

THE CHARLOTTE TOWN GUARDIAN

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 1923

A LEADER SPEAKS

Beginning in yesterday's issue and continuing today the speech of Mr. J. D. Stewart, K.C., provincial Conservative leader is published. We commend this speech to our readers. Mr. Stewart takes up the different points in the Speech from the Throne, the pre-emption propaganda of the Bell government and discusses them seriously and honestly. There is no evasion, no veneering; no white washing. The speech from the Throne is a challenge and he accepts it. On the face of it the Speech lays down the purpose, not the policy of the Liberal party; that purpose is to continue the hood-winking methods by which the party climbed into power. Mr. Stewart exposes this with consummate skill and ability. The Speech from the Throne assumes that by reiterating over and over again the greatness and the goodness of the Bell government, by repeating over and over the story of great good alleged to have been done, the people will believe it and give them another lease of power. It is an appeal to the credulous and to the ignorant and in this is its fatal defect. Our people are neither ignorant nor credulous, they are wide awake and watchful; they know that huge sums of money have been borrowed, that they have been heavily taxed, that the debt of the province has been greatly increased, notwithstanding the Liberal claims to the contrary and they know that this thing cannot go on without hopelessly involving the province. The reiterated assurance that these expenditures are not going to cost the farmers a dollar will not go down with intelligent electors. These matters will be taken up in the course of the session. In the meantime we commend a careful perusal of Mr. Stewart's excellent speech, also of Premier Bell's report of which will no doubt be available. A fair and impartial comparison of the representations made by both will convince the electors that more than self glorification on the part of the Bell government is needed to show that the affairs of the province are in a healthy condition.

STRAW MEN

Setting up straw men, dressing them up in imitation of the enemy, knocking them down and jumping on the prostrate body, may be good calisthenics, but it is not war. It is not even a good imitation of war and is never mistaken even by the most ignorant for war. Probably it was because it became generally known on Wednesday that this was to be the programme at the evening session that the galleries were empty and that the seats reserved for strangers were unoccupied with the exception of those occupied by three ladies when Premier Bell resumed his speech on the address. It would be difficult to take Premier Bell seriously. He did not take himself seriously and when he declared that the Conservative party had no policy and then proceeded to tell the House what the Conservative policy was on road improvement, on taxation and on education and other matters of vital importance to the province, he became unintelligible. It was at this stage that he set up his straw men; here that he pictured with serious earnestness the absurd policies of his opponents, a few moments before, he had declared had no policy. How he demolished these creations one by one; how he set them in their places the admirable smoothworking, economic and all bottom of this matter, if possible, satisfying Liberal policies on who will act? Who will be the everything touching the welfare of the province here and hereafter, asked by the Sackville Tribune was eloquent but not convincing the home organ of Hon. Mr. Copp.

Notes by the Way

Counting the cost before undertaking any new enterprise is a sound principle whether for the individual, the community or for the state. Other matters to be considered are the need of the work proposed, its probable utility, the purpose it will serve, whether it will or will not produce a cash return, whether the projector can afford the cost and so on. These considerations apply especially to a community like ours, to the building of houses, barns, stores, and shops by the individual and the construction or improvement of roads and bridges by the province. It will be admitted by all that houses and barns are good and necessary things for farmers and others, and that roads and bridges are necessary and useful to the community. They are good things to have and people must have them. And a good house, barn or highway is much more satisfactory and serviceable than a poor one. But we would count the man a fool who has a farm of moderate or small value and no other financial resources who would mortgage his farm for money to build an extravagantly costly house on it. Yet many a farmer who did not count the cost has been compelled to part with his farm because of erecting buildings which he could not pay for. We must consider our circumstances as a province. In the ten years of the last census period we lost five thousand of our people and we have lost other thousands since 1920 when the last census was made. In twenty to thirty years past we have lost 25 per cent. of the people we once had, while other provinces have gained in population from 10 per cent to 50 per cent. each. In the face of such alarming facts what is it but sheer madness to assume that we can undertake as we have done and go on with a road expenditure proportionate to theirs? Government like to spend money. It facilitates their vanity, and by spending the peoples money with a lavish hand they hope often to buy the peoples votes with the peoples own money. In fifty years past no government in this province has ever attempted or approached such a huge expenditure as the Bell Government has made and which it now proposes to extend to future years. There is no urgent present need for the further extension of these road projects and if they are carried on, needs that are more urgent must be neglected. Present high wages for labor should forbid it. The work already done could have been done ten years ago at half the present cost and might probably be done a few years hence quite as cheaply. There are said to be 3,650 miles of roads in this province and three fourths of our country people live along these unimproved roads. If it has cost from \$1,000 to \$1,500 per mile to improve one tenth part of our road mileage, what would it cost to improve the whole? A fabulous and impossible sum, the reader will say. Well, 3,000 miles of road along which three-fourths of the country people live have had their home roads neglected as never before, because of the Bell Government road jobs! No provision has yet been made or decided upon for the upkeep of the improved roads, or for getting fertilizer from Richmond Bay, but on the eve of an election both are promised! These will cost money. Where is it to come from? There is little travel or traffic on our island highways compared with that of the larger provinces and this for two reasons. We have few people; they have many. We have railway and water connection between all our towns and ports, and these carry all heavy traffic and keep it off our roads. Motor cars on our highways are insignificant in number compared with those on the highways of any other province. Other provinces with their great wealth and large, rapidly growing population can afford what we with our few and diminishing numbers cannot afford. That is why we ask our legislators at this critical moment to pause and count the cost of what the Government has done, is doing, and yet proposes to do. The stern lessons of hard times, enforce the need of prudence and economy now as they have seldom done before. Economy was promised as by the men now in power. It has been flung to the winds, and a mad riot of expenditure and taxation given us in

