

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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BAGOT ELECTION

The bye-election in the county of Bagot, Quebec, takes place next Monday. It will be remembered that in the general election on October 29 Bagot returned a supporter of the King government with a majority of about 700 over his Conservative opponent, Mr. Fauteux.

The contest is being fiercely fought by both parties. The Conservative leader, the Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen has addressed several meetings and spent two days in the riding, accompanied by some of his leading lieutenants. It is somewhat significant that the Prime Minister has not so far visited the county and has taken no part in the campaign although some of his leading lieutenants are there, notably the Hon. P. J. A. Cardin, Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

Reasons are assigned for the absence of Premier King in the present campaign. It is said that Mr. Lapointe, the present leader of the Liberal party is anxious that the Premier should be heard in the riding and that Hon. Mr. Cardin does not. The latter, it is said is aspiring to the leadership of the party in Quebec and ultimately of the party in the Dominion. In any case he is leading the hunt at present and to his credit be it said, he is fighting it out on political, not personal lines.

The contest is being watched with keen interest by the province of Quebec and throughout the Dominion. Three recent provincial bye-elections in the province resulted in a draw, each party gaining and losing a seat respectively. The County of Bagot is one of the smallest constituencies in the province. It has been Liberal for the past 25 years and even remained Liberal in 1911 when the province went largely Conservative on the trade policy. Just how the election on Monday will turn out it would be useless to guess and even should it remain Liberal the result could scarcely be regarded as generally representative of political opinion in the whole province. On the other hand, should the Conservative be elected it would undoubtedly indicate strong antagonism to the Mackenzie King fiscal policy and disapproval of his administration. The constituency is largely rural and pretty well scattered but no doubt our dispatches on Monday night will give an approximate idea of the result.

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

What a riddle this old earth is! Year after year we have been digging millions upon millions of tons of coal out of its depths; pumping out of it millions upon millions of barrels of oil; gathering its electricity out of the air or the ether or wherever it is stored and harnessing it to our mills and our railways, and the old world keeps on going apparently regardless of our digging and pumping and tinkering.

ering.

Wonder how long the old world will hold out, how long it will retain that perfect balance which has enabled it to make its daily and yearly round, true to the second, for thousands, perhaps millions, of years. We have been mining coal in large quantities only a few hundred years but in that time we have converted into ashes and smoke enough coal to build a fair sized continent, yet, so far as can be ascertained the perfect balance of the earth has not been disturbed. We have been pumping oil for only a few years but in that time we have drawn out an ocean of oil. We have been manufacturing electricity for only a few years comparatively but we have in that time filled the earth and the heavens with it and the supply still holds.

Are we drawing from inexhaustible sources of supply? The coal supply is approximately measurable as its fields and their extent are pretty well known. Its removal from comparatively small portions of the earth's crust can only affect the earth's balance and that appears to be as true as it was when Galileo discovered that it was flying around the sun. Evidently there is nothing to fear from that source. The supply of raw material out of which electricity is produced is also apparently unlimited. Can we say as much about the oil supply? Can we continue indefinitely to milk the earth at the present rate of millions of barrels daily and that from every side of it? Is the oil factory in the bowels of the earth indefinitely and automatically self-sustaining and is the raw material out of which it is being made unlimited? And if the factory and the raw material have their limitations will the old earth miss its supply of oil when it is all or even nearly all pumped out?

We are not worrying about these things nor do we want to create any uneasiness as we have every confidence in this curious, limitless inexhaustible old earth of ours, but anybody may ask questions.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Everyone is now pretty well satisfied that Prince Edward Island weather cannot be beaten—when it is on its good behaviour.

All our surplus potatoes for fall shipment have been shipped away safely, no damage resulting from frost or any other cause. And the money is here too.

Governor's Island, at the entrance to Charlottetown Harbor, will probably henceforth be known as "The Island," while we must be content with the more prosy name of Prince Edward Island. In fact we were referred to, at the recent function there as "our neighboring province."

The Guardian has frequently referred to the manifest advantage to be derived from complete trade returns for this province. If we could "tell the world" with any degree of accuracy the value of the produce we export and of the merchandise we import it would be the biggest advertisement we could give of the province. At present while we get a fair idea of the value of our main exports such as grain, potatoes, hogs, dairy produce, &c., we are exporting, no account is taken or even attempted of the value of our miscellaneous shipments. As to the value of the goods, farm machinery, &c., entered for home consumption and use, we cannot even guess. Yet the information in both cases would be extremely valuable. A government bureau to collect and publish this information would cost but a trifle and the service would be invaluable.

Notes By The Way

There are strange contradictions and happenings in politics. But a short time ago the burden of the song in the Liberal press was that Hon. Mr. Meighen dare not go to Quebec, had been forbidden to do so in fact, and that the hostility toward him there was so great that when he passed through the French-speaking Province it had been necessary to keep the blinds down in his car lest the sight of him might lead to personal violence. That was during the general election campaign, in October last.

