

The Charlottetown Guardian

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THURSDAY, APRIL 26th, 1917

FALCONWOOD FIASCO

It is more in sorrow than in anger that one must approach consideration of the humiliating spectacle recently presented by what remains of the once historic Liberal party in the local Legislature. In the days of the Hon. David Laird, of Sir Louis Davis, it was a proud boast to be named a Liberal and to be associated in the Legislature and in the country with such mighty men and the principles and policy they represented and espoused. Is there anyone to-day, either in the Legislature or the country, proud to have their names associated with those of Mr. Bell, of Mr. Hughes, and of Mr. Johnston, and the devious policy they pursue? What is their record in the past two years? They toured the country during the last election without any definite policy, except slander and abuse, in which the alleged "oats scandal" constituted no mean part. When the House met they could not fumble over one another quickly enough in their endeavours to dissociate themselves from having any lot or part in the dishonest and disloyal campaign. They found that their slanders would not bear the light of investigation. Again, no sooner did Mr. Bell assume the leadership of his party than he inaugurated that regime with a diabolical plot to defame the character and reputation of one of the most upright and sterling men in public life to-day. The foul calumny was made to do duty in the Souris campaign, but when called upon to repeat the charges in the House where they could be investigated, Mr. Bell and his friends not only refused to do so but denied they had intended to make any imputation against the honour and integrity of the Commissioner of Public Works. The slander had been circulated for all it was worth where it was thought it would do the Government most harm, and when it failed of its purpose the perpetrators turned round and said they did not mean any harm. In the present session the three Opposition leaders have devoted a great deal of their time and attention to insinuating charges of maladministration at Falconwood, and the Premier and other members have repeatedly urged them to make some specific allegations when the Government would institute a searching inquiry. Mr. Hughes in the course of his speech on the budget produced and, in what the Patriot described as "the breathless silence" of the House, submitted a series of charges presented by way of a petition to "Mr. Bell and the Liberal party." In reply to the Premier, Mr. Hughes stated that he intended tabling these charges, and did so. These were the only definite allegations that the Opposition had the courage to stand behind, and no sooner was an investigation granted than they repeated their rashness and disowned being responsible for the charges which the Patriot had stated were read by Mr. Hughes in the "breathless silence" of the House—so impressed were the members, according to our contemporary, with the seriousness and gravity of the charges.

The Committee of Enquiry has reported that not one of the charges is sustained. Mr. Bell and Mr. Saunders submitted a minority report in which they do not pretend that the charges were substantiated, but argue that they were not allowed to utilize the Enquiry for the purpose of a "fishing expedition." Mr. Bell did not claim that any material charge had been made out, while Mr. Saunders went the length of testifying to the excellence of the administration from his own personal observation and investigation. Mr. Johnston, who is more intimately associated with the charges than probably any other member of the Opposition, devoted the greater part of two hours explaining why he should not have all the blame thrown on his shoulders and in the attempt made scape-goats of more than one of his friends. He pointed out, for instance, that Mr. Hughes had admitted altering the wording of the petition, just why he did not know. Mr. Hughes' explanation was a little mysterious. He said in the first place that he had had no intention of reading the petition, and then he said he made the alteration complained of to make the petition read better. It is evident both explanations cannot be correct, and all the evidence points to a deliberate plot on the part of the Patriot, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Hughes and Mr. Bell to exploit an unfortunate inmate of Falconwood for political purposes. According to Mr. Johnston, the unfortunate Murphy went to the Patriot with his letter of complaint. The Editor evidently declined to lend his columns for the dissemination of such palpably uncorroborated and unsubstantiated charges, and referred the letter-writer to Mr. Johnston. Instead of enquiring from an independent and reliable source whether there was any ground for the charges, Mr. Johnston took the responsibility of getting the poor unfortunate to convert his document into a petition to Mr. Bell and the Liberal party. When the Premier demanded definite charges instead of innuendoes against the institution, Mr. Johnston placed this document in Mr. Hughes' hands, and that hon. gentleman after reading it and altering it to suit his own literary taste, read it "in breathless silence" to an amazed House—breathless and amazed,

no doubt at the temerity of the hon. member in lending his official weight to such charges emanating from such a source, and without first taking the trouble to ascertain whether his informant was reliable or whether there was a scintilla of evidence to substantiate his charges. Having thus sown the wind the three politically blind leaders are kicking against the unsatisfactory harvest they are reaping. Any tyro in politics would have foreseen the consequences and would have kept clean hands. But, as Mr. Prowse pointed out, it is not principle that now guides the Liberal leaders but temporary expediency, no matter how deep the depths they plumb for the purpose. Could anything, for instance, be more paltry than the excuse given by Mr. Johnston for turning Mr. Lea off the Committee of Enquiry? He said it was because Mrs. Lea was some relation of Mrs. Blanchard, wife of the acting Medical Supt. of Falconwood. We doubt if Mr. Lea had any recollection or knowledge of this secondary connection with Tory officialdom, but as the Opposition seemed never to tire of protesting that they were making no charges against the officials one wonders why Mr. Johnston should thus take the trouble for the second time to wound a colleague, first as regards his capacity to sit on the Committee, and then as regards his ability to adjudicate because of his wife's relationship with some one whose conduct was never called in question or came within the purview of the Committee's investigation.