The Public Forum

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlotte-Town Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion expressed by its correspondents. Railway Shovelers. Sir.—Recently I noticed in your columns a letter with regard to the hiring of old men for snow-shovelers. I support the writer of this letter, as I have seen the same thing myself. I have also seen children, school children of no more than fifteen years; yes, and some of them forty, standing about 4 feet high, shovelers and getting the same wages as a man. Men kids; think of it! I think it is about time that something was done. It is an insult to a working man, because if these kids can earn \$2.00 a day, how much more can a man earn? I am, Sir, etc. SHOVELLER. Let the Government Wake Up. Sir.—My advice to anyone having any business around Vernon Bridge is to stay at home or walk there. I had occasion to drive through there a few days ago and for the pitches something grand, some of them 5 or 6 feet deep, just like crossing the English Channel after a big storm. Now, couldn't Mr. Crosby order the roadmasters to get these things attended to and if there is any money left after he gets his salary they will be paid. Another suggestion I would make to save life this spring, would be to instruct all roadmasters to have drains opened up at places where the water dams up every spring. Now is the time to do it, before the freshets come. Sir, wouldn't it be a good idea to try an experiment for the next four years, and run the affairs of the country without a government? It would save a lot, at least, and I am sure nothing would be lost. If we cannot improve, one would naturally think something would be done as we are so near another election. I am, Sir, etc. ONCE A LIBERAL. Looking Forward. Sir.—Fifty years ago, when we saw a doctor driving the old, old, gray mare up the lane to a neighbor's house, we said it was a sign of death. A country doctor in those days gave the patient yellow pills for the forenoon and green ones for the afternoon, and if there was much groaning and moaning going on he would usually tell the patient "I have done all I can for you; your chances are very slim. If you don't take a turn for the better in ten hours you are gone." He gave no promise, no hope, no encouragement, and his forenoon and afternoon yellow and green pills gave no relief. Today, when the young up-to-the-minute country doctor comes up the driveway with his automobile he wastes no time looking at the yearlings in the barnyard. Oh, no! He rushes in to where the patient lies and says, "Don't worry, my friend. I am going to make a new man of you." He takes your temperature, feels your pulse, examines your tongue, listens to your breathing machinery with the aid of a stethoscope, and if he sees any bad breakers ahead he orders a nurse brought in to hang up a weather chart on the end of the bed, and as soon as she is properly installed in the easiest chair in the house, she proceeds to read "The Mad Love of a Wild Caveman." It happens to be round, plump and ruddy, the patient will try and stay sick and no doubt thank the doctor until the bill comes in. We have advanced in many ways in the past fifty years, but still it seems to me that with all our rapid strides along general lines we overlook the fact that the greatest essential for the promotion of true happiness is charity and good will for all—no matter whether they be rich or poor, learned or illiterate. I will now attempt to show how your lands on P.E.I. have been depleted and robbed of fertility in the last fifty years, and have not been restored to a normal healthy condition. I want to talk to you young men with fixed ideas and sticky notions to the round house and send them back to their original starting point, so that they can travel once more over the same road, but at this time with a better view. Now then, we will get right down to brass tacks. I want to take Henry with me, and we will drive away to Pleasant Valley. He is a pretty good listener, and very bright fellow. All right, Henry, get your togs on; never mind about style. You will look all right riding around with "The Wise Man from Boston." I will put something under the buggy-seat and as we return we will sing "Roaming in the Gloaming," and "Home, Sweet Home." Henry, get into the buggy and I will open the old swinging gate, and then we will be on our way to Pleasant Valley. You remember the first letter I wrote the Guardian, I asked "What is the least, that and their other solemn promises have been torn up and rejected as "scraps of paper" with which Germany made the world familiar. New and rosy promises from the same deceiving and treacherous source are now offered to replace those they have violated and discarded. What are they worth? A people once deceived and betrayed by these men marks them as worthless as German marks or Russian roubles!

