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THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (founded 1887) \$6.00 per year (delivered) in advance; \$5.00 per year (mailed) in advance in Canada, and \$6.00 for U. S. A.

Sir Charles Dalton, President. J. H. Burnett, Editor and Publisher. D. K. Currie, Associate Editor.

MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 1921

JUVENILE CRIMINALITY

Once in a while our community is shocked to learn of some juvenile crime in our midst over night. The surprise lasts until the Police Court gives its decision and then it is forgotten till the next time. Probably conditions are no worse in this respect in our province than they have been in times past, taken in conjunction with conditions elsewhere, one naturally wonders if the civilized world is, after all, making any perceptible progress towards that "righteousness which exalteth a nation" that righteousness of which the majority of us hear at least once a week in our churches and of which some hear only when they come before the Police Magistrate.

Only the other day our news columns told of a five year old boy who committed suicide because his father had punished him. Only a few days ago a Priest in the course of a sermon warned parents against the growing lack of parental authority, declaring that the parents no longer ruled, that "little Johnny and little Mary" did pretty much as they pleased regardless of advice or authority. Only a few days ago in our city several young boys were found guilty of stealing. Similar things of course have happened before, every generation and every age in the world's history has had its saints and its sinners and we would be reluctant to admit that the latter are proportionately more numerous today than ever before and yet we have no proof that they are not.

One thing will be admitted however, namely, that never before in the history of the world has so much effort been put forth on behalf of the young. Organizations for the teaching and training of the young are almost innumerable; social service has been reduced to a science; evangelists and reformers pay periodical visits to the churches throughout the land. Pulpit and press resound with the claims of the young, the necessity for religious and moral training for the young and the young are being harangued to and advised and entertained several times a week and taught to read and preach and pray for the edification of their companions and elders.

The unfortunate part of this is that these means of grace and of enjoyment do not reach down to the level from which the criminal children come. The children who are slipping off into criminality are not within the sphere of influence of pulpit or press. Many of them have never heard a sermon, have never seen a banquet except through a window or a momentarily opened door when some more fortunate boy was being admitted. It is from these unfortunate ones that the criminals usually come and these are the ones above all who need the sermon and the advice and the banquet.

It is true that respectable homes have produced criminals; this too is no new thing. Grey hairs have more than once been brought "with sorrow to the grave" because of the straying of a son or a daughter led into evil ways by evil influences and evil companions and for this too the Christian Church and Christian society are equally to blame with the parents. The roads on which the best of our children are journeying are not clean; our amusements and our entertainments are not all clean and too often we draw the cloak of a misguided charity over amusements which are more than questionable.

The treatment of youthful criminals has ever been a difficult problem. The criminal child cannot be punished as the hardened criminal is; he cannot be herded in jail with criminals; a whipping as recommended by some reformers, would be but the vengeance of his arch-enemy the law for having been found out.

A reform school offers the only hope for the youthful criminal and society owes this means of help to those unfortunates who either through the faults of parents or of society, are outside of healthful influences. This province, small as it is, needs a reform school; it owes itself such an institution and our Christian churches and Christian organizations owe to themselves and their profession that they should pay more heed to the one sheep that has gone astray than to the ninety and nine that are comfortably churched and housed and banqueted.

"THE NEED OF THE HOUR"

Our evening Contemporary, the Patriot, is either an unconscious humorist or thinks all its readers are humorists who enjoy its acrobatic leaps from one extreme to the other. Less than two years ago, out of the cool shades of opposition it called upon heaven and earth to witness the "extravagance" of the Arsenault government when the latter declared an addition of \$75,000 to the revenue was needed for educational purposes. When through a subterfuge, already referred to in these columns, it found itself in the warm sunshine of political power, it hijariously declared the \$75,000 was not nearly half enough and it boldly shouted for a tax at least three times greater than that which it had denounced.

In its Friday's issue, in one of its periodical flights, it informs its readers—and especially those of them who enjoy a joke—that "what is needed today to set things right is "not so much brilliant leadership as supreme truthfulness so as to enable all to form correct estimates of conditions and to act fearlessly on these estimates." "Supreme truth" is good. After an

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.