Of course such stories were untrue and were moreover a libel upon the good people of Quebec. But they gained a wide currency throughout the Dominion at the time. The Conservative leader had simply gone where he could do most good and the results of his tour through Ontario, the Maritimes, Manitoba and British Columbia amply justified his course. From causes arising out of the war and especially from conscription considered necessary by the war, Quebec had been hostile to the Conservative leaders and party, and had returned in successive elections a solid or almost solid Liberal representation.

The contrast is now apparent in the by-election in Bagot. Mr. Meighen has gone there to assist his former colleague, Hon. Mr. Fauteux, who is the Conservative candidate. He has addressed a number of meetings, at which he has addressed the electors in both the French and English languages and has been well and favorably received. The Conservative women electors of Bagot presented him with a complimentary address. And Mr. Meighen informed these good ladies that Quebec had given him the best of gifts in his wife, who was born in that Province.

Moreover, as he further disclosed, his son is now being educated in Quebec in order that he may be able to speak both French and English and not be under the handicap which has proved troublesome to so many public men. It is easy to see that in speaking thus intimately and familiarly to those whom he addressed, Mr. Meighen was able to establish a bond of sympathy and good will which may produce good results in future years whatever the immediate effect may be.

The Guardian's despatches speak hopefully of the Conservative candidate's chances in Bagot. It would be a notable victory should he succeed in a riding which has been Liberal continuously for over twenty years past. On the other hand it would not be greatly disappointing if the Government candidate should be returned, in view of the general attitude of the Province since the war. It would be idle to predict the result at this distance.

One of the strange anomalies of politics is that it is Premier King and not Mr. Meighen who is now missing from the political battlefield. It is not stated that he has been forbidden to appear in Bagot, but we presume that, like Mr. Meighen in October, the Premier feels that were he to appear on the scene and address the electors it would not help to elect the ministerial candidate. In politics as in other affairs "there is nothing succeeds like success." Mr. King as a defeated candidate and the leader of a shattered Government has lost any prestige he hitherto had in Quebec.

The Quebec people now realize that east of the Lakes their Province is politically isolated, while the west is unsympathetic toward French Canadian aspirations. They never had much love for Mackenzie King, whom they made leader in 1919 as a stop-gap for the time, but whom they have found sadly disappointing during the four years that he has held power. They are now in a position to reconsider the situation calmly in all its bearings.

The isolation of Quebec is not favorably regarded at home. The mistake made in 1919 is painfully apparent. And after all Mr. Meighen does not now appear to be the heartless enemy of Quebec that he has been represented to be. Hence a reaction in favor of the Conservative party and toward confidence and trust in Mr. Meighen as its leader is now due and overdue. There are hopeful indications that such reaction may be realized in the not distant future, whether Bagot is or is not just now to be transferred to the Conservative column.

When is a football like a freshly caught fish? When is it in the net.

That Body of Ours

By James W. Barton, M.D. A POINT ABOUT CANCER.

Our research men tell us that there is really no chemical difference between normal cells and cancer cells. That is insofar as they have been able to demonstrate by experiments. Cells taken from a cancer in the thyroid gland in the neck were able to do the same work as the normal cells, that is to manufacture the same juice as the normal glands, and to store iodine in a similar manner.

The coloring matter or pigment manufactured by liver cells was likewise manufactured by the cancer cells found in the liver. Your physiology taught you that the ordinary cells in the body will not grow or perform their work unless they are supplied with oxygen from the blood. In other words in order that any work can be performed there must be a burning of something, oxidation.

A European scientist now tells us that this does not apply to cancer cells. They seem to be able to increase in size and number without any oxygen supply.

This does not mean that they do not multiply in the presence of oxygen, but that they multiply whether or not there is an oxygen supply.

Cohnheim taught us many years ago that cancers were just groups of cells that should have been developed before we were born, but lay undeveloped until something irritated them, and then they started to make up for lost time—forty years or more—and hence the tremendous growth.

That the cancer cells are able to make a short cut to growth and development by being able to do without oxygen is a most interesting theory.

What about this for you? That the old saying "cancer does not start in sound tissue" is worth remembering.

Something about you, perhaps you hereditarily, perhaps your habits, gives cancer its start. See your doctor about any and every kind of lump or irritation.

December 4, 1925. THE GOLDEN RULE.—As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them, Luke 6: 31. PRAYER.—Lord, help us to make Thee the standard of our life, and then we ever will love aright and serve aright every one else.

What a world of deep sweetness There is in the tone That comes to us kindly When weary and long; Unweary with the laurel, What rest could we find If love never cheered us, With words that are kind.

