

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1931

A Sorry Record

"We certainly have improved the Prohibition law; there is no question about that."—Hon. Horace Wright in the Budget debate, Patriot, May 4, 1931.

Here is the manner in which the Le-McIntyre-Wright aggregation have "improved" the Prohibition law and fulfilled their solemn pledges to the temperance people, as shown by the transactions in the City Police Court before Stipendiary Magistrate yesterday morning:

- Drunk and incapable. \$10 or 20 days.
Drunk and incapable. \$10 or 20 days.
Drunk and incapable. \$5 or 10 days.
Drunk and incapable. \$20 or 30 days.
Drunk and incapable. \$6 ball estrated.
Drunk and incapable. \$5 and costs or 10 days.
Drunk and incapable. \$6 ball estrated.
Drunk and incapable. \$6 ball estrated.
Drunk and disorderly. \$20 and costs or 30 days.
Drunk and incapable. \$10 and costs or 20 days.
Drunk and incapable. \$10 and costs or 20 days.

Eleven "drunk and incapables" over the week-end, and no record of those who were able to stagger home under their own power! This is the "improvement" to which Le-McIntyre-Wright Government members sanctimoniously refer; this is the "record of performance" upon which they are appealing for re-election!

Their Only Policy

The only intimation of any policy which the Le-McIntyre Government has given is that, if elected, it will continue to build extravagant hard-surfaced highways on borrowed money, regardless of whether these highways, without proper concrete foundation, will stand up to the severe weather conditions in this Province. The MacIntyre highway cost \$27,000 a mile. To pave the main highways of the Province at the same rate would cost between five and six million dollars. Mr. McIntyre contends the work can be done cheaper, but his "experiments" show that such work tends to go to pieces, even in midsummer, and will be in constant need of repair. He has already stated in the Legislature his opinion that the farmers should pay more taxes for road work, that we should "broaden out" and increase our per capita debt in order to furnish him with more revenue in order to compete in expenditure with other and wealthier provinces.

The manner in which money has been wasted on the Le-McIntyre road gravelling policy during the past three years will give our taxpayers some idea of what they may expect from an administration that is now appealing on its "record of performance." In this connection one may again quote the remarks of Mr. Sharp, delivered during the course of his speech on the Budget.

"The Minister of Public Works," Mr. Sharp said, "neglected the fact that we have in this Province a large deposit of gravel that is equally as good as, if not better than, this gravel that is imported from Nova Scotia; that it can be loaded and distributed at different points at a cost which would be less than half of the cost of the Nova Scotia gravel. The money that has been paid out for Nova Scotia gravel could therefore have been spent more profitably in the Province, and it would have given employment to our own people."

"I had a conversation with a gentleman who had secured a contract from the Provincial Government late last fall, and he claimed that he was laying down Island gravel within a radius of seven miles of the pit for \$1.50 a ton. Compare this with the cost of Nova Scotia gravel, \$2.65 a ton, plus \$1.00 or \$2.00 for moving to the point on the road where it was needed, and you will have some idea of the amount of money that

the Minister of Public Works has expended extravagantly in gravelling the 140 miles of road which he claims was gravelled under this policy.

"Instead of buying so much road machinery, if the Minister of Public Works expended some money in a motor truck and steam shovel he might be able to spread this gravel at least forty or fifty miles from the pit. With the proper machinery for distributing it he could gravel double the amount of roads today that he is doing under the present system. That is where he has fallen down. There has not been any attempt to develop the gravel resources of this Province, and the money expended on the gravelled roads has gone out of the Province when it might just as well have gone to our farmers and laborers."

This is in direct line with the Conservative policy as announced by the Hon. J. D. Stewart, and it will be for the electors to decide whether they want this policy or a continuation of the extravagance incurred by the present administration which has put thousands of dollars into the pockets of Liberal political heaters at the expense of our farmers and taxpayers generally.

