

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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A POLICY OF DECEIT

With wearying persistence the Patriot day after day repeats the fiction—or in its own language, "the hoary lie"—that the Bell Government has brought to an end the "era of deficits," and brought in an era of magnificent surpluses.

The Liberal party came into power in September, 1919. They claim that at the close of each following year they had a surplus. Let us look at it: The Public Accounts are supposed to be correct. According to these the government, at the end of its first full year in office, after all its taxing machinery had been established and in operation, after its first year's surplus had been deposited, at the end of 1920, paid interest to the amount of \$56,497.58; at the end of 1921, they paid \$58,686.93; at their last session they appropriated for interest for 1922 the sum of \$59,687.00.

For the present year 1922 the Bell government intends to pay and has appropriated for that purpose \$59,687 or approximately \$10,000 more interest on provincial debts than was paid in 1918. Ten thousand dollars in interest at five per cent represents an addition of \$200,000 to our interest paying debt. And yet, our Liberal tax collecting, surplus-making government claim they have reduced the debt of the province and produced a surplus every year! If by their means surpluses they have increased our interest by \$10,000 in three years, and the debt on which we are paying that interest by \$200,000 is it not time they had stopped making that kind of surpluses?

We have repeatedly drawn the attention of the Patriot to this peculiar effect of Bell government surpluses and it has invariably replied with that ridiculous chestnut, "we have the best government the province ever had!"

These things are plain and open to every reader of the Patriot; they have the Public Accounts to refer to, they have their own common sense to appeal to and will not be led astray by any red herring cry of the Patriot that we have the best government the province ever had or that Premier Bell is more firmly seated in his saddle than ever before.

This is only one of the wool pulling devices resorted to by the government organ and by members of the government.

The plain fact of the case is that the government, either through its organ or by the mouths of its prophets who are now candidating, dare not tell the truth. If they did there would be no bye-elections as by their own confession they would stand condemned before the people.

The government came into power by deception, by misleading the people, by making promises which they never intended to make good. Now, for the first time they are face to face with the people in five bye-elections, they are following up the same old trick. Will the people swallow the same bait, a second time indications from the different polling districts promises that they will not. Even old time Liberals who swore by the party have turned their backs

upon them and the probability is that not one of the five Liberal candidates will ever see the legislature except as a visitor.

VALUE OF PUBLICITY

A Houlton, Maine, exchange reports the proceedings at a recent meeting of the Aroostook Potato Growers' Association. An interesting feature of the meeting was an offer by the President of the Bangor and Aroostook Association to defray the expenses of a competent man to be "sent to the south for one, two or three months during the potato seed selling time in the interests of Aroostook seed, to counteract the Wisconsin and Michigan seed selling activities."

The Association accepted the offer and immediately opened up communication with the University of Michigan to select a man. The generous and public spirited President made a further offer which also was accepted, namely that if the Association raised a fund to carry on a publicity campaign in the interests of Aroostook seed potatoes he would personally contribute a like amount. Aroostook County is one of the best potato growing states in the union. The agricultural activities of the country are largely centered in potato growing. They know the value of publicity and have made their money by it. As our readers know the present potato seed growing business of this province originated in the efforts of a former Prince Edward Islander who learned the business in Aroostook County and his Prince Edward Island experiment proved a big success not only for himself, but for many others who followed his example.

Aroostook County, like all countries to the south of us, is obliged to buy its seed potatoes at least occasionally in the north. Prince Edward Island seed has appealed strongly to them and, if we take the proper steps to secure their trade, we can have it.

The Aroostook Association is spending money in its propaganda for the extension of its business. They consider it to their advantage to engage a man specially for the purpose of drumming up trade; to open up a big publicity campaign in the newspapers of the countries whose trade they are after, and this is the only way to secure the trade.

The Potato Growers' Association of Prince Edward Island might take a leaf out of their American Cousin's book. We want their trade; already our seed potatoes have made a good reputation there; the trade is ours provided we go after it. We have competitors, many of them; they are as much alive to the value of publicity as the Aroostook people are and unless we go after the trade in the only practical way there is, namely, by publicity, we are not only not going to get it but we are likely to lose what we have.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The street-sweeper is a great institution but in a city which is occasionally "bone dry" like Charlottetown, it should be used judiciously. When used on dry streets to gather up the dust, which it cannot do, it is considerable of a nuisance not only on the streets but in the adjoining houses as the dust floats for a long time. May we suggest that the sweeper be used only when the streets are damp, either after a rain or after the watering cart?

