

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 1920.

EAST AND WEST.

Whether the North American climate is changing or not it is certain that the past winter and the present spring have made a record, particularly in Western Canada. In "Sunny Alberta" where usually genial spring weather sets in along the end of March, winter still lingers. On May 1st and 2nd a snow-storm again covered the earth and with a six-inch blanket of snow. This following an exceptionally severe winter during which thousands of cattle died of starvation is going to change the complexion of that once favored province and dim its glory as a paradise for eastern farmers.

In our own province the spring is somewhat, though not exceptionally, late and seeding will be underway by the middle of the month with an abundance of moisture in the ground and the usual promise of a good harvest.

Although all the western provinces have not fared as badly as Alberta, a measure of uncertainty hangs over them all. If a whole section escapes a general famine because of drought or excessive rain, any portion of it is liable to be mopped up by a hail-storm or cyclone or other catastrophe.

"THE BIG DISCREPANCY."

Under the caption "The Big Discrepancy," the Patriot states that the Arsenault government had estimated the expenditure for the year 1919 at \$527,423, and that the actual expenditure up to Dec. 31, 1919, was \$739,281.05 leaving a shortage of \$211,858.05.

When the Arsenault government made this estimate it did not know that the Bell government was going to do the spending for the last four months of the year, nor does the Patriot think it wise to acquaint its readers with the fact that the Bell government actually did spend \$172,041 of it during these four months. Nor does it think it necessary to inform its readers that the collection of taxes was stopped early in the career of the Bell government, doubtless to enable the Patriot to announce a "big discrepancy" between revenue and expenditure. These and other little items which the Patriot might, if it would, orate learnedly upon, such as the fact that, last year, the teachers were paid for thirteen months, which will reduce the present year's payments to eleven months. Nor does it mention the fact that the Arsenault government had purchased the supplies for the full year, including the four months of the Bell regime. The External Audit for these last four months, promised but not yet submitted, will tell a little more about the "big discrepancy."

THE PATRIOT "PUZZLED."

"In common with many, we have long wondered what is the object, what the end the Guardian has had and still has in view in its editorials, its comments and its made-in-the-office correspondence with regard to provincial finances. It has been a puzzle to us, as it has been to others." Patriot, May 10, 1920.

The Patriot's self-confessed density is refreshing; we have had no complaints from the "others" and we have good reason to believe that they thoroughly understand "the end the Guardian has had and still has in view in its editorials." In any case the Guardian has made and is making itself so clear on the points at issue that the Patriot has studiously avoided them while it raises "straw-men" to be knocked down with appropriate circumlocution and pretended honesty. The Guardian has not, as the Patriot in its admitted density asserts, given "its readers to understand that the present revenues are or ought to be sufficient to meet all ordinary disbursements as well as to provide for the additional and extraordinary expenditures which it advocates." The Patriot's memory is short, which, coupled with its self-confessed density, makes it say ridiculous things. It was the Patriot and the party whose organ it is that claimed the present revenues "are or ought to be sufficient" etc. This, the Patriot, if it were possessed of more intelligence and endowed with a better memory and a little more honesty would not seek to conceal.

If, by "made-in-the-office correspondence" the Patriot means such letters as that of Principal Seaman, who showed how egregiously the Liberal leaders erred in their estimate of the increased cost of education under the new Liberal programme, or Taxpayer or any others of the letters in recent issues of the Guardian and which fell like bombshells in the Liberal ranks, we can only tell the Patriot it has missed its guess. The Patriot may have intimate knowledge of "made-in-the-office" correspondence; the Guardian has never found it necessary to descend to such.

The Patriot promises to return to the subject in another issue. When it does we trust it will deal with it more intelligently and more consistently. The "opinions" in the Guardian which "puzzle" the Patriot are "opinions" which are not expressed in the Guardian but in the fertile or infertile brain behind the Patriot. It is too late in the day for the Patriot to pretend it does not understand what the Guardian is driving at, what the people throughout the province are driving at. The people are indignant over the shameless manner in which they have been misled and the, if possible, still more shameless manner in which the Patriot, the recognized organ of the party, is now "rubbing it in," in pretended innocence or in ignorance. The Patriot understands all right, so do the people.

CURRENT COMMENT

"For the sake of comparison" the Patriot points out that a half section of land in Saskatchewan would have to pay \$234 taxes. Comparisons are sometimes odious. We fear that there are some Liberals who will never be able to realize that in Heaven there are no taxes at all. It may also surprise them to learn that there are places on earth free from taxation. A half section of land in Saskatchewan consists of 320 acres. This will produce a wheat crop, at present prices, of about \$200,000 per year. It requires no hoeing or weeding, no Paris green, lead arsenates or sprays, just the planting in spring and the reaping at harvest, and no outlay for manure estimated for at least thirty years to come. But where the Patriot's boomerang rebounds in this case with telling force is in the fact, that that half section represents three of four island farms which under the new TAXATION ACT will be exceedingly fortunate if it escape with only \$234 taxes. And this notwithstanding the fact that with the hardest of labor, their land will not produce half the net income of the western farmer's half section.