If Mr. Johnston desires to make any headway in politics he will have to forget all the little tricks that may prove effective with an impressionable jury, and try to learn that the bulk of his colleagues on both sides of the House, are not hostile witnesses, though "only" farmers in his estimation, but are men of the highest class of intelligence and are not to be fooled by sophistry or demagogic play.

Is it too much to hope the Opposition leaders will profit by their blunderings of the present session? For if not, there will be only one conclusion to come to, namely, that they are hopelessly incompetent to lead.

MISLEADING, AT LEAST

In yesterday's Patriot, Mr. George E. Hughes states that he has "received from different school districts twenty petitions on the running of automobiles," and conveys the impression that these were directed against the measure that passed the House yesterday. Mr. Hughes knows perfectly well that this is not so. The petitions were for the most part from Prince County and bear unmistakable evidence of having been engineered by a single individual. The wording is identical in each instance and the forms were evidently sent out "ready-made" for the purpose of obtaining signatures. In the House, Mr. Hughes claimed having received all these petitions, and then when his attention was directed to the fact that the wording was identical and that the same quality of paper was used in each instance he denied having had anything to do with the matter. It certainly is something more than a mere coincidence that the petitions should have these marks of similarity, and also that they should be forwarded to the hon. the junior member for West River.

BRITISH OPINION ON AN ELECTION

"This is not the time to talk of convictions which divide us."—Rt. Hon. David Lloyd George.

"An election at the present time would paralyze Britain's efforts in the war."—Rt. Hon. Andrew Bonar Law.

"The task we have on hand is too formidable to permit of any distraction of mind or dispersion of energy by the nation. All other considerations must give way to the supreme necessity of united effort."—Manchester Guardian (Liberal).

"Any public man who at this moment nourishes any thought except that of waging war against the enemy by the most effective means should never be forgiven by his countrymen."—Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill.

The foregoing opinions of leading newspapers and public men of Great Britain should tend to sober some of the partisans in this country who are talking about forcing a general election. The same reasons that make the thought of a general election in Britain repugnant to British statesmen, exist in Canada. To detract the mind of this country from the terrible events now unfolding themselves in Europe by conflict at the polls, would be nothing short of treachery to our Allies and the Motherland, and a crime against our soldiers so ungrudgingly sacrificing themselves for us at the front. The supreme duty of every man in this country today is to shape his conduct in such manner as will help most to uphold our men in the trenches. The man who fails in this, whose thoughts are of the polling booths first and the trenches afterwards, is worse than an open enemy of his country.

NOTES

Patriotism does not consist merely in the waving of flags and the singing of songs. It means hard work and sacrifice. In this crisis of world economics, when every pound of food counts, one of the most effective acts of patriotism will be the planting of food crops. Every green spear and leaf waving in the breezes of 1917 will be a flag of patriotism. Let's get the little green flags waving.

Emperor William has been presented with a sword by the Sultan of Turkey, as a sign of "the loyal comradeship in arms." There is another sword, though not a welcome one, hanging over the recipient's head by a slender thread. The Emperor, it is safe to state, is thinking more of that weapon than of the ornamental present from his brother monarch in distress. It is a sharp blade with a vengeance.

EASTERN MAIL SERVICE

Sir—I write you to try and find out what is the cause of this delay and nuisance that is causing so much complaint and indignation in this district. When I explain it, I do not think anyone will be surprised that such is the case. The train runs Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday, so we get no mail from Thursday till Monday, four days, and even worse, the letters we mail Wednesday lie in the office till Saturday, don't leave the island till Monday, when these letters should be delivered in almost any part of the Dominion. Why not change the Tuesday train till Friday and then we would only miss a mail for a day at a time, and our letters would go to their destination without this delay. Those in charge of the railway must see this delay and we ask our representatives, Mr. McDonald and Harry McLean to see if they have this change take effect at once.

I am, Sir, etc., A. W. BRUCE.