Strawberries gone, raspberries gone, cherries gone, blueberries going, apples and corn coming the harvest on, the bye-elections coming, the government going,

Notes By The Way

Any Government is fairly entitled to the best defense that can be made for it and especially at election times. It is therefore a source of satisfaction to read in the columns of the Patriot from time to time the arguments put forward in support of the Bell Government by its ablest best informed and most skillful defender. Such a defence was put forward in the Government organ on Tues day last, dealing at the outset with the increase of taxation since the present Administration came in.

The article, in question states that the taxes on income, land, foxes and the war and health impost amounted to \$65,259 in 1919 and that in 1920 "the total amount collected under the much abused Taxation Act amounted to \$141,029." The article goes on to state that "this is only a small margin over double the old tax!" as if that were a matter of satisfaction. It will be seen that more than doubled taxation is here admitted to have been brought about by the Government in 1920 as the result of their Tax Act. This fact is thus placed beyond dispute.

By this time (1920) \$56,497 was paid for interest on the public debt, which interest has since considerably increased. There followed "increased cost of government," soaring prices of all material and so on. Surely these were reasons for adopting a strict economy such as had been promised the people, but has not been given them by the government of the day. These were the opposite of reasons for entering upon vast projects of road improvement, involving a vast increase in the public debt and the interest and sinking fund charges which the Premier has told us will go on "for 15 to 20 years" to come.

For 15 to 20 years this must go on, according to the best defence the Government can make, and during that period extending to 1937, or 1942 the revenues of the Province are under mortgage to pay the swollen interest charges. And this is called "paying as we go!" Could anything in public finance be more ridiculous or absurd than this? But it is the best defence the most skillful advocate of the Government can make. The silly statement first put forward that the road improvement scheme "would not cost the people a cent" is not now stressed as it was. The electors refused to believe it. It was too ridiculous. It has been landed out of court.

But the advocate and defender of the Government tells us that the people and not the ruling powers are to blame for existing conditions! We quote: "It is a common saying that the Government pays the bill and this is considered a sufficient reason for not curbing the expense... for not giving value for the money. Many people treat the Government money as a proper source of plunder." This is true, is very wicked, on the part of these "many people." We take it that they are of course among those who supported the party, and helped to bring the Bell Government into power in 1919. Surely no member of the Opposition could hope to plunder the treasury since that date!

The Patriot's indictment is thus obviously directed against "many people" who were in the Government party in 1919. It is they who "treat the government money as a proper source of plunder." And why do they do this? May it not be that they are following only too closely the example of their leaders? Those leaders, having taxed everything tangible and intangible, that the people possessed, legislated three hundred dollars a piece into their own pockets out of the treasury that they declared to be almost empty. They did this before the first fruits of the Tax Act had been gathered. So alert and enterprising were they that, they gathered the first fruits of the "plunder!"

Whether this was or was not "treating Government money as a proper source of plunder" many of those supporting the Government so regarded it. Plunder was in the air and they wanted some of it. They were not content that the plunder should be sifted through a ladder, and that all summer is rapidly passing. Only a few more weeks are left to enjoy the glorious summer and then we'll be sorry we did not make more use of it.

Others' View Points

PARLIAMENTARY ORATORY

(Vancouver World)

A recent incident in a provincial Legislature in the East, in which a member of Parliament claimed that he had been misrepresented and also that the importance of his speech had been ignored by the press, calls attention to the considerable dependence of Parliament upon the press. Publicity is, to an increasing extent, its life and soul. It is true that the work of legislating could be carried on even if its debates and the results of those debates were not reported, but the amount of hole-and-corner work that this would lead to can hardly be estimated. And the electors would have no idea what attitude their representatives were taking towards public matters or the arguments they had used until long afterwards. Yet it is a fact that in the eighteenth century the British House of Commons was a member of the press gallery the accommodation for reporters was hopeless and they had to take their notes on their knees. The attitude of legislators has undergone a tremendous change since then. Now publicity is the very breath of life to most of our legislators and is becoming increasingly so.

Yet public speaking in Parliament and out of it is deteriorating, despite all this publicity—perhaps because of it. No visitor certainly would attend the British Columbia Legislature expecting to hear flights of oratory or even speeches admirably delivered. If he did he would come away very much disappointed. At Ottawa, too, the debates of today are far below the standard of the debates in Sir John Macdonald's day and before. Even in the Mother of Parliaments there has been great deterioration. A few men like Lord Balfour still maintain, to some extent, the traditions of oratory which practically ceased to exist, and is very seldom heard on the public platform either. The absence of form and style and the utter carelessness of delivery is a feature of speeches in the Mother of Parliaments of today. A sort of conversational style has been adopted. Too much eloquence in legislative debates is bad. An utter absence of it is worse, because it marks an absence of interest and a failure to realize the importance of debate in the arriving at decisions.

that went through should be allotted to members of the Government and the House, while only what stuck on the rounds of the ladder was to be the share of the rank and file of the party. And why should the Honorable Defender of the Government blame them for this?