matter with P.E.I.?" You know that up to the present time no one has answered my question. I gave them plenty of time to fill up their thinkers and put them in running order, but it seems to me now that there must be some broken cogs, and something has skipped. So now I will try and answer my own question, and one of the first things I will tell you, Henry, is that all this talk you hear so often about successful islanders abroad is magnified bunk. You show me, Henry, any one thing that any of those famous men have ever done for P.E.I. And then for each one I will show you a hundred girls who came to Boston and worked hard in dark Back Bay kitchens, and sent their earnings home to help pay the mortgage on the farm; to help pay the instalment that was due on the mower, reaper or binder, and they often helped to pay for a kind brother's tuition in college in order that he might become a doctor, lawyer or clergyman. Now, Henry, those girls have done more individually for your island in the way of aid and helping out at crucial times, than all of your great and famous men put together. Now, Henry, if you are seriously thinking of leaving the old homestead, don't ever get the notion lodged in your head that all of us working people in New England cities and towns have a good easy time keeping our shirts whole and our souls clean. In my next letter, I will tell you about the farms of Pleasant Valley. I am, Sir, etc. JOHN D. MCINTYRE. Boston, March 20, 1923. Selling Lemon Extract. Sir.—I have read a lot of Prohibition talk recently and should like to say a few words about an abuse that is becoming more rampant throughout the country. We had an election recently to stop liquor from coming in, and to stop all moonshine, and I am greatly surprised to see that the liquor has not yet stopped, nor anything done to stop the substitutes. I do hate to see men drunk. I don't say I am against liquor altogether, as it is a good medicine in some instances; but I do not think our Government is doing right to stop imported liquor or moonshine when we know these are not poison if properly made, but I know there are store-keepers who would be ashamed to sell liquor but who do not hesitate to sell lemon extract for drinking purposes. When a man buys more than one bottle, they know that it is wanted for bottles at a time and the store-keepers who sell it to them know in their own mind what use is to be made of it. I am sure there is much more poison in one bottle of lemon extract than in one bottle of good rum. I think if some store-keepers were allowed they would sell liquor just the same to every fellow for the money looks good to them, although they make out now that they are against it. So far as I know and can judge, any one who will sell seven or eight bottles of lemon to one man would not hesitate to put a bottle of rum in his mouth in a dark corner, to think we would be blessed if our Government would prosecute all those store-keepers who disobey the law in this respect. I am, Sir, etc. FISHERMAN'S WIFE. Church Union. Sir.—I notice recently in your paper several articles on Church Union, the first by Rev. Dr. Scott of Montreal, against, followed by Rev. W. Orr Mullan, Messrs. John Agnew and J. C. Jardine, also against. Having received a few days ago a copy of the Sydney Post dated March 3, which contained a letter, written by that eminent and broad-minded divine, Dr. John Pringle, pastor of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church, Sydney, in reply to Dr. Scott, I thought your readers might be interested to know what his views on this question are; and would ask you to kindly publish the letter which I enclose. It certainly does to my mind, at least—is a most effective reply in favor of Union. I am, Sir, etc. SUBSCRIBER. (Enclosure). Sir.—A letter appeared in your issue of 24th February signed E. Scott. It was on the question of the union soon to be consummated between the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational churches in Canada. If I did not know that E. Scott is a minister of Jesus Christ, I should say that his letter was conceived in a bad spirit and written in a bad temper. When, once only, it takes the voice of Jesus it does so only to misinterpret it. The letter gives one the impression of a series of explosions, designed to hurt others, which, nevertheless, but only the cause of him responsible for them. Permit me, Sir, the use of your columns to say a few things to the public in answer. 1. The Presbyterian Church in Canada has taken the same constitutional steps towards this union which were taken by each of the four Presbyterian churches prior to the union of 1875. I was a student missionary near Montreal in those days, and heard the debates in the four Synods which separately met in Montreal. It belonged to the church which did most to oppose the union—the "Old Kirk." There were the same lurid denunciations of the proposed union which we hear to day; the same prophecies of disaster; the same determination expressed to fight the union movement and to keep on under the old banner. Those anti-union brethren refused the manifest guidance of God's spirit, and were left in a blind slough in an eddy of the great stream which swept on toward its destination. These were all Presbyterians! Yes, but Presbyterians

