

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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REMUNERATIVE PROHIBITION

The Government in its Public Accounts modestly and unobtrusively acknowledged receipt of \$50,100 from the Prohibition Commission, and was suspiciously anxious that no questions should be asked. Questions however, were asked on the floor of the House and some very interesting information was elicited. Among other things we find that the total sale through the vendors amounted to \$175,777.81 which will be admitted to be pretty good business in a comparatively healthy and totally prohibitionist province. On this total sale of \$175,777.81 there was a clear profit of \$50,100 which profit was handed over to the government and duly and no doubt thankfully acknowledged. This net profit of 33 1/3 per cent, after paying all expenses, including very generous salaries to a manager, vendors and wholesalers, is enough to make our ordinary merchants turn green with envy or drive them into the drink business. They are content with a gross profit of 33 1/3 per cent out of which they must pay their clerks rent and other expenses and consider themselves lucky if they come out square at the end of the year.

Once upon a time, and not so long ago, temperance sentiment in this province looked upon profits from the liquor traffic as "blood money" "Judas money" and generally accursed. Has that sentiment become so diluted as to become a partner in a \$175,000 liquor business for the sake of an addition of \$50,000 to our revenue? The government is sheltering itself behind the Prohibition Commission. It declares it was the creation of the late government. It is quite true that the late government inaugurated the commission, for the double purpose of taking the temperance question out of politics and of suppressing as far as possible, the liquor traffic. That government never intended that the Commission should go into a wholesale and retail liquor business yielding an exorbitant revenue. Nor did the Commission ever expect to go into such a business. If they are in it now the province has a right to know how and why.

In the famous manifesto of Premier Bell, issued before the last election and published in daily issues of the Patriot during July, 1919, plank number 9 reads as follows: "All liquor imported for medical purposes to be inspected and analyzed and to be sold at actual cost. This pre-election joke has gone the way of many other planks in that platform and there is no reason why the government should be more ashamed of it than of the others, but if temperance sentiment in this province is not dead it must be so near it that even \$175,000 worth of liquor "imported for medical purposes", "inspected and analyzed and sold at actual cost cannot revive it, even if aided by the shock of a \$50,000 clear net profit in cash and nearly \$7,000 paid in salaries.

EXTREMES

Extremes are never trustworthy. When the pendulum swings in one direction it is just as certain to go the same extreme in the opposite direction. This has been proved to the hilt in the past few years in the matter of prices. Two years ago potatoes were selling at three dollars a bushel. Because of this extreme price the whole country went in for growing potatoes and as a result both Canada and the United States were filled with potatoes and the inevitable happened. Today potatoes so common that they do not even are not worth the hauling to market.

Current Comment

That wonderful deliverance of promised productivity — the budget speech is over, disappointing to the premier's friends and fully supporting the contentions of his opponents. Essentially it was a rebash of his address on the speech from the throne, with a few alterations made necessary by the Guardian's corrections of his former statements. He started out in an apparently bad temper, brought about by our exposure on that day of the more nearly correct financial state of the province as disclosed by the External Audit. Of course it is no difficulty for Premier Bell to exaggerate and mislead but we scarcely expected that his charge or temper would carry him to the extreme of making a statement that fifty thousand readers of this paper could and would promptly contradict. Referring to the \$2,000 short term loan Mr. Bell stated that the Guardian de liberately declared this to be a loan contracted by PRESENT GOVERNMENT, and vociferously charged this paper with sending this "FALSEHOOD ABROAD". Premier Bell had read the Guardian only that day, a few hours before he said these words. AND HE KNEW HE WAS MAKING A STATEMENT THAT WAS ABSOLUTELY UNTRUE. The Guardian neither said nor hinted at such a thing, but merely quoted, WITHOUT ADDITION OR COMMENT, the exact words of Mr. Coombs, the Bank of Montreal Manager, as they appeared on the face of the External Audit.

His first variation from his speech on the address was in the matter of that \$40,000 surplus which he had boasted of. The exposure of that exaggeration given him by the Guardian gave him such a mental pain that he didn't again venture within a thousand miles of repeating it, and so he abandoned the founding absolute. "There never was any foundation for it, not a figure in the Public Accounts even touching upon it, and fabrication would not therefore bear repeating. The next thing he switched away from was his boast that they had increased the teachers' salaries to the extent of \$80,000. Here again he responded to the calling down of the Guardian and took back water. But in doing so he jumped from the frying pan into the fire by putting forth the claim that "they had set aside THAT AMOUNT." But the Public Accounts don't happen to show this for any other amount "set aside" for any such purpose. Thus two of his most prominent boasts, uttered with a glibness of speech and circulated by his organ the Patriot broadcast over the country, he was obliged to abandon and practically admit that he had said the thing which is not.