A Good Suggestion

A correspondent in Saturday's Patriot suggests that the Mayor and Town Council of Summerside should clean up the prohibition enforcement mess in that town. "Have them start," he writes "from Lock's Corner on Central Street and continue down to Strong's Corner and keep on going east on Water Street, and how many cars are to be seen parked there day and night with bootleggers looking for a victim to whom they may sell their poison, and how many more are hovering around in the alleyways selling rum?"

What a picture of conditions existing today in the constituency which elected the Hon. Dr. MacNeill and Mr. L. R. Allen on the specific assurance of securing "the great boon of a banished liquor traffic!" These gentlemen in the last election campaign assumed full responsibility for prohibition enforcement. They were confident that Prohibition could be enforced. With the assistance of the Royal Mounted Police, with gunboats and cruisers in the harbor and squads of prohibition officers co-operating with the Customs officials, they were going to make it harder for a smuggler to land his rum than for a camel to pass through a needle's eye! Justice was not to be "too much tempered with mercy." Rum runners, bootleggers, and makers and sellers of moonshine were to be "put out of business." All these things, according to the Patriot, would have to be done if the Liberal candidates "remained true to their pledges and true to their affiliations with the Temperance Alliance."

And now, after four years, the same Liberal candidates—one of them in the Government, the other in close touch with the Government—have made such a showing that a Liberal correspondent in the Patriot newspaper suggests that to insure some measure of competent law enforcement their election obligations should be taken over by the Mayor and Town Council of Summerside.

The suggestion of the Patriot correspondent is certainly a good one. Mayor Lidstone and Councilor MacNeill should be given the opportunity of cleaning up the Liberal prohibition enforcement mess in Summerside! All that is necessary is to vote out the present incompetents and elect Messrs. Lidstone and MacNeill to the Legislature under the leadership of Hon. J. D. Stewart who is pledged

to enforce all laws, including the Prohibition Act, and who has never yet made a promise to the people which he has not fulfilled to the letter!

Lea Organ Discredited

Apropos of our contemporary's bitter attack upon Mr. W. McL. Clark, Secretary of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, for his optimistic message to the Charlotte-town Board of Trade regarding the evidences of economic revival under the Bennett Government, the following headlines from a recent issue of the Moncton Transcript (Liberal) are not without interest: "Conditions in Canada Much Better Than in Other Nations of the World, is Indication," "Country Will Be Among First to Recover from Depression Caused by World Conditions, is Belief."

The article thus featured in the Transcript is by Mr. F. C. Mears, a Liberal newspaper correspondent at Ottawa. Writing of the Bennett Government's plans for unemployment and farm relief in the coming fall and winter months, Mr. Mears says in part:

"It is likely to be a hard winter in Canada but some solace can be extracted from the prospect that whatever conditions are here they will be worse in most of the leading nations of the world."

"There are at present about 20,000,000 people out of work in Germany, or one-third of the population. In France, while unemployment and economic distress has not up to now been severely felt, it is expected that this winter will produce a serious situation. In Great Britain about 3,000,000 are actually out of work, though there are many more on part time. In the United States it is conservatively estimated that at present 6,000,000 are actually unemployed, while there is another 6,000,000 on part time, or 12,000,000 in serious circumstances, and if one multiplies this by four there will be an approximation of the number, including dependents, who are in needy condition, or about 45,000,000 people, not far from one-half of the population of that great industrial and usually wealthy nation."

"It will be seen that, after a glance over the world situation, Canada is, after all, one of the best off, and what is also a certainty, this Dominion will be one of the first to show signs of recovery from the present universal slump."

It is only the disgruntled anti-Bennett organ in this Province, whose propaganda is discredited from every reliable source in Canada, that continues to croak and grumble about the federal situation, while at the same time it suppresses every item of news reflecting upon the scandalous maladministration of its own party, provincial and federal.

The provincial Liberal candidates, after their defeat at the coming election should hold a post mortem on the campaign methods of their party press.

Champion Of Whom?

