

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded 1887) 60.00 per year (delivered) in advance... Mr. Charles Daites, President... J. H. Burnett, Editor and Publisher...

Friday, March 26th, being Good Friday and a statutory holiday the Morning Guardian will not be published on Saturday morning.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1921

ANOTHER TELLING SPEECH

To those who have heard or read the self glorifying speeches of the various members of the government during the debate on the address, the speech of Mr. J. D. Stewart published elsewhere in this issue will come as a welcome change, not because it is mainly a criticism of the government and an exposure of the Liberal party's pre-election misrepresentations...

hind the Government's efforts to extort favors or rights from the Dominion Government there is a ways lurking in the shadow of a hope that the favor or the right shall be refused in order to afford further opportunities for fault-finding... Long before Hon. G. F. Hughes introduced his resolution on Tuesday to re-affirm the resolution of last session on this question it was known that the Charlottetown and Summerside Boards of Trade and Messrs Kennedy and Messervy had been moving in the matter and, if the Bell government ought to know anything that these Boards and these gentlemen have far more influence at Ottawa than the Bell Government has...

A REGRETTABLE FALLING OFF

Yesterday in the course of an article on another subject, we referred incidentally to the falling off in the number of children attending school as compared with a number of years ago. The comparison was made between the years 1888 and 1920. In the former year the number of pupils enrolled was 22,478 while in 1920, the number was 17,354, a decrease in 32 years of 5,124. Since the date mentioned the decline has been continuous until the figures quoted for 1920 were reached. The figures probably show a continuous decline in population; probably also they indicate that more children are being withdrawn from school at an earlier age than formerly; they undoubtedly indicate that families are steadily growing smaller...

This is one of the Island's growing misfortunes. Too many of our young people leave the country for the city, here or elsewhere; too many of our young men remain on the father's farm without any opportunity of making a home of their own until after the father's death, when the time for home making has gone by; too many put off the home making until they can afford to begin housekeeping where their parents left off; and as the tragedy of childless homes continues and so our population continues to decline.

There is room for hope that the falling off in population since the last census year will not be as great as that between 1901 and 1911, when it declined by nearly ten thousand. This will be revealed by the census about to be taken next June.

QUESTIONABLE ANXIETY

The anxiety of the Bell Government regarding the standardization of the Prince Edward Island Railway is really pathetic. Whether this anxiety is actuated by a patriotic desire to promote the interests of the Province or of the party is a fruitful topic for speculation. One thing, however, is very evident, namely that the Government's method of attack upon Ottawa authorities is not conducive to successful achievement. Theists has been taken off the stage...

CURRENT COMMENT

From the standpoint of purely provincial interest the address of Mr. Peter Brodie, was, beyond doubt, the brainiest deliverance from the Government side of the House. The difference between him and others was that instead of laudation of the Government and abuse of the Guardian he devoted his time to the discussion of important public issues. With regard to the indemnity question he had not changed his mind. Without holding that taxation was unnecessary, or that members were not worth the \$500, still he had accepted the position on those terms and saw no reason why he should increase it at the taxpayers expense, and having told the country that taxation was not necessary, even after they had found out that they were needed, he thought they should not have gone so far without the people's consent. He approved of the Dominion Government road system, which was being carried out by the Bell Government, but felt that outlying districts, aside from main roads, should participate in the benefits. The Poll tax he looked upon as in the nature of a hardship, and indulged the hope that it would be reduced to two dollars. Mr. Arsenault's suggestion to certain members to "Put their coats on," he misinterpreted as being "boots on," whereon a government member made the thrust "What size do you take?"

Discussing education, he compared our school readers, which are unchanged in the last fifty years, with those in the schools of Switzerland, Denmark and Holland.

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

MY FATHER KNOWS

By HERBERT SIMMONS

My Father knows what things I need, 'Tis better so; Of every trouble I takes heed, Though rough winds blow; They cannot harm, for at His side, Still pleads the Lord, once crucified, Yes, pleads for me, Oh precious thought! His promise, 'I'll forsake thee not' Shall tune my song; So, gladly singing, on I go, Content to let my Father know.

And though the years bring toil and care, I need not fear, For God my daily load will bear, And still be near; My greatest joy, in all life's woes, The precious truth, "My Father knows."

TO BE KEPT

"Keep going." There are no more cowardly words than "give up." "Keep your head." Train your thoughts as soldiers are trained, not to fly into a panic and scatter helplessly in the hour of peril, and difficulty but, to be firm, collected, alert ready to fight a way through. "Keep clean." Let no seeming obstacle persuade you that your path must diverge, even for a few steps, into the mire. There is a clean way to everything worth having. "Keep faith." Above and beyond all else, keep faith; faith in the fatherhood of God, in the loving, tender presence of Christ, in the overruling of the Almighty, and the final triumph of right.—Selected.

and when she awakes to real peace her dream of world domination will have been forgotten. In Great Britain peace and the love of peace still dominate in spite of warring and disturbing elements. Political unrest has shaken the coalition government which carried the empire safely through the storm of war, but, whether the present political crisis results in a return to the party system or in a continuance of unionism, the sound, practical, healthful sense of the great majority may be depended upon to permit no unrest or agitation to endanger the national life. The world storm will pass, as other storms have passed, and calm and peace will follow. We who see but a small section of the great wheel which is working out our destiny, must be patient. "The mills of the gods grind slowly," and those disturbances are but that "divine event to which the incidents in the evolution towards that "divine event to which the whole creation moves."