Daily Selections for Guardian Readers

From the W. S. Louson collection

IN A GARDEN

What can they know of the things I know Or see of the things I see, When I climb to the height of the garden at night, And they will not climb with me? They never shall catch the tinkling tune, Of the foxglove's rosy bells, Nor see white candy tuft like faces They never may learn the bedtime song Of the thrush that thrills in the jasmine wine, Nor watch the sweet peas' drowsy bonnets, Nodding down from the trellis line, While the pale-hued phloxes whispered call To the blue delphinium by the wall Is a thing they never can hear at all And yet it is not hard to be A part of the garden pagentry If the heart climbs too, set free, Through a ladder, and that all

Bulgaria is Famed For Attar of Roses

"A country largely of peasants, scornful of idleness and pretence, yet producers of what is perhaps the world's best known symbol of luxury, attar of roses—such" says a bulletin from the American National Geographic Society, "is Bulgaria." The country has recently come into the public eye and its agrarian character has been more strongly emphasized by the meeting in Sofia, the capital of a congress of small farmers to discuss the taking of even more radical steps toward making Bulgaria still more truly a peasant state. Bulgaria is often considered merely one of the Balkan states. But, whatever its faults and its virtues, it certainly is not colorless, and it deserves to stand on its own feet. The difference between the Bulgars and the Turks are obvious and 500 years of domination by the latter did not serve to eradicate them.

Mingled With Slavs

There is almost as much of a racial gulf between the Bulgars and the Greeks; and their differences are accentuated by an ancient enmity dating from the time when the Bulgars were a threatening spearpoint against the Greek Byzantine empire, and later when for a space Bulgaria was tributary to that same Byzantium. The Romanians to the north are Latins and they, too, are racially distinct from the Bulgars. It is only to the Serbs and other Jugo Slavs that the Bulgars are related, and that relationship is not close enough to have brought about a friendship or lasting co-operation. In a phrase, the Bulgars are Slavs who are different. The very name Bulgar is of non-Slavic origin. It was brought in by Tartar conquerors from southern Russia in 679. Relatively few in number, the Bulgars merged themselves with the Slavs and adopted the Slavic language and customs. They were but the spice which gives the Slavic Bulgarians of today the flavor that differentiates them from their brother Slavs. Their contribution to Bulgarian character seems to have been coolness, practicalness and tenacity.

Limited Holdings

Agriculture has always held first place in the life of the Bulgarians. Turkish domination for half a millennium made farming still more general among the Bulgars, for practically no other calling was left open to them. By weeding out the upper classes, too, the Turks made Bulgarian agriculture more and more a peasant activity. And now, by legislation, the Bulgarians themselves are emphasizing farming on a small scale. A national law limits the estate that an individual may hold to a maximum of about 74 acres, and most of the holdings are much smaller. Another law aims to abolish a leisure class by requiring all adults between certain ages to work. The peasants are now almost completely in control of the political machinery, with one of their number holding the premiership and with a marked majority in the Cabinet and the national assembly. Bulgaria long suffered not only from the tyranny of the non-Christian Turk, but also from the diplomatic intrigues of the Christian powers of Europe. Russia liberated the country from the Turkish yoke by the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-78, and proposed to set it up as an independent nation with considerably more territory than it has today. But other powers, fearful of a strong state in the Balkans, compelled the transfer of areas to adjacent states divided the territory that was left into Bulgaria and Eastern Rumeia, and placed both back under the suzerainty of Turkey. Bulgaria, a semi-independent principality, elected a German prince for its ruler and remained much as it was created for seven years.

A Bad Name

Then by a coup d'etat Eastern Rumeia was annexed to the principality an arrangement accepted by Turkey. Full independence came in 1908, when the then Prince Ferdinand proclaimed himself czar, like the Bulgarian ruler of the country's ancient golden age. Poor leadership during the last decade has given Bulgaria a bad name with much of the outside world. After the war in which Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece defeated Turkey in 1912, there was a war over the spoils between Bulgaria and the other former allies, with Roumania finally intervening against Bulgaria. The responsibility for this conflict, whether right or wrongly, has generally been laid at the door of Bulgaria. Dur-

A MUSEUM FOR P. E. ISLAND

Impressed as I have lately been, by the financial, as well as the historic and artistic value of museums, art galleries, etc., I was highly pleased with the suggestion of Mr. Cruickshank, that a museum should be established in Charlottetown. There are, without doubt, thousands of men and women in London, Paris and Edinburgh, every day living at the hotels, attending the theatres, filling the taxis, buses and tram-cars, buying in the stores, scattering their money right and left—who would ever go near those cities if it were not for the institutions in which are stored the relics of the past, the curiosities in nature, and the works of genius. It has been truly said that humanity at large has "a great love for the past, which alone is eternal and unchangeable like death, and yet at the same time warm and joy-giving like life." There can be no doubt that a museum would be for Charlottetown and for Prince Edward Island, as The Guardian has remarked, "an invaluable acquisition."