SPEEDING UP CULTIVATION

Sir—I see the respective governments of Great Britain, France, the United States and Canada are urging their people to sow and plant every available inch of ground to raising cereals and vegetables, and while I think it is right to do so, there is a danger in this Province that the transportation facilities will not be equal to the amount of products that will be available for export. Take as an example last fall in the matter of potatoes, the serious loss to the farmers and shippers on account of the difficulties of exporting them. Our farmers are being urged to double the output of last season's crop, with less prospects at present of any better transportation facilities and the greater prospect of another congestion this Fall. The Charlottetown Board of Trade are to be commended for the action they have taken in endeavoring to have the gauge on the Island Railway widened, so it will be in a better position to cope with the increased traffic it will have to bear this Fall on account of the Montreal and Boston steamers being taken off their respective routes, and the Provincial Government and other Boards of Trade on the island should strongly support their claims.

Another matter which concerns our farmers perhaps as much as the transportation problem is this:—the Canadian Provinces can grow all the potatoes they require for themselves this season, where are our farmers to get a market for their surplus stock? If our farmer's plant, say double the acreage this Spring with seed from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per bushel and no market available outside the Province this Fall, will he be a serious competitor for them? Why cannot our Federal Government do as the Imperial Government is doing in Great Britain, guarantee the farmers so much per bushel, delivered at the nearest Railway Station. That will give the farmers encouragement to plant a large acreage and put the matter outside of a gambler's hands. The majority of farmers cannot afford to "brust" that some other who are better able to discuss this subject will take it up, and thanking you for your valuable space.

I am, Sir, etc., JOHN AGNEW, Charlottetown, April 24, 1917.

FOXY POLITICS

Sir—It is generally known that the two Liberals who have been chosen by the party to contest Queen's County in the next Dominion election have been canvassing for support in different parts of the County and giving the people to understand that a general election would take place this Spring or Summer. When they find the electors absent from their homes they, it appears, leave a card "requesting their vote and assistance at next Dominion election. This is the form of soliciting votes by those two "foxy" gentlemen will not avail much when the time comes for the electors to cast their votes. Many staunch Liberals who attended the big fox meeting in Charlottetown on the 19th inst., have since stated openly and emphatically that the Secretary of that Company would never receive their support and that a convention of the party should be held, and other men selected to contest the County in the interest of the Liberals. In the western part of the County his chosen colleague, of "Ingiewood" fox fame, is still more strongly denounced by his neighbors and former friends whom he and his company deluded into taking stock in that notorious company. If those political scoundrels were to devote more of their time to locating after their respective ranches and make an effort to pay their duped stockholders even a small dividend on their stock, they would gain more credit than by harassing disgusted electors for votes. In the meantime I would advise the Liberal electors of the County to meet at once and choose suitable men to contest the next election; otherwise they may as well allow the election to go by default. This is the candid opinion of an old supporter of the party.

I am, Sir, etc., HAMPTON.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. LOUSON.

A KIND WORD.

"How little it costs, if we give it a thought. To make happy some heart each day. Just one kind word, or a tender smile. As we go on our daily way."

Perchance a look will suffice to clear The cloud from a neighbor's face. And the press of a hand in sympathy A sorrowful tear efface.

It costs so little I wonder why We give so little thought? A smile, kind words, a glance, a touch What magic with them is wrought?"

COWARDLY HUNS TORPEDOED SHIP

LONDON, April 25.—The British hospital ships Donegal and Lanfranc, with many wounded aboard, have been torpedoed without warning. They were sunk on April 17. Of those on the Donegal, 29 wounded men and 12 of the crew, are missing. The Lanfranc carried German wounded, as well as British. Of those aboard, 19 British and 15 Germans are believed to have perished. The chancellor of the exchequer, Andrew Bonar Law, announced on April 19, in the House of Commons, that there had recently been further losses of British hospital ships, which would be published soon. Today the secretary of the admiralty issued the following statement:

"On the evening of April 17, the steamships Donegal and Lanfranc, while transporting wounded to British ports, were torpedoed without warning. The Donegal carried slightly wounded cases—all British. Of these, 29 men, as well as 12 of the crew, are missing and drowned.

"The Lanfranc, in addition to 234 wounded British officers and men, carried 167 wounded German prisoners, a medical personnel of 52 and a crew of 123. Of these, the following are missing and are presumed to have been drowned: Two wounded British officers, eleven wounded British other ranks, one Royal Army Medical Corps staff, five German officers and ten wounded German other ranks.

"One hundred and fifty-two wounded German prisoners were rescued by the British patrol vessels at the imminent risk of being themselves torpedoed.

"Owing to German practice of sinking hospital ships at sight and to the fact that distinctive marking and lighting of such vessels render them more conspicuous targets for German submarines, it has become no longer possible to distinguish our hospital ships in the customary manner. One of these ships, therefore, though carrying wounded, was not in any way outwardly distinguished as a hospital ship. The distinctive markings on the other had not been removed. Both were provided with an escort for protection."

