

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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Morning Daily (founded 1887) 25.00 per year delivered in advance. 25.00 per year (mailed) in advance in Canada and 24.50 to U. S. A.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1922

EDUCATION REPORT

The report of the Chief Superintendent of Education has been tabled in the legislature and distributed. The report follows the usual form giving statistical information regarding cost, maintenance, attendance, enrolment, etc.

The Chief Superintendent directs attention to the variations in assessment values in different parts of the province and recommends that the Public School Act 1920 be amended so as to prescribe a common principle of valuation that all trustee boards should be required to observe in making their assessment rolls.

He also recommends that an attendance officer be appointed in every school district whose duty it would be to see that the compulsory attendance law is observed and to act as prosecutor in case of violation. This latter duty heretofore falling upon the inspectors.

There are 461 schools in the province, containing in all 509 departments and employing 103 male and 48 female teachers with a total enrolment of 17,510 pupils. Supplemental to teachers, paid by districts, amounted to \$81,277.96; expenditure by the government totalled \$244,246.71 and the total expenditure by government and districts for educational purposes \$325,524.67.

The relative amounts expended by trustees and the government per pupil enrolled was \$9.01 by the former and \$11.79 by the latter, a total of \$20.80 per pupil for the whole province.

The reports of the inspectors are complimentary to the teachers and generally optimistic.

CHICKENS COMING HOME

One by one the Liberal chickens are coming home to roost. On Tuesday afternoon Mr. E. T. Higgs placed another of them in the rapidly filling government coop, when he moved a resolution recommending that the Minister of Railways and Canals approve of road projects passing through Charlottetown and Summerside so that these centres could draw a proportion of the Dominion Highways grant.

At a meeting of indignant citizens of Charlottetown in May, 1920, Mr. Higgs declared that it was "planned" that Charlottetown was to receive \$40,000 of the Highways grant, every dollar of which was to be spent on the streets. After two years Mr. Higgs admits that this had not been "planned" and he wants to "plan" it now by a resolution in the legislature. There was nothing said at that time about Summerside as it was only Charlottetown that was after Mr. Higgs' scalp. The scalp hunting is now more general, "every body is doing it" and Mr. Higgs extends the make-believe courtesy to Summerside, and, by request of their respective representatives, to Georgetown, Souris, Montserrat and in fact all incorporated municipalities.

To finish his work and get all his chickens together Mr. Higgs should now move a resolution asking the citizens of Charlottetown to approve his other tactful action at the indignation meeting above referred to when he promised to reduce the citizens' poll tax from three to two dollars and that every dollar of the tax would be expended on the streets—neither of which happened. They're promising birds, those chickens and there is quite a flock of them now. Unfortunately, like their owners, they are of the promising, not the utility variety otherwise the whole of them might well go into the poultry business.

IMMIGRATION

On Monday last there arrived in Canada by the steamer Montcalm, among other passengers, a party of twenty families of agriculturists from Great Britain. These people had considerable money ranging from \$5,000 to \$18,000 per family. Their destination was Western Canada and they were being piloted by an agent of the C. P. R. They will purchase C. P. R. lands and help to swell the increasing population along the great transcontinental railway.

Such immigrants, as these, are a great acquisition to Canada and every possible inducement should be held out to the thousands in the United Kingdom who desire to leave their households and acquire lands of their own in America. Unfortunately the regulations made for the purpose of limiting immigration to desirables have been doing the opposite. According to these regulations every immigrant landing in Canada must show that he has \$250 on his person on arrival. Jews, Austrians, Indians and other undesirable get over this difficulty with the help of friends in this country who advance the money for landing purposes. British immigrants do not resort to such tricks and the effect of the regulation is that hundreds of desirable young men in the United Kingdom who would make good farmers in Canada are prevented from coming while undesirable are brought in by a fluke.