Nor is there any city and province in Canada that could contribute curios of more varied historic and artistic interest. Things made when Indians roamed the woods and fished upon the shores, utensils brought here from overseas by the early French, Scotch, Irish and English settlers in the Island; things made and used here in the olden times, representative of the conditions that then prevailed, things brought here from distant countries by merchant captains and whose homes were here, could easily be obtained.

Indeed, the nucleus of a museum, now hidden away, but ready to hand, could be found in the Provincial Building. There can be no question that many persons at home and abroad would feelly contribute articles of vertu that would go to make up a very interesting collection in a museum established here. But where to establish it—that is the question. Before Mr. Sterns had built the Beach Grove Inn there were many who thought that the Old Government House, with its new appointments might advantageously to this community, be utilized as a summer hotel, and that an arrangement might be arrived at under which our Lieutenant Governor would be provided with a new and suitable residence, while the C.N.R., in view of the unique beauty of its situation, its sea-water, bathing facilities, with the park nearby, would supply a summer hotel after the manner of the C.P.R. in the mountains of British Columbia. But in view of the admirable enterprise of Mr. Sterns, it would now be unjust to carry out that idea—at least until the need of a second large summer hotel for tourists has been demonstrated. Meaning that the old Government House might—if an ar-

rangement with the Lieutenant Governor could be made—be taken for the proposed museum, while the new buildings are used, as at present, by the School of Agriculture. The old Government House, itself a standing memento of the good old times and manners, now past and gone forever, might with very little expense, be converted into a receptacle for the things that would go to make up an attractive museum. The present condition of Government House property cannot be said to reflect any credit upon the Lieutenant Governor, or the Government of the Province for the time being, or the citizens of Charlottetown, or the people of the country at large. That it should be tenanted and neglected with the fences about it in a state of wreck and ruin, is from every point of view deplorable. Contrast the well kept lawns of private citizens on one side of Brighton Road with the uncultivated fields, the brushwood and fence wreckage on the other! Is it not evident that something must be done for the improvement of Government House property if the province and its people are to escape ineffable disgrace. The wonder is that the ladies of Charlottetown as well as the men, do not protest against the offensive unkempt appearance of this fine old property, and demand that the fields north of Government House from Government Pond westward, shall form part of Victoria Park and be kept in decent and presentable condition for the benefit and credit of the province at large and for the enjoyment of summer visitors.

Not a Southern Country

There is a temptation to consider Bulgaria, touching Greece as it does, a southern country. But its altitude is approximately that of Iowa. Though Bulgaria produces the usual grains, fruits, tobacco and live stock of its part of the world, it is best known for its extensive culture of roses for the manufacture of the famous and valuable attar of roses. The number of acres of roses cultivated for this purpose in Bulgaria has approached 20,000. An acre produces about 4,000 pounds of rose petals, but this great bulk of petals yields only about twenty ounces of attar. The saleable product from a whole acre is therefore little more than one pound. This much-sought essence, however, is worth from \$60 up per pound in Bulgaria, and many times more than that in foreign countries.

ONE MILLION DOLLARS FOR PROMISE BREACH

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N. Y., Aug. 16.—One million dollars damages is sought by Evan Burrows Fontaine, a dancer, in a suit for breach of promise against Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney son of Harry Payne Whitney, according to the statement of Miss Fontaine's attorney, Charles Firestone, of New York city, during the argument of a motion in the case before Justice Henry V. Borst in September term here today.

In his argument Attorney Firestone, stated that on October 23, 1920, Whitney promised to marry Miss Fontaine, after a courtship which commenced about May 25, 1919. The wedding day, he said, was fixed for October 31, three days after the alleged promise was made, but the marriage never took place. These statements were contained in a manuscript presented to Judge Borst by Miss Fontaine's attorney with the sole remark, "This is our complaint." The complaint was not read verbally in court nor were other than the written statements made. During the time of the alleged courtship, said the attorney, Whitney made repeated promises to marry Miss Fontaine, who, he said later gave birth to a son. Miss Fontaine is still willing to marry Whitney, he said.

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