GOVERNMENT DISMISSAL

Sir.—I notice in a late issue of your paper a notice of the dismissal of a man named Alexander McPhee from the staff at the Insane Hospital at Falconwood to make room for a returned soldier. Now sir, while I am in entire sympathy with the returned men getting employment where a vacancy occurs I cannot understand why the local Government can see fit to discharge a man to make room for a returned soldier. But then, of course, it is only another case which goes to show how compatible are the methods of the Bell administration.

I am Sir, etc.
FOR FAIR PLAY.
Port Borden, Jan. 14, 1921.

CORRECTION

Sir.—Our Island papers a few days ago in giving some of the items in the biography of a poor unfortunate stated that his birthplace was "Grand River, Lot 16." This is doubly—yes, doubly—misleading. What is generally known as Grand River is the portion of country immediately north of the eastern part of Grand or Ellis River which river for miles separates Lots 14 and 16. "Grand River, Lot 16" does not sound good to us "fourteeners," while the "sixteeners" who in some commendable ways are in a class by themselves, might not thank you for associating even with such a large-sounding semi-euphonious name as Grand River with their township. Henceforth rather write "Grand River Lot 14." Again, if we are to meet our credit, our middle aged and older residents with reliable memory and truthfulness, may suggest the second correction: "He was not born in Grand River." Lastly, our southern friends across the stream are equally emphatic in denying that his place of birth was in their community. Now, Sir, doesn't it seem too bad that we sometimes get such unreliable news even from our best Conservative papers?

I am Sir, etc.
P. J. W.
January 10th, 1921.

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

THE QUITTER

By Robert W. Service
When you're lost in the wild, and you're scared as a child, and death looks you bang in the eye, and you're sore as a bull, it's according to Hoyle.

To cock your revolver and die, but the code of a man says: "Fight all you can."

And self-dissolution is barred, in hunger and wear, oh, it's easy to blow, it's the hell-served-for-breakfast that's hard.

"You're sick of the game?" Well, new that's a shame, you're young and you're brave and you're bright,

"You've had a raw deal?" I know, but don't squeal, "Buck up, do your damndest, and fight."

It's the going away that will show you the way, So don't be a piker, old pard!

Just draw on your grit; it's so easy to quit; It's the keeping-you-chin-up that's hard.

It's easy to cry that you're beaten and die; It's easy to crawl and to crawl; But to fight and to fight when hope's out of sight!

Why that's the best game of them all; And though you come out of each grizzling hole,

All broken and beaten and scared, Just have on more tory—it's dead and easy to die.

It's the keeping-on-living that's hard.

writing it the Patriot should have inserted a verse or two of that beautiful song "When I remember you!"

Without dwelling too long on this quality of "supreme truthfulness" which the Patriot now realizes would have been the better way, one wonders what there is behind its next great remedy, "to develop and introduce measures for increasing revenue." Whether this bit of political theology is an excuse for what has already been accomplished by the heaven-sent legislators now in action or preparation for a further increase in the revenue it would be difficult to say. The Patriot has been an indefatigable plougher and harrower when a big tax crop was being prepared for. The quality of "supreme truthfulness" had not then however been called into its councils.

We trust that the Patriot's retrospection and introspection is sincere. The editorial from which we have quoted shows evidences of repentance "Wrong may triumph for a while" it sadly remarks "but" it continues, "in the long run the right, like truth, is mighty and will prevail". From present appearance it will not be a very "long run" and the wrong which the Patriot now with signs of real repentance looks back upon will be wiped out either by the office of His Honor, the Lieutenant Governor or by a general election.

CURRENT COMMENT

Our friend the United Farmers' Guide, which has been subdued for a few weeks, is again venturing into dangerous political waters. It is evidently conscious of the growing unpopularity of its patron saints, the Grain Growers of the West, and true to instinct, or rather to political inspiration, it tries to behold the issues as between the interests of the East and the Grain Growers Combine. To the first criticism that "such a pool (in wheat) will increase the cost of flour and millfeed to the eastern consumer," it argues at length giving various reasons, such as absence of tariff against other countries, or embargo to keep out foreign wheat, the laws of supply and demand, and the influence of the world's markets in the fixing of prices. And then it proclaims the object of the pool to be the collecting of wheat to the millers and importers of other countries without any middlemen. This looks very nice in its smoothed over condition, but the Guide has carefully avoided touching upon the ORIGINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE PURPOSES OF THE POOL AND THE STERN AND DRASTIC CONDITIONS OF ITS CONTRACTS WITH THE FARMERS.