The arrival of the party above referred to is an object lesson in publicity. The C. P. R. wants immigrants to settle on its vacant lands; it goes after the immigrants and gets them. We in the east have vacant lands; we want immigrants; we wait for them but they have never heard of us; they know nothing about our resources or our advantages and they go to the only part of Canada that they have heard of. The West has been advertised abroad; it has been represented by agents; the East has not and even our own people have been cured to the West by its continuous advertising.

No part of Canada needs immigrants more than Prince Edward Island and there are few places that offer as good inducements, especially to men with sufficient means to purchase farms in a settled community rather than go pioneering where there are no schools, no churches, no civilization. A little publicity abroad, a little effort on our part would unquestionably bring us many desirable immigrants.

OUR TOURISTS

We understand that many enquiries are already being received from prospective summer visitors respecting hotel and boarding accommodation and the prospects are that we shall have more visitors than usual during the coming summer. Some are asking about the railway accommodation between Sackville and Charlottetown concerning which much has already been said both in the press and by visitors. This link is admittedly the one great obstacle in the way of tourist trade development. Few who have passed over this piece of road care to repeat the experience if they can avoid it and the easiest way to avoid it is to go somewhere else. It is the last stage in a usually long railway journey; for that reason alone its defects, its crowded and uncomfortable, kerosene lighted and shabby looking cars are the more trying.

There is no legitimate reason why this handicap to the interests of this province should be permitted to exist any longer. There is

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.

Murray Harbor Train

Sir,—It is easy enough for a man sliding in a big chair in an office where there is room enough to turn around and tell the man outside what accommodations he has got to either accept or reject. Such is the case when you step up to a ticket and buy a ticket for Murray Harbor. If you are one cent short you have got to borrow from your neighbor. The railway takes good care they get all this is coming. But what about the poor fellow who pays for accommodation. After buying his ticket he goes out to board his train and the first thing that greets him is a sign in big letters "This Train for Murray Harbor" while in fact it should read "Part of This Train for Murray Harbor". Let me explain.

Last Friday morning the Murray Harbor train was just a little too crowded for comfort, but on return in the evening standing room was a premium. That wasn't the worst feature of the trip ever once in a while one would get a punch in the ribs and always in the same place by a big man jostling his way through the crowd trying to get a punch at your ticket. Now, Sir, do the people pay their good money for a seat to be treated this way. "Oh my, we must be easy! Will all the people who travel on the Murray Harbor train not buy a ticket until the conductor finishes his or she with a seat? Something has got to be done, and that right quickly, the people ought to demand a change in the arrangements. It is treatment like that that those in power make Russia when she is today. Can you blame them now? Am I too severe? I state only facts. I would suggest a remedy. Put on an extra car when needed, say as it was last Friday. Don't think for a moment that the people in Murray Harbor are asleep. Now, Sir, I hope this letter will have the desired effect. A good motto for the P. E. I. would be "Value for your money, or money back." Now, Sir, I hope I will never have to again tell the responsible parties how to run a train. They are paid for it, I am not.

ONE WITH A SORE RIB

Evasion

Sir,—I was much interested in the question asked by Mr. Kennedy "How much Provincial Poll Tax for the year 1920 was received in 1921 from Charlottetown how much from the country?" The government answered \$7,000 in all. But they don't know who paid it. Ye gods and little fishes, think of it! Don't know whether it came from the city, the country, or from the inhabitants of Mars.

Will the Opposition be satisfied with such an absurd answer? Have they not as much right to know what is being done as the government members? My accept giving my address and I take it that all receipts do the same. This being so it should not take long to prepare an answer to Mr. Kennedy's question. If the chief clerk in the Tax Office cannot figure it out, perhaps the combined staff might be equal to it. Let us have the answer.

ONE WHO PAID

No legitimate reason why the time between Sackville and Charlottetown should not be shortened by several hours. On the main line of the National Railway some eight or nine hundred miles are travelled in the time taken between Borden and Charlottetown. There is no legitimate reason why a Pullman or at least a chair car should not be attached to the express trains between Charlottetown and Sackville and there is certainly no legitimate reason why all the passenger cars on this line should not be electrically lighted.