The floating of music When morning is bright May fall on the spirit, Like droppings of light, For, O, they are pleasant—The hymns of the birds; But never, no, never, So sweet as kind words.

I've sat at the window Of twilight's short wing, And dreamed about angels, And songs that they sing, They're lovely—such visions, By fancy combined, But, O, how much sweeter Are words that are kind.

O, thou, who are favored With fortune and friends, In whose cup of gladness No bitter drop blends; Wherever the tempter Is spreading his snare, Remember, I charge thee, Thy brother is there, And though all degraded, And sinful and blind, Thou yet may'st redeem him With words that are kind.

WITH THE JESTERS. The flames poured out from the smoke-blackened windows, and the little knot of people clustered together below gave a gasp of astonishment as they saw a huffy fireman emerge from the window carrying a woman in his arms.

But as the gallant man stepped on to the ladder and attempted to descend he slipped and fell to the ground. The woman landed safely but heavily on the prostrate hero. The doctor hastened to the scene. "You're a very brave man!" he cried addressing the fireman. "Brave, begorra, but no gentleman," said Patrick, rubbing his bruised limbs, "or I'd 'a' let the woman go first!"

The Rise Of Canada

The following address was delivered by Sir John Willison, K. B., LL.D., President, Municipal Bankers' Corporation, Toronto, Ont., at the Nineteenth Annual Convention of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents in New York City yesterday morning, December 3.

There is no fair basis of comparison between the growth of the United States and that of Canada or between any achievement of the Republic as related to any achievement of the Dominion. This great commonwealth of States was founded nearly 150 years ago. For more than a century the United States shut Canada out of the eyes of Europe. The Old World knew that the thirteen colonies had organized as a new nation in a New World and proclaimed a new gospel of freedom. To the Old World the British North American Provinces were a land of ice and snow, of deep forests and sterile plains. Down to 1867 Canada was a group of scattered disunited and comparatively unimportant colonies. The adoption of a constitution does not of itself make a nation. It takes time to develop national spirit and national cohesion. We had no West until 1870 and no railway connection with the Pacific until 1885. We still had to destroy the legend that the West was unfit for human habitation and must be reserved for the hunt and the trap. For thirty years we have had physical unity, but perhaps not even yet have we full unity of spirit. It is true that again and again we have cherished expectations that have not been realized. In comparison with the United States, for reasons which have been suggested, our growth in wealth and population has been retarded. For this result we may have some responsibility but in the main it was inevitable. But if we have not made as much progress as was expected, when we think of all that has been overcome we realize that the story is one of fine endeavor and solid achievement.

One thing that has been settled is the political destiny of Canada. The Province, united in 1867 under a common government, will not separate from one another nor from the Mother Country. Sir Wilfrid Laurier once said of the British Empire, "You can discuss problems of improvement; there is no occasion to discuss problems of existence." We could not from considerations of self-respect alone seek admission to the United States. We are not ourselves more than half a century ago to make a nation. To confess failure would be to deny to Canadians in their own country the qualities which they exhibit in every other country. We could join the United States only as a defeated and conquered people, defeated by our own inability to work together for common purposes, conquered by want of faith in ourselves and lack of confidence in resources and opportunities which the gods might covet.

The name of Canadian would lose its place of honor in the world and all that was won by sacrifice and endurance on Old World battlefields would have a lessened significance if not be utterly thrown away. Even Americans, who now hold us in respect, would think of us, if we sought absorption in the Republic, as a people who were unequal to their destiny and as a subject race in the American family.

The Canadian national experiment would go down to posterity as the great failure of human history and those responsible for the failure as a spineless and futile generation. Fortunately, however, we face no such prospect nor are we required to make any such decision. As our public men tell us so often, we are a nation and shall continue to be a nation, forever increasing in confidence, in unity, in strength and in dignity, in respect and goodwill of our American neighbors who wish us well and treat us well and in influence and authority in the British Commonwealth.

What then is the immediate outlook for Canada? The figures of trade for 9,000,000 people are impressive and commanding. In 1901, as pointed out by Sir Thomas White, for ten years Minister of Finance in Canada, the total annual production of the Dominion was valued at \$1,000,000,000 in 1910 at \$2,000,000,000 and in 1923 at \$4,000,000,000, for 1924 the estimate is \$4,500,000,000. The volume of external trade as represented by imports and exports has increased sixfold since 1900 and the savings of the people sevenfold in the same period. No doubt these figures must be considered in relation to changing prices and occasional exceptional conditions but they nevertheless represent a steady and encouraging growth in the trade and wealth of the Dominion. It is true that the Great War laid very heavy obligations upon the Canadian people. When the war came the national debt was \$360,000,000, it is now nearly two and a half billions, when the aggregate net debt of the Provinces is estimated at \$650,000,000. But the greater portion of our national, provincial and municipal indebtedness is owing to Canadian investors and therefore the obligation is by no means so onerous as if the securities had been held abroad. We have, too, annual deficits on the National Railway System of \$55,000,000 which make reduction of debt and expenditure a difficult problem for governments. But there is every ground for confidence that the deficits will decrease with increase of immigration extension of settlement and growth of towns and cities and that a great railway system built with cheap money may become ultimately a very valuable national asset. No doubt it is true that the man who makes two blades of grass grow where one grew before is a benefactor of his kind but there is less to be said for governments which build three railroads where two are more than enough.

