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THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Ed. A. A. Bartlett, President. J. R. Burnett, Editor and Publisher.
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1920.

AN INDIGNATION MEETING.

Another indignation meeting was held some nights ago at Lower Freetown to register the protest of the good people of that section against the excessive land tax imposed by the Bell government at its last session. The meeting was quietly but indignantly serious. Not a voice was raised in defence of or in excuse for the government. The audience which was large and representative was unanimous in declaring the land taxes were unnecessarily high and the poll tax utterly unjustifiable. Resolutions were drawn up and passed and the Secretary, Mr. D. M. Bernard, was instructed to transmit the findings of the meeting to the two representatives of the district and also to send forth a Macedonian cry to all other school districts to help by adopting similar resolutions, and passing them on to the various representatives wherever they might be found and whomsoever they might happen to represent.

The opinion of the meeting was strong and strongly expressed and the suggestion was made that every effort should be put forth to bring such pressure upon the government as would result in repealing the obnoxious tax act.

FOR TWENTY FIVE CENTS.

It now develops that the escape of the prisoners who broke jail here a few weeks ago and disappeared from off the face of the province is a sort of twenty five cent romance, the denouement of which is yet in the dim and distant future and which may end either in a tragedy or a happy marriage. It is well known that the hand that beckons the prisoner from his cell is unknown to all the world but himself and that Fate in strange ways interposes to bring about the consummation. In this instance Fate chose as her instrument, for weal or woe, what the people of the province are today strenuously cursing, namely, the incapacity and the "penny wise and pound-foolish" policy of the Bell Government. When two of these prisoners made their escape the first time they were seen by a gentleman at Hampshire who, believing it to be his duty, promptly called up the police at Charlottetown and guarded the prisoners until the police arrived. He was both surprised and disgusted to find that the government refused to pay for the telephone message. When the prisoners, three of them this time, made their second break for freedom they followed the only road they knew, namely, to Hampshire and here again Fate led them to the barn of the gentleman who had previously reported them. Naturally he was surprised to see them but, remembering the government's cavalier treatment of his previous good offices, he very properly concluded that if the government wanted them worse than he did they could send for them. "And go they went"—out into the wide world, by the car ferry steamer, whither and why no one knows, but whether it be penitentiary, the scaffold or a wedding and "living happily together ever afterwards" they will be able to credit or charge it to the incapacity and bungling of the Bell Government.

AN ECONOMIC DILEMMA

There are some millions of bushels of wheat in Russia. The British Government is planning to recognize the Soviet Government in order to, among other things, buy this wheat. If Great Britain does this, these millions of bushels of wheat will displace as many bushels of Canadian wheat. In this case the Canadian wheat growers will have many millions of dollars less revenue to spend upon Canadian manufactures, the Canadian manufacturers will require fewer employees, there will be less work for Canadians—and there you are. What should we do with the Russian wheat?

In this connection an exchange says:—
Russia is our chief competitor. Yet there are hundreds of trade unionists and farmers in this country worrying the authorities and worrying the Government to help the Soviet—some of them in the way of the Soviet—to thus injure Canadian farmers manufacturers and labor men. Some years before the war Russia captured a group of British financiers who had been putting millions into Canada, formed a British Russian bank and turned this stream away from this country.

The trouble is that the farmers do not know they are being buncoed, workers do not know they are being buncoed by alleged friends. And the chief Canadian agent of one section of the Soviet propaganda has for a long time been an intimate friend of the Farmers' Party leaders. A prominent Canadian labor leader for the past two years has actually devoted much of his time to forwarding the interests in Canada of Canada's chief competitor, Russia. His comings and goings to the Soviet headquarters in New York and a number of letters from and to him are in the possession of the authorities—in fact they are in possession of some sane labor leaders.

CURRENT COMMENT

A man running with a crowd and shouting "stop thief" is frequently arrested by metropolitan police, with the professional confidence that he is the pick-pocket, shouting to ward off suspicion from himself, and generally they have the right man. In history the biggest declaimers for civil liberty, when in power have proven the greatest tyrants. Trosky and Lenin who swung so strongly for the Russian proletariat against Czarism and autocracy, are in power crushing the very life and existence out of those unfortunate illiterates who took them at their word, and for whom they pretended such warm solicitude. Premier Bell and his combination preached to the people of this province of the hardships of the taxation unded which they were groaning, and of the inexcusable waste of their hard earned money by the Arsenal Government, and when he attained to power he lashed them as with scorpions, TAKING EVERYTHING WITHIN REACH "TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE", and opened up a carnival of expenditure, salary increases and extravagance without parallel in the profligacy of any country, and has turned a deaf ear to the pleadings of their best advisors and the publicly expressed indignation of their masters and superiors, the electors and taxpayers of the province.