For the past week Mr. A. E. MacLean, Liberal M. P. for Prince County, has been stumping his constituency in the interests of the Le-McIntyre Government candidates. He left Ottawa during the busiest part of the Parliamentary session, neglecting the duties for which he is paid by the taxpayers, to come to the rescue of his political friends. His stock arguments have been abuse and criticism of the Bennett Government. He has been challenged to explain his attitude on the Beauharnois scandal, and has refused to do so. At one political meeting he sneeringly remarked that the "Tories" were "sore" because they did not secure as much graft from Beauharnois as the Liberals—a barefaced misstatement, since Premier Bennett refused to touch any Beauharnois money for campaign purposes.

Editorial Notes

The Le-McIntyre Government press is still frankly appealing to the farmers to vote "in their own interests." This is precisely what they will do when they vote out a Government led by a Premier who is antagonistic to the Federal Conservative Government, who repudiates the agricultural planks in his own platform of 1927, and who has neither platform nor policy for the future except further borrowings and further mortgaging of the farms and taxpayers of the Province.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Samuel Taylor Coleridge started out as a poet. He became a preacher. As an exponent of the philosophical schools he will be remembered when his poetry is forgotten, if ever that time arrives. The last twenty years of his life he specially devoted to the ventilation of theological subjects. Whether we think of him as poet, prose writer, philosopher or conversationalist, he was undoubtedly a great man to whom the term 'genius' may be confidently applied. Considered as a talker, Coleridge was voted by those who knew him to be without a peer. Says De Quincey: "He spun daily from the loom of his own magical brain, theories more gorgeous far, and supported by a luxury of images such as no German that ever breathed could emulate in his dreams."

The effects of general industrial and financial depression are varied and curious. The report of the New York Savings Bank Association states that there was a gain of more than \$500,000,000 in deposits during the year ended June 30, 1931. The total sum due depositors, including interest credits, was \$5,160,391,903 on July 1, 1931, a gain of \$594,227,300 or 13 per cent. over the figure for a year ago, which was \$4,566,164,603. This represents an increase more than double that recorded for any previous year.

Canadian motorists and visiting United States motor tourists traveled over 9,000,000,000 miles of highways in Canada last year, used approximately 500,000,000 gallons of gasoline and paid a direct revenue to the provincial governments in the form of gas tax, auto and drivers licenses, aggregating nearly \$43,000,000.

The Toronto Globe says it is no use attempting to deny the fact that the Beauharnois revelations have discredited the Liberal party. This, says the Sydney Post, is a broad statement coming from the most influential Liberal paper in Canada. But the fact is that these startling disclosures have thus far discredited only the leaders of the Liberal party. The test of Canadian Liberalism at the moment is how it will deal with the men responsible for the worst scandal that has ever come to the political life of this Dominion. It will only be discredited by the Beauharnois piracies if it fails to meet the test honorably and courageously. Both Mr. King and Mr. Taschereau have completely forfeited the confidence of the Canadian people.

Loan or no loan, Newfoundland has to face the fact that drastic curtailment of the cost of its administration and of several public services has to take place, says a Newfoundland exchange.

The cutting down of expenses will be severely felt by everyone. It will mean being deprived of facilities that we have learned to accept as a matter of course. It is either that, or being compelled to find additional revenue in order to pay for them, and the alternative would mean additional taxation.

One of life's incongruities is that so many who are young long to be old that they may enjoy the fruits of power and place, fruits that in the thought of youth are associated with age, while so many who are old look back ruefully with futile yearning to be young again.

Not all human beings reach after phantoms. There are some at every age who are too much concerned with the realities of life, too much engrossed in zeal to do, to waste their days and dull their energies in impatience or in lamentation. One such is Thomas A. Edison. "It's what is ahead that interests me, not the past," he says. And that, we may believe, has been the thought of Mr. Edison all his life. The useful man is ever looking ahead, not in terms of years but in terms of accomplishment. And if he be a great man the day will never come, while he has health and strength, when he will cease to look ahead.