where by object lessons, illustrated by pictures of farm animals and farm work, the children had a practical education in useful employment intermingled in their regular studies. He was also in favor of establishing industries, that great fundamental policy of the Conservative party, and believed that instead of exporting our hides and skins to be manufactured abroad into boots, shoes, harness and other articles, the Government should subsidize a factory for tanning and making these things in our own province. He declared it a sorry day for P. E. I. when the potato flour mill project was knocked out. That company have built their mill in New Brunswick and were now paying the farmers fifty cents for their potatoes while we have over a million bushels in our cellars under prospect of a market. He strongly advocated flax cultures within the province, following the line of argument presented some months ago by the Guardian, and which would most certainly be of the greatest advantage to agriculture in this province. His grasp of matters of farming interest established it as a self evident mistake that his services had not been at the outset enlisted as Commissioner of Agriculture.

Following Mr. Brodie was one of those unfortunate exhibitions which happily is of rare occurrence in representative assemblies, which, instead of being made the subject of sport and levity by members and supporters of the Government should rather have elicited their sympathy and regret. There is a veil of charity designed as a special covering for the victims of misfortune and compassionately we draw the screen between the public and the irresponsible actor, with our deepest sympathies to the Georgetown District for the accident that changed their representation at the last election. We hesitate to parade this species of human frailty before a mixed and critical people. Mr. Methersall followed with a repetition in toto of the program pace set by the other speakers adding nothing of interest to what had been already spoken, and nothing new apart from a reference to the limestone crusher, established in his district, which would be a great convenience to farmers, and a special reference to the Alberton-O'Leary road, built under the Federal Highways Act, which would be of the greatest benefit to the travelling public.

Mr. H. D. McLean, of Souris, is one of the practical though not ostentatious speakers of the House, who after passing the customary courtesies, took up the different questions under consideration. Important amongst these was the question of last year's finances which all the speakers on the Government side of the House had most studiously avoided, and more particularly the minority report of the Public Accounts Committee, which the Government had most deliberately suppressed from the people. That report, he pointed out, was the actual record of facts elicited under oath before the Committee, of which he was a member, and included a correct abstract of the provincial finances, which, because it repudiated their own cooked statements as sent to the people, they did not want to face the condemnation. If, said Mr. McLean, the finances of the country were in the condition which they represented, why did they refuse to submit them to an outside audit? As it now stands we have nothing in support of them but the mere word of the Premier, and the Premier has publicly disclaimed being held responsible for anything said in his press, UNLESS BACKED UP BY AN ORDER-IN-COUNCIL, or the resolution of the whole Liberal combination.

Mr. McLean entertained the House with an interesting representation of Premier Bell in his dual character, before the election and after, and notably after the election when he entered the Premier's office, and in a ventriloquist dialogue talking in his natural voice and ANSWERING THROUGH HIS HAT, hanging upon the wall, he argued with himself the pros and cons of his position. This interesting dialogue has already been published in the Guardian and is well worth perusal. He also made considerable sport of the Premier assuming the role of Alexander the Great and cutting with his political sword the Gordian knot of Sanatorium deficit, which in his deficient genius he could not untie. In this connection the Hon. Mr. Nash had complained that when they took charge there was not even a "scrap of paper" to be found. What scrap of paper was he looking for; was it the celebrated Manifesto, and was it the "knot" that he was unable to unravel, and to save



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the situation, and himself, had deliberately cut the thing in pieces? Was that the document that this imitation German Chancellor was seeking to mutilate and destroy?

Referring to the charge made by the Hon. Mr. Nash, alleging "mud-slinging" by the Guardian, he pointed out that it was nothing of the kind, but "THE TRUTHS DRIVEN HOME THAT ARE SO GALLING." He recalled the election of 1915, when the then Commissioner of Public Works had his name dragged through the mud and mire and genuine "mud-slinging" was indulged in by the Patriot newspaper, that their whole campaign was waged on that kind of material, and that the present Premier, Attorney General and Commissioner of Agriculture, at the next session of Parliament took back at the charges made at that election, under the compulsion of an investigation. He very pointedly said: "It is not necessary for the Guardian to make any false accusations against the Government."

This is generally admitted throughout the country. Even if we were disposed to do so, the solid facts and indisputable truths are such a tax on our space, that we have not room for them all, without the necessity of resorting to the kind of stuff the Patriot is constantly slinging at its readers.

The Question Is Who Will be Head Of The C. N. R.?

OTTAWA, MAR. 23.—Who will head the Canadian National Railway system when the re-organization board of management is carried out? Is the question that is on all lips in parliamentary circles at this moment. Several possibilities have been mentioned. It might be Grant Hall of the C.P.R. It might be S.J. Hungerford, general manager of the Canadian Northern. It might be John E. Dalrymple, Grand Trunk. It might be F.P. Gutelius, former general manager of the government lines. The

is no word from the government sources to indicate that selection of any one of these men has been even contemplated but there is "smoke" and where there is smoke there is usually "fire". It is known that the members of the government have been in conference with Mr. Gutelius during the past few days. In point of fact it seems that the former head of C.G.R. was here on Saturday.

No Move Yet In C. N. R. Reductions

TORONTO, Mar. 23.—There is little likelihood that there will be any wage reductions on the Canadian National Railways until after the United States wage rates are readjusted, according to general manager Hills. The downward division of wages of C.N.R. contemplated, however, possibly to the extent of twenty per cent. This reduction would not wipe out entirely the increase granted under the second award of McAdoo schedule.

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