

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 1920.

SIR ROBERT BORDEN AGAIN AT THE WHEEL

The return of Sir Robert Borden to his place in the House of Commons, apparently in excellent health mental and physical, will be hailed all over Canada with unfeigned pleasure.

THE TWO-EDGED SWORD.

Messrs Higgs and Duffy, the city representatives, doubtless put up the best defence they could at the citizens' meeting on Wednesday night, but the weapon they used was a two edged one and it cut both ways.

According to these gentlemen the government had used only "whips" upon the citizens while they used the "scorpions" on the farmers and they were even going to use more "scorpions" later on.

Mr. Higgs claimed that the tax upon farmers under the new measure was two and a half times greater than it was under the old Act, that is an increase of 250 per cent, and Mr. Higgs was probably right.

Of course this was intended for consumption in the city only: Messrs Higgs and Duffy were justifying themselves before their own constituents but in the justification they let a cat out of the bag that has run amuck among the farmers and the cat will come back sooner or later.

The indignation expressed at the citizens' meeting on Wednesday night is being expressed throughout the province both individually and concertedly. It is not so much against the mere fact of taxation; all are agreed that taxation is a necessary evil a just price for necessary utilities and while the taxation is kept within the measure of actual economic necessities no fault will be found.

The present wave of indignant protest is two fold; it is first a protest against the adoption of a course which, before the election, was denounced by those who are now adopting and justifying it; second, it is inspired by the belief that men who were sufficiently unscrupulous before the election and in the face of the facts then known to everybody, to make the representations and the promises they did, are not to be entrusted with the difficult and complex system of financing they have proposed.

We have no disposition to lay too much stress upon the government's predicament. They dug the pit into which they have fallen and the experience should have a lasting and beneficial effect upon future political aspirants. Promises that cannot be fulfilled are dangerous steps to climb by and the descent will be accomplished without steps; it will be a sheer fall.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

The report of the Librarian, tabled in the legislature on Wednesday shows that this popular institution is maintaining its usefulness. The number of books issued for home use during the year was 18,282 being more than that issued in the previous year by 3,594.

CURRENT COMMENT

Politics needs purification. So says Dr. J. M. Elder in his address to students at McGill University. And to the graduates of our colleges we must look more than to any other source for improvement in the standards of public life.

Sir Robert Borden is due at Ottawa this week and the big men of Canada anticipate his return with great expectation. Much has been left undone, not that there was insufficient genius or talent within to handle the issues, but that with the guiding mind of the Prime Minister they would do it better and with greater profit to the country.

There was a light in the Liberal window reaching into the wee small hours, on Tuesday night. It did not betoken an intellectual light within. It was a prolonged caucous, not a love feast exactly, too sombre and mournful for a wedding feast and too rankorous for a funeral gathering.

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

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BANISH NEEDLESS WORRY

Everywhere the warning needs to be sounded against the habit of brooding over our troubles, of underestimating our blessings and of exaggerating our sorrows. This world is beautiful, and earnest work and perseverance secure peace of mind and bodily health.

THE IMMIGRANT

By SIR ANDREW MacPHAIL

(In University Magazine)

There is a point where optimism passes over into folly. That point has long since been reached, and exceeded, in the economic history of Canada. Ever since Confederation we have lived by advertisement; but there is a great gulf fixed between the truth of a thing and the statements that are advertised concerning it.

Without a certain measure of illusion the affairs of the world, or even of the heart, cannot be carried on. In the secrecy of the Cabinet policies gain strength. Business demands continual hope, and great enterprises thrive on a confidence which has in its certain elements of the fictitious. A confidence which is excessively stimulated does lead to bankruptcy and may lead to worse.

The Hon. J. J. Johnston, K.C., Attorney General, when pushing the income tax rates through committee, stated that under the old act the poor man was taxed on his \$500 income at a rate of 2 per cent.

Another rank injustice has been pointed out in that the single man who can sport around the country free from family expenses and with out the responsibility of feeding clothing and educating a family, is taxed just the same amount as the head of a family who is loaded down with expense and difficulty in making both ends meet.

he who speaks the truth. He may cause dependency at a moment when blind courage and complete ignorance are required to avert disaster. In the economic history of Canada that moment is past. There is no more money to be borrowed, and immigrants who are likely to be attracted by advertisement are not those who are the most desirable. Even if immigrants are deterred, that evil will be more than atoned for by the good which the truth will do to ourselves.