GARDENING

At this time of the year preparation is usually made to begin gardening. To many people in town and country gardening is one of the greatest of pastimes; to others it is ordinary labor for a livelihood in either case it is one of the pleasantest occupations and profitable of the reverse according to the quality of the effort put forth. In the city the gardener is generally handicapped for room yet the field obtainable from a very small patch of land can be extraordinarily large. The remark has often been made that the capacity of an acre of land has never been measured. This is true also of fractions of an acre and there are few greater pleasures than that of hunting the maximum production of a piece of land be it ever so small. Judgment and some knowledge of plants and fertilizer will be necessary in order to get the best results but even for the amateur the search is exceedingly interesting and profitable from the view-point of education and culture if not from the remuneration point of view. There are a dozen varieties of vegetables that can be abundantly grown on a few square yards of ground; there are dozens of varieties of flowers that require but a few inches of soil; they are all useful and beautifying and their production affords healthful mental and physical exercise. Little kitchen and backyard gardens are increasing yearly in number and it is earnestly hoped that this spring will see many more of the unsightly waste spots converted into beauty spots that will yield pleasure and profit to their owners. The manager of the Experimental station will, we feel, assured be delighted to give the prospective amateur gardener pointers for a beginning.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Resolutions are the cheapest form that reform can assume and at the same time win coveted plaudits for the reformer or the resolutionist as the case may be. Resolutions unless followed up are valueless and they have become so common that they do not even bring credit to the resolutionist.

clear that it was not embodied in the Habitual account? We were referring to the Income Account AND THE BANK STATEMENT and Premier Bell's red herring does not cross this track. Even if we were to give him and the government the full benefit of this amount it would still leave them very badly in the hole. One of the strong pledges in his celebrated manifesto was to place the finances of the country in an understandable form before the people and if instead of dodging and camouflaging at every turn, they had pursued this straightforward course, they would not have been getting into those interminable scrapes. We are compelled to take the Accounts as we find them. It is all they give us and they must abide the consequences.

Mr. Bell's next evasion of fact was in the matter of unpaid accounts and his beating around the bush in this matter was really amusing. He never expected that hat these would be brought to light and the surprise bore heavily upon them. And his attempt to wobble out of the trouble was most ingenious. He commenced by asserting that this had been the case with all governments and proceeded to read the PUBLIC WORKS ACCOUNTS ONLY, commencing with 1912 and continuing on up to 1918, BUT THERE HE CAME TO A SUD DEN HALT. He didn't touch 1919 and why? Because that was the Arsenal year which would read for him the most bitter condemnation. For in that year, IN ORDER TO CREATE HIS BIG DEFICIT AGAINST THE LATE GOVERNMENT, he advertised "TOP" and raked and scraped up every account that he could lay hands upon and paid them up that he might charge them up to his predecessors. And that is why he did not touch on the Public Works unpaid accounts for 1919. And then he adroitly dropped the subject with the suggestion that there was uncollected revenue sufficient to offset this \$15,000. But it happened to be \$15,000 but \$15,000 and with equal adroitness he avoided touching upon the unpaid bills from all the other departments, as detailed in the Guardian and recorded in the report of the External Auditor. As Hon. Mr. Arsenault remarked, "It is easy to damn your opponents by telling half the truth."

Premier Bell uttered a sage truth when he declared that "We never can recall a falsehood that has been uttered and sent abroad." If he could only be induced to take this truth to heart; if he had only observed it even in the remainder of his address, how differently he would have appeared before the public? And yet with the next breath he started in to misrepresent and delaminate on his old time elaborate scale. He again jumped at the oft exploded \$232,000 deficit fabrication and this with his own estimates starting him in the face, PROVIDING FOR EXACTLY THE SAME AMOUNT OF INTEREST AS LAST YEAR, notwithstanding that beyond the possibility of cavil, as shown by the External Auditor, his own debt has increased over \$29,000. Are the banks giving him this \$232,000 free of interest? If not, how is the interest being paid? Wouldn't any fool understand that if such a deficit existed, the interest would have to be provided for? But the fact that they are not asking for interest to pay on this money, in their estimates, is conclusive proof that the alleged deficit is only on paper created out of the fertility of their wickedness.

Mr. Bell's next escapade was to repeat, with some modification

that bugaboo about increasing the teachers salaries \$86,000 extra last year. This figure was so completely knocked out by the Public Accounts which showed only an increase of about \$24,000, that he had to do some wobbling to try and squirm out of it. And his new found subterfuge was that they had "set aside" this amount, but it didn't work. About this time the coldness of the audience and the chilly absence of enthusiasm had so depressing an effect upon him, that he made an excursion into the regions of rhetoric, and soared aloft in a description, most sweetly pathetic, of how the people of the country were swinging back to their love of local Liberalism and congratulating them selves, with rejoicings, at the blessings and obligations they were under to this glorious and popular TAXATION Bill government. So jubilant did he appear for the transient moment that one might have almost anticipated an announcement of dissolution, so anxious was he to throw himself into the loving arms of the people. But this spurt being over, he reverted to his groppings in the surrounding gloom.