These contracts requires that all the wheat in Western Canada be placed absolutely under the control of the ring leaders of the Combine. That all farmers outside of the Combine, those who have refused to sign the contracts, shall be boycotted in the sale of their wheat, AND THAT IN THIS THERE SHALL BE NO COMPETITION, AND NO OPEN MARKET. While the Guide's argument that the markets of the world control the price, would be true under conditions of an open market, it would not be the case? A POWERFUL COMBINE WERE ABLE TO HOLD UP THE CANADIAN SUPPLY, WHICH IS DESTINED TO BE ONE OF THE LARGEST OF THE WORLD'S PRODUCERS. If the purpose of the Combine is not to get higher prices for the wheat then why is the pool proposed? Then again what are the promises and prospects held out to the farmer to induce him to join the pool? Has the Guide forgotten, or has it purposely avoided this ASSURANCE THAT WHEAT WOULD BE HELD UP TO THREE DOLLARS PER BUSHEL, THE HIGH WAR PRICE. Our critical friend in other issues has much to say of those monstrous combines of industry in their bleedings of the poor, but how sweetly it is behind this most shameful of all combines whose object is to hold up the bread supply of Canada that they may corner their millions.

It would be amusing if it were not so serious, to read the Guide's declaration that the opponents of this combine are "for the most part those who for commercial, political or selfish reasons want to play one part of Canada against the other." And to soften the anagenism of eastern farmers to this western project it asks them to "ponder on the eyes of those who are again pleading eastern farmers against western farmers." We thoroughly agree with this advice to ponder notes. What is the motive for instance that would induce the Guide to sacrifice the interests of its eastern clientele to the grabbing propensities of the most dangerous combination that ever threatened the farmers of the east, and the working man in the whole of Canada? If it were not for selfish reasons and is support of its western political gods, would it be even a consenting party, much less an open advocate of a monopoly to tie up the bread and butter of the people, to enable a band of speculators and profit

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Boys' Mackinaw Coats, 15 only to fit Boys from 10 to 15 years. Offering for next few days at Half Price.

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20 Boys' Tweed Suits, sizes 3 to 8 years, regular \$6 to \$9.50 values. Any suit in the lot for \$3.98
19 only Men's Heavy Tweed Overcoats, \$14.95. These are the odd coats left of our regular \$20 to \$25 lines, there not being more than one or two coats of a pattern, sizes 35 to 44.

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ers to feather their nests? Yes, study the motive, and measure the Guide by its own standards.

The Guide would ask the farmers and the people of the Maritime provinces to support its political leader, the Hon. T. A. Crerar. Is there any newspaper, farmer or citizen possessed of patriotic fidelity to his own province who could with a clear conscience record a vote for what he stands for? These small provinces entered the Confederation as junior partners in national undertakings. They placed their capital at the disposal of the federal powers to be utilized for mutual interest. Amongst the investments of the Dominion from this capital was the lands of the Hudson Bay Co. and the western prairies. These have enhanced in value and become enormously profitable. The Maritime provinces are asking for a reasonable share of what belongs to them. The Hon. T. A. Crerar declares from the Winnipeg public platform that we have "NO EQUITY IN THESE LANDS". This means that if Mr. Crerar becomes Premier of Canada THE MARITIME PROVINCES WILL BE

CHEATED OUT OF THIS THEIR JUST RIGHTS. Can any man with a heart and soul, in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick or P. E. Island record a vote for this man, who would deprive us of our millions, or for the party which he leads?

The Maritime United Farmers organ is of this hide bound class that is willing to sacrifice these interests of the eastern provinces without reserve to the profit of the western political masters. In its attempt to defend the Crerar attitude it does not hesitate to belittle the efforts of our provincial premiers to collect our claims, which in the language of its western leader, it designates as "playing politics". It says,—"We read of eastern provincial premiers

meeting to put up a case for their provinces and western premiers travelling to Ottawa for the same purpose." "In no case have any of these leaders expressed a wish to have the case decided on its merits." We have no brief to defend these premiers, who are opposite to us in politics but if we have a word to say it is not to condemn but to urge a more consistent prosecution of our claims, and to let the Guide know that SO FAR AS CONCERNS THIS PROVINCE WE WANT OUR CASE DECIDED ON ITS MERITS AND IN NO OTHER WAY.

In those days of quarreling amongst Kings, when Rufus and his brother Richard were content

Continued on Page Six.

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