A year or two ago a representative of Minnesota laid before the Convention a statement in behalf of Western American wheat growers. He declared that when the yield per acre in the spring wheat area of the United States and in Canada was applied to figures of cost per acre, the greatly higher cost per bushel in the United States became apparent. "The average yield," he said, "in the three Provinces of Canada, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, in 1923, is 20 1/2 bushels per acre. The average yield in Minnesota North Dakota and South Dakota, and Montana is 9 1/2 bushels per acre. If the cost of production per acre were the same in both countries the cost per bushel in this country would be more than 100 per cent higher than the cost of production in Canada. There may be in this the flavor of the advocate who desires to have maintained or increased the duty on wheat from Canada but even if that be admitted the figures have significance.

There is a great and increasing production of grain in the Canadian Prairie Provinces, there are vast grain areas still unutilized and there is the likelihood that wheat prices will not fall again in this generation to the level of fifteen or twenty years ago. It must be remembered, too, that in ten years the United States will have added ten or twelve millions to its population that its food production may not then exceed the home demand and that a great competitor of the farmers of Canada in export market will have disappeared. Mr. Collidge said not long ago, "We are not nearly a generation ahead of the time when the United States will witness a reversal of its relation to world agriculture." "In a very few years," he said, "the natural increase of our population and the inevitable tendency to industrialization will place us among the nations producing a deficit rather than a surplus of agricultural staples." He added "We were fairly on the verge of that condition when the World War gave a temporary and artificial stimulation to agriculture which ultimately brought disastrous consequences. He was convinced that in wheat and most production the scales must soon turn against the United States. "We shall be," he said, "not only an agricultural importing nation but in the lives of many who are now among us we are likely to be one of the greatest of the agricultural buying nations."

It may be said that Russia will have recovered and that its contribution of food supplies to Europe will at least offset any decline in American exports. But Russia has an enormous population and whatever else may come of the revolution it does seem likely that a freer and happier people will finally emerge with a higher standard of living and a greater home demand for Russian products. Distance gives Canada an advantage over Australia, and we should be able to hold our present relative position in competition with the Argentine Republic.

In 1923 there were exported through Vancouver alone 770,000 bushels of wheat to China and 2,510,000 bushels to Japan. In the following year exports to China increased to 2,526,000 bushels and to Japan to 7,558,000 bushels. During the same period exports of flour to Hong Kong increased from 99,000 barrels to 303,000 barrels and to China from 270,000 barrels to 544,000. China itself is a great wheat growing country. But notwithstanding this there is an increasing import from abroad. This increase is attributed partly to greater cost of rice and partly to the change in the taste of the people. There is great room for expansion in a population of over 400,000,000 which has hitherto consumed about two bushels of wheat per head compared with six bushels per head in Great Britain. All this means that Canadian wheat and other food products should secure a more commanding position in the West should we steadily enlarge and that through diminished prices should be maintained. It means, too, that Canadian farm lands will increase in value and the Dominion become still more attractive to house-seekers from other countries.

Again, as one looks around the world and remembers that the United States has adopted a policy toward immigration which approaches exclusion one realizes that only two countries remain which are likely to find high favor with British people. These are Canada and Australia. There will no doubt still be a movement of population to the Argentine, but who doubts that British people will desire to go where their own language is spoken? There never has been any great outward movement of British people to any countries save the United States and the Dominions and unquestionably Canada and Australia will have far larger populations if the United States for more than a century had not kept an open door for the people of Great Britain and Europe. Moreover for the first time Great Britain is encouraging and even subsidizing emigration to the Dominions, not necessarily out of sheer concern for the Dominions, but because of onerous domestic conditions compel the Old Country to find homes elsewhere for a portion of its surplus population. These are vital facts of the situation and one cannot but think the time will soon come when the growth of population in Canada will be as great and conceivably greater than we may desire.

There are, too, increasing evidences that the policy of inter-imperial preferences will become the accepted policy of the Empire. The Baldwin Government manifestly is going as far as its pledges to the electors of the United Kingdom will permit to give advantages to the Dominions. There is a division in Labor over Preference and Protection. There does not seem to be any other adequate remedy for unemployment in Great Britain than a tariff which will give some protection against the inflow of foreign goods and enable the Imperial Government to bargain for

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