Officials of the Irish Free State announced last week that during the first six months of this year only 476 citizens of that country came to us while 1,030 persons in the United States returned to the "auld sod."

The explanation of this extraordinary situation is that the Free State's Cabinet recently announced there is very little unemployment in the Emerald Isle.

A writer in the open Gateway a Halifax port publication says that in the matter of revenue freight carried by Canadian railways during the calendar year 1930 the Maritime Provinces more than held their own. The Province of Prince Edward Island established a new record for all time, with 293,392 tons in 1930, as against 265,881 tons in 1929, 138,231 tons in 1928 and 92,412 tons in 1921. No other province in the

"IN THE VALLEY OF HUMILIATION"

(The Ottawa Journal)

Mr. Mackenzie King's three-hour speech on the Beauharnois revelations and his own and his party's connection with them, was an extraordinary, in some ways an amazing performance. For more than two hours he labored to prove justification for his Government in granting the Beauharnois Company's application, marshalled a procession of documents and data in support of that administrative act. All of this was unnecessary, irrelevant. The report of the Beauharnois Committee did not challenge, and the country is not challenging, the rights that were originally granted to the Beauharnois promoters. On the contrary, there is and always has been belief that the Beauharnois project, from an engineering and industrial standpoint, was and is a great one, and that this aspect of the case should be clearly separated from the financial and political position which subsequently developed, and which alone brought about the existing trouble. Mr. King, in other words, was not called upon to justify or to defend his Government's approval of Beauharnois' engineering plans. What the country expected from him, and all that it expected from him, was an honest statement or explanation of where he stood with respect to the disclosure that his party had taken \$700,000 as a campaign fund from promoters to whom he had granted large public concessions, and who, in the knowledge of everybody, were in a position where they must return to him for further concessions. That was all.

Putting the position more specifically, what Parliament and the country expected from Mr. King was an answer to these questions:

- 1. Whether he realized the gravity of the implications of his party taking \$700,000 from Sweeney and his associates, in the existing circumstances?
2. Whether he asked or authorized Senators Raymond and Haydon to go to Mr. Sweeney or Beauharnois and solicit this campaign fund?
3. Whether, in the event of his having given no such authorization, he was aware of the true state of affairs?
4. Whether, in the event of his not being aware of what was transpiring, he could justify such extraordinary and dangerous ignorance on his part, and how?
5. Whether he approved, or didn't approve, of the conduct of his high political and personal friends, and members of his General Staff, as revealed in the evidence given before the Committee, and as stated in the Committee's report?

What does Mr. King reply? To the first and main question, the question as to whether he authorized or knew about the Beauharnois contributions, his answer is that he didn't know. He didn't know that Beauharnois was putting up money for him, didn't know who was putting it up. He never tried to find out.

It may be that Canada will believe Mr. King. It may be that it will believe that, in a general election, he didn't know that his party had received the enormous sum of \$700,000 from a single source. But we doubt it. We doubt whether the public is in such a state of innocence, or so free from cynicism, that it will admit the possibility of the existence of such an extraordinary position. But, taking Mr. King at his word, accepting his statement one hundred percent, in what position does it place him?

Mr. King says that he could not know, that he was not in a position to know, that, in fact, he lacked the time to know, who was contributing to his party. What is the implication of that? The implication is this: that Mr. King says in effect: "I DO NOT NEED TO KNOW OR CARE WHOSE MONEY OR WHAT SORT OF MONEY IT IS THAT PUTS ME IN PUBLIC OFFICE. IT MAY BE THE MONEY OF THE BOOTLEGGERS; IT MAY BE THE TAINTED DOLLARS OF THE RACKETEER; OR OF THE THIEF. OR OF THOSE WHO TAKE TOLL FROM PROSTITUTION; OR OF THE TAX EVADER—NO MATTER! SO LONG AS I DO NOT KNOW, NOR TROUBLE TO FIND OUT, OR GIVE WORRY TO THE MATTER AT ALL, THERE IS NO WRONG. IT IS NOT THE MEANS TO THE END, BUT ONLY THE END ITSELF THAT COUNTS. ONLY POWER." . . .