These matters should be attended to now and there should be no let up until these obstacles are removed. The Sackville to Charlottetown link loses thousands of dollars yearly to this province by deflecting its natural trade in other directions and it is up to the province to insist upon a remedy.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The general subject of conversation is the condition of the roads. This complaint is general and covers practically the whole province. It is really too bad that no one appears to take any responsibility in this connection. If some of the hot air spent on justifying the summer road policy were utilized in making winter travel possible, some benefit might accrue to the country.

Notes By The Way

(From The Examiner.)

Attorney General Johnston's reappearance in the Legislature on Monday afternoon, some 21 days after the opening, was so much of an event that it was signalled by the tapping of desks by a few of his ardent admirers, but by no means a majority of the large Liberal majority in the House. The fact was apparent to any onlooker that his absence had been welcome to his portfolio colleagues after the tumpus in the party caucus previously noted in these columns.

His prolonged absence to afford cooling time for the heat that had then been evolved. It may be presumed also that he was more than content to be away for a time from the presence of a leader who would not get down and out simply because certain of the said leader's colleagues and supporters had desired him to do so. In the caucus embroglio the leader had camped on the field at the end of the strife and that of itself afforded a reason why a certain not too affectionate colleague should camp elsewhere for a time.

The convenience of the ministerial party was undoubtedly served by the Attorney General's absence at the time when the bill to amend the Election Act was first introduced and The Patriot editorial, based on what it had been informed by Attorney General Johnston came under review. But the spectators who throng about the House and galleries greatly missed the learned gentleman if his colleagues did not. He usually makes things lively in the House when he is there, and he contrived to give Mr. Higgs a lively half-hour when the House was in committee on the Nurses' Registration bill.

A strong effort has apparently been made within the party to patch up a peace—though it can scarcely be more than a truce—within the party ranks. Ministers and their supporters see that they must stand or fall together, when the day of reckoning shall come, and it is rapidly drawing near. This is at best the next to the last session of their term if they do not "hang together" now they must soon hang separately and in such circumstances misery loves company! Yes, they will hang together. "Needs must when the devil drives," says the old proverb.

Yes, the general election is coming next year, and cannot be put off. And those five by-elections must come this year, with all the awkward explanations they involve, including that amending act that was prepared but not introduced. Five men must run the race, with only one session to follow before they must go through another contest. The country will be stirred up twice during the two years to come, and all this tumult and strife because of a stupid piece of blundering by a government distracted with internal quarrels and bickerings.

Yes, they must hang together now! Would it not be better to have a general election this year than to have the by-elections first?

Daily Selections for Guardian Readers

From the W. S. Louson collection

WITHOUT A SMILE

Like bread without the spread, Like pudding without sauce, Like a mattress without beddin', Like a cart without a boss, Like a door without a latchstring, Like a fence without a stile, Like a dry and barren creek bed, Is a face without a smile.

Like a house without a doorway, Like a yard without a flower, Like a clock without a mainspring, That will never tell the hour— A thing that sort of makes you feel A hunger all the while, O, the saddest thing that ever was, Is a face without a smile.

The face of a man was made for smiles, An' thereby is he blest Above the criers of the field, The birds and all the rest, He's just a little lower Than the angels in the skies; An' the reason is that he can smile, Therein his glory lies.

Selected

Others' View Points

Rural Attractions

There are many who accept the hasty philosophy of Samuel Johnson about country life. He thought one green field was the same as another, and that was all he saw in the great outdoors. How far this is from the truth, lovers of nature will know. They would not for a moment regard it seriously. In recent years the hygienic benefits of contact with nature have been more emphasized than formerly. There are no great slum districts now recognized as necessary evils. Under a better social order the gloaming fever alleys of Tennyson's day are being gradually eliminated. Nature is a tonic. The sunshine is a great scavenger and a purifier. The fresh air is plentiful supplies a great preventive.