Unless squandering goes on at an unparalleled pace, with this enormous taxation, it will be impossible to avoid an unreasonably big surplus. We propose going to Ottawa for a readjustment of our subsidies. What effect will a revenue out of proportion to our requirements have upon the Federal Government when we present our claims? Formerly we could urge that our housekeeping needs required funds which could not be collected from an already overtaxed people. The opportunist will answer that in a matter of right we don't need to plead imppecunily. But it is a popular plea, used by all the provinces and to a considerable extent effective in results. With moneys at our disposal, in larger quantity than we need or can economically and properly expend, our delegates are the more likely to get the cold shoulder when they make their application. It was the distinct promise of the Bell aggregation that these Ottawa claims would be collected, and no taxation imposed. This TAXATION ACT is an evidence upon



its face that they have not the remotest intention or expectation of realizing a dollar from this source, and they are legislating to prevent their successors from recovering the amounts due us.

A vicious principle of taxation, and one which will prove most destructive to industrial enterprise, is the special imposition upon cooperative effort. Ten fox holders, each liable for one percent income

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. S. Louison THE PRINTED PAGE

The power of propaganda is now universally recognized as an influence of almost irresistible force. Take the newspaper. A fine testimony was given the other day at a conference to the part played by newspapers in the recent world conflict. The speaker declared that God is communicating with the people through newspapers and magazines. I am amazed at how the newspapers and magazines in the last five years have expounded the principle of justice from the Word of God. In this period more material of this character has appeared in the newspapers and magazines than in the fifty or one hundred years previous. The Churches will do well to avail themselves of every opportunity of spreading the truths they hold, through the medium of newspapers and magazines. Whether by newspaper or magazine, or tract, or booklet, or book, or by the Bible itself, the truths of God as the basis of life, or as the source of moral purity and power, can be and should be distributed far and wide. This method will do much to bring about those spiritual results for which every Church and every individual Christian longs and prays and labors.

tax, for greater efficiency amalgamates into one company. Following this amalgamation their incomes combined into one comes under a ten per cent rate. It will slash most unmercifully into our popular farmers co-operative institutions. Under ordinary conditions an egg circle would pay the minimum of one per cent. Amalgamated into one larger corporation they are fleeced at the maximum ten per cent rate. The same principle applies to combined business effort of every nature. A still more unjust feature is in the maximum alternative clause. A fox company for instance in a successful year has an income of \$20,000 or over. This being most favourable to the Government a ten per cent income tax is collected. Next year it has no pups and has no income whatever. Our bright paternal rulers will not accept their reasonable portion of this set back and loss. They must have their pound of flesh, and the shareholders are required to dig down in their pockets and pay instead, one half of one per cent on the capital value of the stock of foxes, and one the value of the ranch. Even worse than this. If the income tax amounts to more than the half per cent, on valuation, then they must have the tax from income, but if otherwise, then you must ante up the property rate. This grasping principle applies to both corporations and individuals. If you meet with business failures and reverses the whole loss must be yours. It is not unlike some unscrupulous landlords during the great famine in Ireland. The pigs of their tenants had to be fed to pay the rents though the children starved. If our fox companies, business houses or corporations fail to earn an income, the Government must be fattened, even if it takes the bread from the children's mouths.

It looks as if there are two jokers in the Patriot office. We supposed there was only one. Monday's issue, under the heading "THE OBJECT" is varied from its characteristic flippant style to an extent to betray a new wind pump on the job. Has their dire extremity induced the "Macedonian Cry," and a piteous appeal for help? And how amusing! This is its bluff now. The Guardian "has been a puzzle to us," "the gist of all its articles may be summarized, as a DEMAND FOR INCREASED EXPENDITURE." What kind of goggles does the Government Jester wear? Guff of this kind is too ridiculous even to pass as a joke. Just meditate a moment. Our demands for economy and careful husbanding of the public revenues it calls a "demand for increased expenditure." And the Bell organ adds, it gives its readers to understand that the present revenues, are or ought to be sufficient to meet all ordinary disbursements as well as to provide for the additional and extraordinary expenditure which it advocates. The Patriot reads the Guardian daily. If it does not it should do so before getting off such empty nonsensical bluster.