There is something more. Mr. King says that for him the findings of the Beauharnois Committee make sad reading. He says that he is personally wounded, that his party has been brought "to the valley of humiliation." Let us put to him this further question: IF HIS PARTY HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO THE "VALLEY OF HUMILIATION" BECAUSE HE DID NOT KNOW, AND IF, AS HE STATES, HE IS GOING TO PERSIST IN NOT KNOWING, WHAT GUARANTEE DOES HE POSSESS THAT IT WILL NOT BE BROUGHT TO THE VALLEY OF HUMILIATION AGAIN? . . .

It is these questions, and the inescapable answer to them, that make it impossible to take seriously the apology which Mr. King gave to Parliament on Thursday night.

Further: Mr. King is aware of the disclosures that were made before the Royal Commission on the Customs and Excise and the revelations there that between 1921 and 1928 corrupt liquor and bootlegging interests in this country possessed what Mr. Rowell, the Commission counsel, characterized as a "rat fund," contributed large sums to the coffers of the Liberal party. KNOWING THESE THINGS, DID MR. KING NOT CONCEIVE IT TO BE HIS DUTY TO SEE TO IT THAT IN THE ELECTION OF LAST YEAR SUCH THINGS WERE NOT BEING DUPLICATED? DOES HE ARGUE THAT THIS WAS NOT HIS DUTY? THAT HE HAD NO RESPONSIBILITY IN THE MATTER? THAT HE DIDN'T NEED TO CARE?

Mr. King now says that he wants a Royal Commission—wants a Royal Commission to go into the question of all campaign funds since 1925. Does he believe that such a Commission would get anywhere? That it would do any good? Where would it begin its work? Where end it? There are thousands of people in Canada who contribute to party funds. Would or could a Royal Commission interrogate and examine them all, or a tenth of them, or one percent of them? And if it didn't—and it couldn't—how would it know, or how would the country know, that it had interrogated or examined the "right parties"? And, finally, how could it possibly get at the bottom of all contributions, most of them made in cash, and without cheques or vouchers with which to trace them? Surely Mr. Mackenzie King must realize the futility and impossibility of any such course. Or is it that he is merely grasping at something that might divert public attention from the sorry and humiliating position in which he frankly admits his party now finds itself?

There is nothing of evil in party fund contributions, rightly given, or vouchers with which to trace them? Surely Mr. Mackenzie King must realize the futility and impossibility of any such course. Or is it that he is merely grasping at something that might divert public attention from the sorry and humiliating position in which he frankly admits his party now finds itself?

Let us get back to the position that remains, that has been neither blurred nor disturbed by Mr. King's three-hour torrent of words. That position, summed up in a sentence, is that Mr. King, professed enemy of corporations and of big business, FINANCED HIS LAST POLITICAL CAMPAIGN, AND SOUGHT TO REMAIN IN OFFICE, FROM A CORPORATION WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN RICH CONTRIBUTIONS BY HIS GOVERNMENT, AND WHICH MIGHT RETURN TO HIS GOVERNMENT FOR FURTHER RICH CONCESSIONS; and that Mr. Bennett, occupying a position similar to that of Mr. King, refused such a contribution—refused to impair his independence.

That is the truth, the record, and nothing that Mr. King can say in three hours or three hundred can cancel half a line of it. To his plea that he had these funds but didn't know of them, there is but the devastating reply of Mr. Bennett: "I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THE RECEIVER OF STOLEN GOODS TO BE A CRIMINAL."