And yet, we in our time have not been sinners above all men in the matter of advertisement for immigrants. Travellers tales are always believed. The report that a metal was found in Virginia, which "bowed easily," was enough to send the first adventures to the James' River, and the lure of "fools' gold" is common. The exodus from Scotland in the early years of last century was stimulated by the calculated story of an Irishman, that in Canada was a tree yielding a sap which could be converted into whiskey, and that tea grew wild in the swamps.

It may indeed be that the ear of the immigrant is deaf to any further blandishment, and that the tide is turned from these American shores. In January the United States for the first time in history suffered a loss of population. Last year the total gain was only 21,000 persons, and that largely from Mexico. For the first fourteen years of this century the influx of immigrants amounted to a million a year, and for the century ending with 1919 over thirty-three million persons entered. With depreciation in numbers there has been loss in quality. Great Britain having sent out more than eight millions has long since had none to send. From Germany emigration ceased nearly twenty years ago. The lesser breeds supplied the numbers, and the quality has so deteriorated that from Canada alone twenty thousand were turned away last year.

Canada presents the curious anomaly of being a country which has been sending out emigrants at a time when immigrants were being sought. Last year 57,000 native born Canadians entered the United States with the declared intention of making their homes in that country, and increased the number to nearly a million. Of all Canadians born in Canada one out of five lives in the United States, and this country is now their main source of supply. It is quite true that considerable number of Americans have come northward, but an interchange of population is not greatly to the good of either country. One Province has declined by thirty per cent of natives, and the loss has not been made good by immigrants, even if that were desirable.

A favourite subject of speculation with politicians, and even with ministers of cabinet rank, is the status of Canada when its population will have surpassed that of the British Island. They profess the fear that the political status of Canada cannot be changed quickly enough to meet the contingency. They found the words "nation" and "nationhood" in the dictionary, and discovered in them regeneration and beatitude. A leader of the newly enfranchised voters has contributed as her political wisdom a calculation that "when Canada is as thickly settled as Belgium," this country will contain, twenty-five hundred million people, that is, twenty-five times the present population of the United States. That is what is meant by saying that there is a point where optimism passes over into folly.

In contrast with this ecstasy a study of the distribution of population in America is a cheerless task. Winnipeg is the geographical centre of the North American Island. Here intersect the lines of latitude and longitude which divide the area into four equal quarters, namely: eastern and western Canada; eastern and western States. Of every thousand persons living on this continent 759 are in the south-eastern quarter, and the remaining 241 are variously distributed over all the other quadrants. In the last forty years the population of Canada has increased by 95 per cent; the United States by 136; but whilst eastern Canada has increased by 62, the eastern United States have increased by 108 per cent. This relative growth of population would appear to indicate that the eastern States have certain natural and permanent advantages as well as the temporary advantage conferred by historical priority of settlement. These advantages are various. There is access to the world by open harbours; ease of inland navigation; the presence of lumber, coal, oil and iron; a regular and ample rainfall equal to the precipitation in the triangle indicated by Niagara, North Bay, Ottawa, which is the area in Canada most abundantly supplied. Unto the place that hath shall be given. It is a vain dream that hydro-electric power and irrigation shall compensate for lack of rain, a lack that becomes more serious as the forests disappear.

since rain is the source of this power and irrigation.

The movement of population is the profoundest phenomenon in history; it is history. The causes are much more complex than those which create the tides of the sea. They are rather comparable with those which occasion the winds and storms of the air. The winds do not blow as they list. Men move as they are driven and migrate like the animals of the plain. They are governed by the forces of life itself, and the conflict of these forces is manifest in the phenomenon known as war. Immigration is war—war by the new comers upon those already in possession. The English alone understand this profound truth. For two thousand years they have been striving to keep immigrants out of their country, at times by force of arms, and in peace by telling them incessantly how bad the climate is and how incomes of the government. The habit is so ingrained that they will not have an immigrant from another country if the advertiser persists, survives, and produces children, they may accept those born in their precincts, and in virtue of them alone exercise some tolerance towards the parents. In the more civilized parts of Canada also one may have lived in a settlement for forty years, and yet be described as a foreigner, or as an imported man.