From Western Canada reports are coming which should stir the whole country up to a united national protest. Hon. C. A. Crerar who has been seeking to make the clean and patriotic farmers of the rest of Canada the cats-paws to crown his ambitions, is now developing in its true light the inwardness of his purpose. He and those associated with him have been the busiest of all mortals in denouncing what they have been pleased to daub as the "big interests", and it now transpires that behind the "stop thief" of his preaching, there is in prospect one of the biggest and most dangerous combines, if it is allowed to materialize, that the world has ever seen. Its threatening character is not to Canada alone, but to the civilized world, if they can only achieve the zenith of their plainly evident scheme. The Grain Growers combine is already an enormously "big interest" with a turnover last year of \$113,000,000 and a profit upon its transactions of \$699,700.14. And now comes the more startling news that this organization is seeking an enlargement of its sphere of operations to the extent that it may be able to tie up the whole grain crop of Western Canada under one great monopoly which can dictate prices at will and hold the producer by the throat.

We have had combines in Canada, but nothing like onto this to deliberately threaten the food supply of the people. In industry the law of supply and demand has had reasonable sway, and the harm which mergers have

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW.

Would you kindly insert this in your column, for the mother-in-law.

A Little More Patience with Mother.
Oh, may be she seems to grow queer
As the days go gliding away into years,
And may be you tire of her strange little ways,
And don't understand her tears;
And maybe the things that are down in her heart,
Are things that you know nothing of—
Old mother, still striving to keep up her part,
So tireless and tender her love

A little more patient with her, till the end
More thoughtful, and careful, and sweet.
She's been such a comrade and teacher and friend,
In the storm, and the strife and the heat.
And maybe the things that she thinks of today,
Are far from your knowledge, your ken—
Old Mother grown feeble and grey,
But when has she failed you—say when?

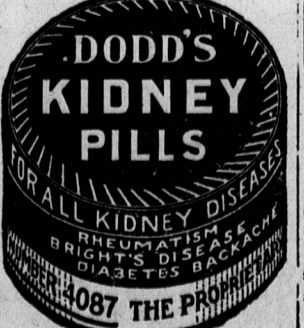
A little more willing to bear with her whims,
To cheer her and love her along;
Ah, many a vision in front of her swims,
And the echo of many a song:
And maybe she dwells in a world far apart,
From your petty and trivial things—
Old Mother with something still left in her heart—
That looks out of the window and sings.

produced has been comparatively small. But there is a "big interest" whose avowed purpose is to corner the principal staple food of the poor man at as cheap a price to them as can be enforced on the farmer, with the admitted object of the hold-up to fix profiteering prices to suit themselves. Their announced plan is to get every farmer, to sign a binding bond to hold his wheat subject to the command of the combine. They go further than this with the threat that any wheat grower refusing to sign the bond or join the ring will be boycotted from the markets and practically prohibited from selling his wheat in the regular channels of trade, which the combine intends to control. If any more diabolical scheme to tap the roots which produces the life-blood of the nation, was ever launched or even conceived by any of the other so-called "big interests" of the country we would like to have its name. The nearest approach to this within our memory was the great Meat Trust in the United States which Congress stepped in and dissolved by act of parliament in the interest of and at the demand of the consuming people.

Whilst this combine cannot control, and perhaps not even influence the outside world prices of wheat and wheat products, it can if it succeeds, become a strong determining factor within the boundaries of our own country. Farmers in Eastern Canada, and more particularly in the Maritime provinces are not producers of wheat, but the consumers and purchasers of very large quantities. In P. E. Island some wheat is grown, much more than in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, yet many thousands of barrels of flour are imported for the use of our farming people. With this there is an enormous consumption of bran, shorts, middlings and by-products made necessary in our dairying and hog-raising industry. To have these jacked up to prohibitive prices by a remorseless combine would be a fatal blow to the progress of the province. And it is this combine, now showing the cloven hoof which had the unutterable gall to send its paid missionaries over the country, under the shallow guise of a Farmers Party asking farmers to join in and speed on this "big interest" designed for their own destruction. We have before us in imagery a child stabbed by its pretended protector and holding the vessel to catch its fast ebbing life blood, and it is in simile the Grain Grower stabbing our Eastern farmers and asking them to hold the receptacle into which drops the life blood of their prosperity.

The Liberal press continued to worry, almost unduly, over the uncomfortable situation of their party in Quebec. Confessedly they did not like the inroads Premier Meighen and his government are making into the hearts and approval of the people. They first attempted to re-create the practical and religious cry, but the set down given them by the Prime Minister, and even some of their own leaders, was sufficiently pronounced to frighten them from this beggarly political method. They are now following another tack and seeking to create jealousy in Quebec because of alleged preferences in the line of public works to other provinces. Their cry now is that it was "Tory policy to do everything for Ontario and little or nothing for Quebec". Because the Montreal Gazette asserted that "only the Conservative party, presents a policy which guarantees the industrial prosperity and expansion of Quebec", the Liberal press are busy raking up the Government encouragement to industrialists in Ontario which their claim is was not repeated in Quebec. There is no doubt but that Premier Meighen will, with his customary skill say this ghost also, but even if it were true, is not such treatment of Ontario a splendid earnest of what they will do for a Quebec co-operating with them?

