had given place to one of brick, but the barn was still standing. In 1917, when the "Sir Max Aitken" of that day was being raised to the peerage, and when Newcastle, N.B., was being cited as his home, The Star asked a relative why this mistake was so often made. The answer was that he was in the habit of referring to Newcastle as his "native place" because he was taken there when an infant. The habit has apparently persisted.—Toronto Star.

British registration law requires that every British vessel shall take a name not in use by any other British ship, but apparently this excellent rule does not apply in all countries. At the beginning of November, 1937, there were two Finnish vessels in Surrey commercial docks both named Argo. It is also remarkable that at the same time the Authority's "Ships Expected to Arrive" list showed two vessels named Canada, one Swedish and one Danish, both expected in the Surrey commercial docks. During December three ships, all bearing the name Orion, berthed in the Port of London, and in January there were two vessels called Pollux in the Surrey commercial docks.—P.L.A. Monthly

This is William Randolph Hearst's summation of Herr Hitler and his imperialism: "As a military genius he is emphatically a good corporal, but as a constructive statesman he is still a bad house-painter. The structure he so laboriously builds is as ephemeral as the morning mist, and the so-called "united Germany" he so earnestly and uselessly endeavors to create will eventually dissolve in discord and disaster."

In Berlin there sits a successful gambler flushed with the spoils he has won, surrounded by a propaganda-crazed nation and urged on by the obvious calculation that now—when his opponents are dazed by his coups, divided, internally confused and behind in their rearmament—is the time, if it ever will be to stake everything on a supreme throw. But on the other side, in London and Paris, the democratic foreign offices are facing precisely the same kind of calculation. It is now—when the totalitarian thrust in Spain and to the east may still be halted—or never. That is the situation, and it is stated at its blackest to show why we think it the gravest situation which has faced the modern world since July 24, 1914. It is of the sort over which events may take command, and when that happens the end may be anything. —New York Herald Tribune.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

MRS. WYAND REPLIES

Sir,—I am pleased to see that the Premier is beginning to comprehend that I am dissatisfied with his National Park "Machine." I am also pleased to see that he has tabled his letter to me of March 18th. I would have liked to publish it myself, but didn't think it would be polite. I have received many letters from officials of both the Dominion and Provincial Governments, but this is the one I treasure most. It is one of the nicest letters I have ever read. When I consider all the pleasant things that might possibly be given me if only I will be good I am quite overcome. But I have received so many letters that were not so nice though much more definite that I am really bewildered. These Government officials change their minds more frequently than any woman. One never knows what one or other of them will think up next.

In November 1936 a Mr. Harkin, "Commissioner" of the National Parks wrote that satisfactory arrangements might be made whereby I could continue where I am, provided my buildings were roofed and brought up to standard.

About this time I wrote the Premier requesting an interview with the Provincial Government. The Premier replied on December 8th, 1936, stating it was with the Dominion Government I would have to deal if I wished to continue operations within the Park. He said he would be glad to assist me in negotiating with the Dominion. I wrote the Dominion Government and this time I got a reply from a "Controller", Mr. Williamson. Being a "Controller" he had a different idea than the "Commissioner". Said he:—

"Upon the Provincial authorities taking over your lands and compensating you for same you would then be in the same position in regard to securing any concessions under the park administration as any other person."

That is to say I would have no more right to continue in my own site than a perfect stranger.

There seems to be an impression that I have never personally visited the local Government officials. That is far from the truth. On the invitation of Hon. B. W. LePage I called on him in September, 1936. He told me I would be moved back. Five times since I have interviewed Mr. LePage, I protesting against being moved, he insisting upon it. I have also interviewed the Premier.

In June 1937 we started to erect more cottages because of the large number of tourists applying for accommodation. A carload of Park officials arrived and out stepped a gentleman from Ottawa; an "Inspector" of National Parks. He ordered the men to stop working. When I remonstrated he said: "As far as we are concerned you are closed now, Mrs. Wyand." I said, "You don't understand. I've talked with Mr. LePage and the Premier". He replied that they knew nothing about it, had nothing to do with it at all. Again I interviewed the Government, that is Mr. LePage and the Premier. They were very kind to me. The next day Mr. LePage telephoned and stated that by a "gentlemen's agreement" I would be allowed to remain on my own land and conduct my own business that year, but would not be allowed to build more cottages. The next week, the bold Inspector arrived and presented a letter, signed by himself, which stated that I would be permitted to operate during July and August, 1937. I was to be given permission to move my buildings outside the Park on or before October 31st, but—"It is to be understood that no extension of the above permission will be considered and that on or after the 1st November, 1937, any removal of Park property, including any buildings or parts of buildings that have been left on Park lands at that date will constitute an actionable offence."

He also presented some sort of document for me to sign. I refused. I didn't understand what it was. I told him we had not moved to Russia overnight and were used to a white man's law. He said.—"You either sign this letter or I close you right down now." He said it twice. I signed.

Last summer I interviewed Hon. Mr. Dunning and told him what was being done to me. He was incredulous.

I have written Hon. Mr. Crerar, the Minister of Mines, Resources, Lands, Parks and Forests. Mr. Crerar did not reply. Apparently the subject of this particular Park is distasteful to him; from his speech in Parliament I would say he doesn't want to know anything about it, and either didn't read or didn't remember our petition to him. But he passed my letter to a "Controller" who wrote me on March 2nd, 1938, that the matter of settlement is the responsibility of the Provincial Government.

This past winter I stored ice in my ice house to be ready for the summer season. In January 1938 I received a sharp letter from a "Foreman" of National Parks. He says this is trespassing and will not be condoned.