This practice is profoundly wise. There are breeds of men as there are strains of animal and classes of plants. They have their own affinities and their own repulsions. Unless a proper heredity governs, environment and education yield nothing but disaster. When all immigrants are equal before the law, and have the same power over government through the instrument of the vote; when mental attainments and physical courage count for naught, the lower breeds will prevail. The white man will not contend in the sweat shop. The slum and the ghetto he cannot endure. He demands open air for his sustenance. The American could not compete with the negro in work with his hands. The attempt always ended in personal degradation and in extinction of the race, for the white man, when hard pressed, will not or cannot reproduce his kind.

The lower races, of course, deny the validity of this law. Without a country, without a flag or language, without even surnames save such as they assume for themselves, they are the great apostles of the brotherhood of man, and sentimentalists among ourselves encourage delusion in the belief that they are giving assent to Christian doctrine. We have seen what the theory of the "melting pot" has done in Mexico. The Americans have sent their negroes to school and to church, and left them negroes. The white race imposed their Aryan language upon the Orientals, and left them Indians, or worse, by the slight infusion of alien blood.

Emigration for the parent race is the road to suicide. It is the shedding of blood. Blood shed enriches the fresh earth, but none can say what the new growth shall be. In any event the old race is destroyed. There may be, indeed must be, a judicious casting out of the more adventurous and turbulent spirits who will prey upon the new land and bring home the spoil, or perish on a foreign shore, like hardy and courageous men. From such England has always had enrichment. If they remain and marry with the children of the earth, the earth swallows them. Isolated families fare no better. In three generations they disappear. There are no trees on the prairies because they are no trees. Families, like trees, require shelter and company. A tree is more easily transplanted than a man. A good seed may be planted in a new soil, but it may develop into a pest or a disease.

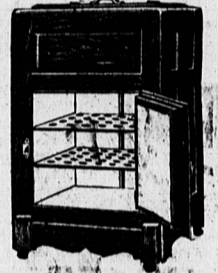
Migration in mass fares little better. Colonial history is full of such adventures. The Dutch in South Africa became Boers; the Puritans became Americans, and fought to the death with their fellow Virginians. Wolfe's Highlanders have disappeared in Quebec as completely as the Aryans in India. But this phenomenon is the commonplace of history, it is the history of the world. As war loomed up to the experienced European eye emigration was discouraged by every possible means. Human life had a fresh value. Emigrants to foreign lands were lost, as the Germans were soon to discover. Even the value of concrete colonies came under debate. Happily the British Dominions and Colonies stood the test, since the fate of all was inextricable from the fate of the mother country; loyalty to the King and love for the old land was yet unimpaired. But the attitude and actions of colonies has always been the most perplexing problem in history. The Greek colonies turned upon the mother country, and the conduct of the American colonies is only too well known.

Migration is effective only when it is governed by the laws of growth, when it proceeds slowly from a parent stand, developing after its kind, and pushing all before it like the encroachment of a forest; or like waters long pent up, which burst their bounds and overwhelm. The Germans were not quite ready for such an invasion. They broke their dams too soon, and the volume was insufficient for victory. The French in Canada, are unconsciously following this method of steady pressure, and the pressure is kept steady by a counter pressure from without. Their race and religion is just sufficiently persecuted to keep their force intact. Ontario sees to that. A French Canadian family will not emigrate to Ontario where its language is under the ban. It stays at home and gathers force for the slow invasion that is now in progress. If Ontario were much more genial, much less serious, just a trifle cynical and tolerant; if it would forget Regulation Seventeen in the Education Act and allow others to forget it, the French invasion might be dispersed. It would be ascribing an excess of subtlety to the Catholic Church to assume that its opposition on this clause is merely feigned, but certainly its purpose of keeping its people at home is well served by this bar to indiscriminate migration into Ontario. The ultimate source of immigration is the cradle, and the Canadian cradle rocks incessantly in Quebec.

This problem of immigration and its bearing upon the future of Canada presented itself to Guy Carleton when he was Governor. The solution was quite clear in his

(To be Continued)

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