No Compliment to Nature.

BERNE, April 9.—The extreme scarcity of housing accommodation in Europe is causing the people to become cave dwellers again. In the Italian lakes district along Lakes Maggiore and Como, a number of people have dug themselves out dwellings in this romantic country and live with the utmost simplicity in them. Among them are people of very different social conditions and not artisans only. Some of them call themselves children of nature, and go about wearing sandals and sometimes as few clothes as the local police will permit. Some live on herbs, vegetables, and fruits, which are abundant and cheap in this district. They pay no taxes and, of course, no rent. For amusement they have a joint reading room.

But it isn't only in this warm climate that the cave dwellers are now found for even in Northern Switzerland they occur. Thus in Canton Aarau, workmen, despairing of finding a house or flat, have also taken to cave dwelling. The police have just discovered one such home which has been inhabited by two workmen for over six months. These caves are fitted with sleeping accommodations, cooking apparatus and washing arrangement. Here again no rent is paid and consequently there is no taxation. During the day the cave dwellers go and do their work in the field or factory as the case may be.

"Pussyfoot" Better

Prohibition Agitator to Go Abroad on April 16. COLUMBUS, O., April 8.—Fully recovered from the attack of bronchitis and laryngitis, which compelled him to abandon a western speaking tour while in Iowa, William E. "Pussyfoot" Johnson, internationally known prohibition worker, will go to Canada soon to all several speaking engagements before going abroad April 16, he said today. In Canada he will speak at Hamilton, Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, and Brantford. Dr. H. H. Russell, Westerville, Ohio, founder of the Anti-Saloon League, and Mr. Johnson, will sail for Liverpool April 16. They will tour Europe until July and then Mr. Johnson will go to India.

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. S. Louson

REMEMBRANCE

"A man that hath friends must show himself friendly and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." (Proverbs 18:24)

I want you to know you are never forgotten. That the old, old days hid in memory sweet Are still a part of my life that I cherish. Without them so much would be incomplete. And you are mixed up with so much I remember. Your name so often I utter in prayer. Never forgotten, on earth or in heaven. Always the child of God's tenderest care.

"I want you to know you are never forgotten. That my thoughts and my prayers are folding you round; Rest in His promises, go where He sends you. Do what He bids you, faithful be found. Look up and trust Him, a new year is dawning. Sorrow out your hand and take His today; Bought by Him, loved by Him, never forgotten, His in His heart forever and aye."

SILK For that Other Spring Gown. New coloring in Crepes and Taffetas. Luminous satins and Paillettes. For frocks, for blouses, for skirts, for sashes and millinery. These, in particular today: Crepe de Chines in Navy Taupe, Rose, Nigger, Pink, Apricot, Mais, Jade, Sand, Paon Blue, White and Black at \$1.95 and \$2.35 per yard. Duchess and Paillette Silks in all the popular shades at \$3.00 and \$2.00. Black Silks from \$2.15 to \$4.50. White Charmeuse, Crepe de Chene and Duchess Satin for the Spring Bride from \$1.95 to \$4.50. Patons Ltd.

GRAY DORT FACTS. Here are a few FACTS to think over when you are deciding the kind of car you are going to buy this spring. Gray Dort cars are extra strongly made—have over-size strength at every point—that is why you seldom see a Gray Dort in a repair garage. They stand up to the work, bad roads have no terrors for the man who drives a Gray Dort. The engine is so simple that a mechanic is very seldom needed. Gray Dort cars have proven by actual test to be most economical on gas and oil. 20 to 25 miles per gallon is the usual mileage. Very few cars can equal this and none exceed it. Gray Dort owners are given a perfect service. There are Gray Dort dealers and service stations at every important point in the Province, add we have a fully equipped service car and competent mechanics ready for any emergency. Gray Dort cars are NEVER tied up for parts—we have a complete stock on hand at all times. Gray Dort cars are medium weight cars—just the right kind for the roads we have on Prince Edward Island. They are roomy-comfortable and efficient. In a word Gray Dort cars LOOK GOOD, ARE GOOD, and STAY GOOD. Look them over—we are proud to show them. SHOW ROOM and SERVICE STATION 159 Queen St, Charlottetown. Phone, write, or call for demonstration. Selling agents R. E. WHITE Distributor for Prince Edward Island MacNutt & White, Charlottetown. Wright & Manson, Summerside. E. A. McRae, Alberton. N. J. Nicholson, Montague.