Now the Premier tells me he has had an interesting conversation with a "Director" of Parks and they appear to have discussed all sorts of vague and expensive though entertaining possibilities. "Directors" must be friendly fellows. "Inspectors" are the cross ones.

May I suggest that the Commissioner, the Controller, the Inspector, the Foreman, the Director and the Minister all get together and make up their minds.

As I understand the situation if I interview the Premier he may promise to arrange some sort of a concession for me. I will then be in a position to humbly beg for favours from the Commissioner, the Controller &c., with the assistance of the Premier. But I have already been informed that I will be in no better position than a mere stranger. I refuse to do anything so silly.

It might be expected that by this time the two Governments could at least have given me a definite undertaking that I would receive certain definite benefits; not possibilities, probabilities or estimates.

I am sorry to write such a long letter but there are still a few things I wish to explain. Rumour has reached me that I am taken to be some sort of a foreigner. The report is exaggerated. My maiden name is Campbell. I was born in Lower Montague and I am proud to say that my ancestors came to this Province as United Empire Loyalists. My husband is the son of an Englishman who settled in Cavendish over one hundred years ago.

I also wish to explain that I did not build up my business by strolling about the beach. I conceived the idea in 1928. It arose out of dire necessity. We needed money badly. We have six children, five of whom live at home. We have been afflicted with a great deal of sickness in the family both before and since 1928, and have been obliged to spend a great deal of money for medical and hospital expenses. In 1928 we also were unfortunate enough to lose our best horse and two cows in one week. Farmers will understand me when I say the situation looked desperate.

I obtained permission from the owner of the land which I have since purchased to put up a small rustic booth at the beach. In 1929 we bought one-half an acre for $200. In 1930 we borrowed two thousand dollars from the Court of Chancery on a mortgage. We bought another acre for $250 and built two cottages and a dining hall. We are not yet rich. The mortgage is still there. Because of initial expenses and sickness, building new cottages at the beach and improvements on the farm we have not been able to pay it off. As a matter of fact but for the interference we should have been in a position to start paying on the principal this year. Unless I get compensation or am allowed to remain I don't know how it will be paid.

In 1932 I made a trip to several cities, including Montreal, Toronto, Boston and New York. I distributed literature and advertised widely in the papers. I interviewed many influential men, heads of steamships, railways and tourist bureaus. They were interested and helpful when I explained my situation. I have distributed pamphlets advertising Cavendish and my business at the rate of one thousand per year for the past six years. I advertise in the Tourists Guide, the Traveller's Aid and in railroad papers, and other ways. I have a large and growing correspondence with former patrons and others who are interested in coming to the Island. Naturally this takes up a great deal of time in the months before the season opens.

As a result of the contacts I have made and the advertising I have carried on my business is increasing rapidly. In 1937 we turned away one hundred and three cars for lack of accommodation.

We have worked hard. I have often hung up my tea towels to dry at one A.M. and would be on the job again at five in the morning to prepare breakfast for our guests.

But I felt we were getting somewhere. I am not as young as I used to be but our children have now had a thorough training in the work and I thought their future was assured. Now they are to be thrown out of employment.

I consider that through my advertising and through my efforts I have done not a little to build up the tourist trade for the Province and for Cavendish and for the National Park area in particular. I am indeed being well rewarded.

Forgive me if I appear to be bitter. I have been ill, and sometimes I am weary and discouraged. But I still refuse to believe the people of the province will permit this intolerable injustice. I still refuse to surrender.

I am, Sir, etc.,
KATHERINE C. WYAND,
Cavendish, P.E.I.
April 4, 1938.

PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT

Sir,—The taxpayer surely is entitled to a report of the Liquor Administration in this Province. The following information is due the public and as these questions have on previous occasions been answered by the Prohibition Liquor Commission, I trust they will be answered by the Government during the present session.

1. How much money was spent in each of the fiscal years ending January 31, 1937, and January 31, 1938, for spirituous liquors? How much beer was purchased and sold by the Commission?

2. (a) What was the total amount of fines imposed?

(b) How much money in fines was collected?

(c) How much fines remains uncollected?

(d) How many convicted offenders have been pardoned or released on "Ticket-of-Leave" each year?

(e) How many were convicted of jailable offences without the option of a fine?

(f) How many pardons were granted; and how many paid the full penalties?

3. How many informations supplied by clergy and temperance workers have been acted upon, and how many declined?

4. How many informations actually laid before the courts for the maximum offences have been changed to the $10 minimum fine?

5. What has been the cost in wages, liquor and other expenses of the detectives and special agents engaged in connection with prohibition enforcement during 1937?

This information would be appreciated by the temperance people and the public.

I am, Sir, etc.,
TEMPERANCE VOTER.

The Poet's Corner

SPRING

An altered look about the hills
A Tyrian light the village fills;
A wider sunrise in the dawn;
A deeper twilight on the lawn;
A print of a vermilion foot;
A purple finger on the slope;
A flippant fly upon the pane;
A spider at his trade again;
An added strut of chanticleer;
A flower expected everywhere;
An axe shrill singing in the woods;
Fern-odors on untravelled roads,—
All this, and more I cannot tell,
A furtive look you know as well,
And Nicodemus' mystery
Receives its annual reply.

Emily Dickinson

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Auto Accidents' Increase

Last year the need of automobile insurance was forcibly demonstrated by the fact that in spite of the most strenuous campaign on the part of newspapers, periodicals and insurance companies against careless driving, accidents with violent deaths and injuries reached a new high in Canada.

Every person who drives a car needs the protection of insurance. An accident might ruin a car owner for life—financially—or create a tremendous hardship on the person injured—if there is no insurance.

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