Another cause for Liberal anxiety is in the progressive measures now on foot to restore the Conservative party to its old time place of influence and prestige in that province. Well founded reports indicate that there is no more prom-



CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Happiest words of the whole year—to the littlest child that can understand them—to the dearest old grandmother who can hear them, and to every other wholehearted human being between.

Never was a brighter Christmas in prospect than this one. The war has gone further into the past and the evils it left behind are passing away.

What a happy thought it is going to be, when we are puzzling over gifts for friends, to realize that Christmas money will buy so much more than it would a short time ago—more quality or quantity—MORE HAPPINESS FOR FRIENDS—may now be bought with every dollar that is spent.

Our Christmas Store Invites You!

It never was more interesting, for its array of Gift Things, or for the attractiveness of the prices.

They tell us that this is going to be a year of sensible, practical gifts. That has been the wholesome tendency for years, and we have provided abundantly for those who wish to buy sensible, practical gift-things. Every section of our store is filled with them, and forehanded folks, who do their Christmas shopping early will be delighted with what we have to show them now.

"Christmas is coming!"

To enjoy it more fully and avoid all its unpleasant worries, DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING NOW—get the best pick of the gift-things and avoid the rush and worry of those vexatious days before Christmas.

The Christmas Handkerchief Bazaar

Offers Dainty and Practical Gifts that every Friend will be happy to receive.

We have been amazed ourselves to see what a remarkable assemblage of Handkerchiefs we have gathered for Christmas—now that they are displayed where they can be so conveniently seen.

What could be a better Christmas suggestion than Handkerchiefs? See the exhibition at the new Handkerchief Bazaar.

Boxed Handkerchiefs 65c to \$1.75. Children's Box 30c to 75c. Separate 18c to \$1.50.

Was It Santa Claus Who Changed The Styles of Women's Hand Bags?

New and beautiful styles have just come out—so different from those that women now have—making the best possible holiday gifts, for you are sure that the lady has nothing like them and will be most delighted to get a new Bag in the latest model. Prices range from \$2.25 to \$15.50, including the smartest in velvet bags.

The Glad Hand on Christmas Morning Will Try on the New Gift Gloves

The safe and sure selection. The useful, the thoughtful gift, and yet what could be more refined and elegant for the price paid than a nice pair of Gloves, for man, woman, or child?

Every kind is here, for everybody, for every service. Priced at \$2.25 to \$3.50. All kinds and sizes.

Pack Him Up a New Bag or Suit Case For Christmas

He's much too fine a man to travel around with shabby luggage. But he's careful, too perhaps.

Just the thing! What he might think he could do without, because he's thrifty, his wife will give him for Christmas, because she's thoughtful. Prices run from \$2.00 to \$23.00.

For the Woman Friend—a Pretty Bit of Neckwear

Every woman loves to have plenty of these beauty things. You know just what would be becoming to her, and there is so much daintiness and effectiveness to a Neckwear gift that costs only a few dollars. Separate prices from \$1.00 to \$3.50. By the yard \$1.35 to \$2.85.

No Time Like This to Pick Out Men's Scarfs

Did you ever notice how the fine patterns in Men's Scarfs seem to disappear just before Christmas? Always plenty of Scarfs, to be sure, but not the superb variety of patterns and colorings that we are showing now.

If you are particular about what you send him, pick out the cleverest styles right now, before the collection is too much picked over.

Socks, of Course

Naturally, of Silk. And this Christmas you will be able to select the fine, pure thread silks, in weights of durability and elegance, and not pay any more than you did last year for the more fragile kinds.

And how much more he's going to appreciate them! 35c up to \$2.00.

What a Joy These Eider Quilts Are Now

Two ways—and then some.

A joy to secure such exquisitely warm coverings, that are so elegant in appearance as well as luxurious looking on the beds.

And a new joy to be able to buy such lovely bed coverings at such comfortable prices as these: Prices range \$13.50, \$17.50, \$24.00.

Patons Ltd

provisioning ground for Government propagation work in any part of Canada, all the ideals of the people being in accord with the policy of Premier Meighen and his colleagues. Besides this the French-Canadians are conservative in character and unsympathetic to change-ability and vacillation, the millstone which is carrying McKenize King to political perdition. The

Quebec Conservatives have completed an effective organization, strongly officered as follows:—Mr. F. J. Basaillon, K. C. and Mr. Arnold Wainwright, K. C. presidents; three vice-presidents, Alderman Thomas O'Connell, Mr. L. A. Lavelle and Mr. David S. Friedman; two secretaries, Messrs Arthur Lalonde and John T. Hackett.

COUNTRY DAIRY BOARDS
Farmham, Nov. 27—At the meeting of Eastern Townships Dairy men's exchange, there were 20 packages creamery butter offered which were all sold at 48 cts per lb., f. o. b. This price shows a decline of 2 1/2 cts per lb. as compared with the figures realized at the previous sale.