Corrupt Politics

(Financial Post)

The public-ownership crowd are using the graft in Beauharnois as an evidence of the corruptness of private ownership. As a matter of fact, it is an outstanding bit of evidence of politics in business. Not one of the leaders in Beauharnois, mentioned in the evidence at Ottawa

has shown any real business capacity. Most of them have no record of having built up any great industry employing Canadian labor and distributing millions throughout Canada. Henry and Sweeney had formerly good records as engineers but they have shown no recognition in the Beauharnois development of their responsibilities to the public. McDougald, Raymond, Haydon and several others, whose names have not come out, have been merchants or middlemen taking rake-offs or collecting commissions as such. This backwash flourishes under public, that is political ownership.

Advertisement for HYNDMAN & CO., LIMITED. Features an illustration of a man in a suit and text: "Has Your HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE Outgrown Your INSURANCE? Get a Household Inventory Form and check up how much you would lose if you had a fire. Rates for additional Insurance cheerfully given. No Obligation. See HYNDMAN & CO., LIMITED. The Oldest Insurance Agency in P. E. I. Offices—Lower Queen Street Charlottetown."

Advertisement for The Public Forum. Text: "This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. This Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents." Includes a small illustration of a poet's corner.

Advertisement for Facts for Workmen. Text: "Sir—It sure is amusing for the working man to be reading 'Workman's' letter in the Patriot newspaper. 'Workman' would expect the readers to believe that the Liberals built the new streets. The property owners and city taxpayers know each year who built the streets, especially when they read their city tax assessment. 'Workman' forgets, or else he does not know, that the Bennett Government is responsible for the building of the approaches on Malpeque and St. Peter's roads. The money for both those roads was given from the Bennett unemployment fund. The Conservative local government always repaired the Rocky Point ferry boat by having her hauled up at Charlottetown. A large number of city men were employed each spring at a time when no other work was available. The Liberals sent the boat to Pictou for repairs some few weeks ago. Those repairs could have been made by our own men in the early spring. The Conservative government always insisted that the dredges and scows lay up at Charlottetown during the winter months, and when Mr. McDonald was Inspector of dredges, each spring a large number of men were employed scraping, painting and repairing them. The Conservative Government always arranged to have the Hillsboro bridge plank-ed and repaired in the month of April when work was scarce and employed as many men as it was possible to fit in. The Liberals had this class of work done by a few party heaters that could take their time and have it all to themselves. 'Workman' writing in the Patriot won't say anything about the Workmen's Compensation Act. He knows the Liberals are guilty of refusing labor 'that which is in justice due to them,' but 'Why should the Saunders or Le Government care if the workmen get killed or hurt? He is only a workman and he has no right to take a drink even though it be offered to him by a friend.' The Conservative Government was the first local administration to recognize the nine hour day after it was adopted by the City Council. The Conservative Government was the first to break away from the twenty five cents per hour wage and recognize the minimum wage adopted by the City. The workmen like to read real facts about labor and they don't pay any attention to anything but facts. I am, sir, etc. WORKMAN."

Advertisement for BATHING CAPS. Text: "If you want something nice in Bathing Caps, you will find it at our store. We are giving liberal discounts on these for remainder of the week. Our special 15c cap is a beauty. Call and see them."

Advertisement for Baby Pants. Text: "Extra strong rubber pants for young children. All sizes 15c pair. Excellent value."

Advertisement for Beach Balls. Text: "We have a few nice Beach Balls in various colors and extra large. Clearing at 19c each. Get one now."

Advertisement for E. A. FOSTER CENTRAL DRUGSTORE.

Advertisement for DRUG SPECIALS. Lists various medicines and their prices: \$1.25 Nujol, 75c Nujol, \$1.25 Pinkhams Comp., \$1.00 Beef, Iron & Wine, \$1.00 Enos Fruit Salts, 50c Phillips Milk of Magnesia, 30c California Syrup Figs, 50c Frutatives, 25c Frutatives, 25c Aspirin Tablets, 35c A.B.S. & C. Tablets, 50c Chases Nerve Food. Includes text: "Mail Orders Given Prompt Attention. The 2 MAGS. 149 Great George Street Phone 315."

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