The Guardian has not advocated increased expenditure of any kind, nature or description, without also advocating increased taxation to meet it. We have advocated a living wage for our teachers, and an additional tax to meet that extra cost. We have maintained that with over \$100,000 of extra revenue from Prohibition, which the Arsenault Government did not have, and a large amount of uncollected revenue carried over from last year for the purpose of bolstering up a false deficit to discredit the late government, and with less need of expenditure because of permanent roads and bridges to be built on capital account, there is no need of an enormous tax bill which can be manipulated to extract half a million dollars out of the people's pocket during the coming year. There is no need on our part of advocating "the rearing of a pyramid of debt," nor have we reason for keeping the suggestion "carefully in the background." Debt raisers of the highest class are now on the job. In addition to their enormous taxation measures, they have already passed a bill to add a quarter of a million dollars to the debt of the Province. And before they leave office there is every prospect of another quarter million being added. Ye gods! The Patriot or anything Liberal to talk of Debt!

THE PUBLIC FORUM

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

The Teachers' Cause

Sir:—I have already furnished one article re Teachers' salaries and it is my intention to continue on with the hope of helping to rally all the teachers to the ranks for a genuine forward movement. I hope to hear of a meeting of all teachers called pretty soon. I think that was the decision of the last meeting. Never before has the teaching profession received such a slap as it has from the present government. Just ponder for a moment, teachers, and sane rate-payers, on the present situation. Just consider seriously the awful abyss over which our educational tower is leaning. What avails the great March conference, where the brainiest element of the province irrespective of creeds, or politics, had gathered to bring pressure to bear in the hope of bettering our schools. All to naught! Well might the public suspect that the framers of the present School Bill, had other interests than the welfare of the bright boy or the gentle little girl in whom the father and mother have placed all their hopes. You parents, your mission on earth is a happy one, for your hearts overflow with joy at the prospect of the future career of your dear children. Your daily anxieties; your overburdened nerves, your persistent cares over them, all blind in ecstasies of joy when you behold your dear little lad and lassie running home from school. We teachers can share in your parental solicitude. Remember the real factor in adequate salaries which is the advantage you will have in selecting good teachers. As it is at present, you have to confide your children to the first teacher who offers his service. Adequate salaries would overcrowd the now depleted ranks of teachers, competition among teachers would be keen, with the result that your children would reap a hundred fold, little sacrifice we teachers are asking you to make. Let us teachers remember we are heart and hand in sympathy with the parents.

The public have clearly shown this sympathy for the teacher, when they elected a government that promised to greatly increase our salaries. The public sentiment in our favor was again clearly shown by the great conference at Charlottetown. We teachers are confident that it is for the best interests of the province that we demand and receive our rights. But alas for those in whose hands was the power to change the situation. Well might the greater number of these step out from their present

official duties and with a supply of school books take their seat before the teacher whom they are now scorning. In conclusion I would urge all teachers to express their views publicly so that the public may learn the minds of the teachers. I am, Sir, etc. UNION TEACHER.

A Wonderful Bridge

Sir:—The bridge in this locality was rendered impassible in March last by a freshet. The people in the vicinity notified their most esteemed roadmaster, Mr. Edward Walsh, who came promptly, and employed a number of men to build a temporary bridge across the stream. They considered the undertaking quite dangerous as they would have to work some forty feet below the main bridge. After some consideration, some of the most courageous of them ventured to descend, while the more timid took to the woods to procure lumber. They brought out half a cord of saplings and three spruce poles, 16 feet long and about four inches in diameter. With this lumber they constructed the great bridge. The first man who came to pass over, after viewing it with considerable apprehension, finally decided to make the attempt but not being a miner accustomed to descend in perilous shafts, he landed crossways in the stream instead of on the opposite shore.

The people residing on Peake's Road, east of this stream, had produced to haul to market, and found it necessary to repair the old bridge. Two men volunteered to do the work. They took the little platform off the stream, and put it on the old bridge. It took them two hours to do the job. Next day the people began hauling their produce to Peake's Station over the old bridge, but the job-seekers again notified Mr. Walsh. He came to their call, and ordered the pits he had so closely trained to destroy the structure, and replace the platform on the stream below.

The man who came near losing his horses and his own life, built a passage over the old bridge for his own convenience. The people are also using their old bridge but Mr. Walsh still "takes the law" via the platform. While the precariousness of travel by this double causeway is a consideration, the cost also is something to be considered and it is said that the load of saplings and the three poles above referred to cost something like \$20. It would be interesting to know what the temporary bridge down below cost in cash, not reckoning the risk. Possibly the information could be secured by a question on the order paper in the Legislature. I am Sir, &c. Peakes Road, May 9.

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