The story of the sinking of the hospital ship Lanfranc will rank with the amazing histories of the Birkenhead and Tyndareus according to a British officer. The British soldiers stood at attention while the ship was slowly sinking beneath them. Their conduct was in marked contrast to that of the Prussian Guardsmen aboard, who in the moment of danger, rushed for the life-boats.

"The Lanfranc was attacked by a submarine about 7.30 o'clock Tuesday evening," said the officer. "The crash shook the liner violently, the explosion sending splinters of wood and glass flying in all directions. Within a few minutes the engines stopped and the vessel seemed to be sinking rapidly, but to our surprise she steadied herself, and after a while remained motionless. We had aboard prisoners of the Prussian Guard and many British wounded, including some serious cases.

"The moment the torpedo struck, the Prussians made a mad rush for life boats. When they were ordered to await their turn, many showed cowardice by dropping on their knees and imploring pity.

"The crew and staff went to their posts. The stretcher cases were lowered first to the boats, meanwhile, in response to distress calls many vessels came hurrying to our assistance. Even while wounded and helpless Tommies lay unaided in their cots the cowardly prisoners made another attempt and managed to crowd into a lifeboat, which, however, toppled over directly it was lowered. Then they fought with each other to reach another boat containing some gravely wounded.

GRUESOME STORY OF GERMAN BARBARITY

ROME, April 24.—Pope Benedict has been horrified and has expressed deep indignation over the reports of German's plan to render fats and fertilizers from the bodies of dead soldiers. According to the article printed today by the newspaper Informazione, reports have persisted that German efficiency has been utilizing the dead to supply oils, fats and fertilizers, so desperately needed in the Central Empires now.

FOUR TORPEDOES STRUCK THE CANADIAN

BOSTON, April 24.—Survivors of the British steamship Canadian, which was sunk by a German submarine off the East coast on April 4, were passengers on a steamer which arrived here from an English port today. They said that four torpedoes struck the steamship. Her captain, who remained on the bridge firing distress rockets after his men had taken to the boats, went down with the ship.

IN CASUALTY LIST

Mrs. Ruth Buchanan, 44, Edward street, city, has received a telegram dated April 24th, informing her that 112770, Pte. Thomas Buchanan, infantry, officially admitted fifth northern general hospital, April 11th, with gunshot wounds in the left arm and leg.

Mrs. Alex. D. Gillis, Grand View, has received a telegram that her brother, Officer, Recon Office, Ottawa, has, officially reported admitted to Australian General Hospital, Mimercaux, April 11th, suffering from a gunshot wound in left shoulder. Will send further particulars when received. Officer Recon Office, Ottawa.

"Have you tried the new Chocobatta? Its delicious. For sale at Beer & Goff's, 7019.

G. H. TAYLOR Jeweler. Get your standard R. R. 5 Position Watch from us. Our terms are liberal. Waltham, Elgin, and Hamilton.

SAXON "SIX" A Big Touring Car for Five People. Consider the many ways Saxon "Six" excels. It is not in one way alone that Saxon "Six" surpasses other cars. As nearly as can be estimated its endurance is somewhere around 20 p. c. greater than any other car in its class. In every phase of performance you'll find it matchless. In pulling power on hills and through heavy going, in high-gear work, and in acceleration it duplicates the ability of costly cars. By constant betterment the power-flow has been made smoother and more supple than ever before. And in achieving this continuous power-flow, vibration has been virtually eliminated. So that now Saxon "Six" has longer life—a greater period in which its efficiency remains unimpaired through wear. Saxon "Six" is \$1175 f. o. b., Windsor, Ont. W. K. ROGERS General Agent for P. E. Island. CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I. 174-4-26Mthst3j.

To The Public. We wish to announce to the farmers and our customers in general, that our Cash System, which we inaugurated on April 1st, is proving a tremendous success. showing in our different departments, enable the public to realize the advantage gained by paying CASH. Ladies' We wish to advise our lady patrons that our annual Spring Millinery Opening takes place in our show rooms on Saturday, April 7th. Our Milliners will take pleasure in showing you what is newest in hats, flowers, trimmings, etc., a splendid variety shown. Everybody cordially invited, and will be made most welcome. Two cars of woven wire fencing, and two cars of Robin Hood Flour, Bran and Middlings just arrived. We earnestly solicit the public to call and get our prices on these, also on all lines of groceries, and heavy goods, such as nails, shelf hardware and all kinds of building material. Highest prices paid for all kinds of farm produce, or anything the farmer has to sell. Estate James Kennedy Kensington