Under this changed condition of public opinion it is not hard to convince men of the attractiveness of the country. There are its wide-open skies. To see the sky in its glory one must be in the open where no humanly erected barriers obtrude themselves on the view. The country has its vegetation and verdure in profuse abundance. There is an infinite variety of shape and color and sea. Things are not carried out "to order." Their nature is unadorned and best adorned. There is something salutary and inspiring about contact with original nature. Who would not relish a meditation of nature with Ruskin or a walk with John Burroughs? Nature is the point of contact between man and life. There are "books on running brooks" all right.

Friends for a Short Time

We are taking the fresh-air children back to the city. At the last minute we missed small Annie. We made a hurried search and found her at last on the floor beside her bed, with her face buried in the pillow.

"What's the matter, Annie?" we asked. "What are you crying for?" "I ain't crying," was the indignant reply. "I was just kissing my bed good-bye, 'cause I don't know when I'll ever see another."

Another Law?

Woodstock Sentinel Review. —It is now said that the little publication by members of the Ontario Legislature at the close of the session of 1921 will not be further discussed in the House. "Except in jocular references."

Why not pass a law prohibiting ever jocular references? There would be as much reason for such a law as there is for some others. The Legislature is a law-making body. Jokes at the expense of the lawmakers might easily be interpreted as jokes at the expense of the laws, and eventually of law itself. Such jokes might endanger the very foundation of our system by tending to bring the lawmakers and therefore the laws they make, into contempt.

—I am not one who thinks that the passing of the chaperon marks a distinct moral decline. Our young people have less reserve than they once had; they care less that is physical and mental than they once did. They lay quite bare, in fact, without any of the usual, what they are and think and feel; but I cannot see that this has affected their morality in any way.

—This seems to be the mind of the majority. The authors of the salary grab will hold their clutch upon the treasury and the loot while they can and as long as they can. Meanwhile the choice of a new leader, and also of another Attorney General are whispered about. Some of the wise ones are saying, "We can't go to the country with Bell and Johnston in the lead. That would be suicide. Mr. Saunders for Premier; Speaker Duffy for Attorney General—that's my slate!" says one. Others say, "We have a river to cross and it's a bad time to swap horses."



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Passing of the Chaperon

—I am not one who thinks that the passing of the chaperon marks a distinct moral decline. Our young people have less reserve than they once had; they care less that is physical and mental than they once did. They lay quite bare, in fact, without any of the usual, what they are and think and feel; but I cannot see that this has affected their morality in any way.

—Nor do I fear for the safety of the unchaperoned young woman in society. It is not a question of protecting her from evil or from assault. The modern young woman knows the ways of the world. She is self-reliant and resourceful, she still has ideals and principles of her own, in spite of her scanty clothing, her bobbed hair, and her rouged cheeks; and she is quite able to look after her social affairs. If she were not, I still have faith enough in men to think that the days of gallantry are not yet quite passed, and that, if the girl were not wise enough to take care of herself, the average young man would still do it for her.

It is not because the girl is unsafe, or because she is less modest than I am sorry to see the passing of the chaperon; it is because she is a little less refined. Going to a dance now is like eating at a lunch counter, where the food may be varied and as savory as it is well-

ordered and carefully served dinner, but where there are lacking the little refinements of napery and cutlery, and the little touches and attentions which mean quite as much as the food itself. The unchaperoned girl gives an impression of strength and independence, it is true, but she seems cruder, less polished. Her laugh is louder than it used to be. She lacks a certain graciousness, an appealing finesse and poise which characterized her older sister. She is not quite a lady, as we were once wont to define the term. She has gained something, perhaps, but at the same time she has lost something. And I am sorry.

Sound at Heart.

(London Daily Mail) For the sake of our actors and actresses in particular there is cause for rejoicing that plays of some literary quality are again drawing money in London. There is a great deal of ability on the London stage today, but it would speedily die of despair if cheap sensationalism and vulgarity were the only stuff it was allowed to touch. The London theatre, in a word, is waking up, and the remarkable dramatic activity of the Universities to which our columns frequently bear witness, will help to feed the happy flame.