who were widely separated by historic family quarrels. We have never quarrelled with our Methodist brethren. They had their origin in a great, purely spiritual, revival in England, the greatest which has ever blessed the Empire since Reformation days; and the two streams of spiritual influence with, humanly speaking, different origins, in time, place and condition are now coming together for God's glory and the blessing of Canada and the world. 2. What was Christ's prayer as related to this great spiritual movement? "That they all may be one, as thou, Father, art in Me and I in Thee, that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me." And again, "I in them and Thou in Me, that they may be perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them as Thou hast loved Me." "One Big Union" was the expression used by Dr. Scott, in a previous letter, in an attempt to arouse prejudice in this industrial centre. "Combine" is the word used in this last letter. Christ prayed for just one big union, its source in God, its power spiritual, its purpose unselfish service for the glory of God and the good of men. Who objects to such a big union? Did an anti-unionist ever offer a prayer against such an enterprise in the last 45 years and have never heard a sentence in a prayer, much less a prayer, directed against such a blessed consummation. The world knows nothing about Spiritual Union, except as it is expressed in visible union. "There shall be one fold, one shepherd." Soon, thank God, we shall see a great step taken in Canada towards the realization of Christ's ideal. What does Paul say writing to the Corinthians? "I hear there are rivalries among you." One says: "I am of Paul, and I of Apples, and I of Peter, and I of Christ." Is Christ divided? That is exactly what we mean, Chinamen, Hindus, too, ask the same question: "If you are all as you say united for Christ, why are you separated from each other?" Of approximately 300 workers of my own church in the foreign field only two are known to be anti-unionists. 3. The East needs union more than the West does. The West is developing rapidly. The village of today may be a city or town ten years hence. But there are hundreds of districts, villages, towns in the old provinces which have no future greater than their present. They are over-churches, divided into little factions struggling for an existence, separated by the very thing, religion, which should weld them together to keep their self-respect. One said to me in 1919, "I am here, but I have not a man's job." The attempt to make it appear that the interests of East and West in this matter of union are not identical is unworthy and foolish. If moneyed interests in the East poured money into the West they did not do it as philanthropists, but because they had the vision of docks, elevators, harvester works, steel plants, as a result of their enterprise in the West. And if the churches poured out money on the West, their commission required it, and the call of their sons and daughters in the West demanded it. If the West gave us nothing in return but James Robertson—a great unionist—it did a great thing for us. For he contributed more than anyone else to give Church and State a vision of the West, and what its development and evangelization meant to Canada, the Empire and the world. "Freedom still lives!" But Dr. Scott seems to forget that majorities have their rights as well as minorities. The charge that the majority is responsible for the strife and irritation, coming from Dr. Scott, sounds a good deal like a splinter in my hand, blaming my flesh for the trouble in its tissue. It is simply ridiculous for intelligent men to argue that a great corporate body like the Presbyterian church, organized for spiritual and moral purposes, is not free to take a step such as is contemplated by this union. It is the second great movement towards the fulfilment of Christ's prayer which I have known during my ministry. It cannot now be halted. It will not, it must triumph, either delayed by the spirit of timid or compromise. The church will now go forward steadily and fearlessly on the path which the prayer of Christ, uttered when He was under the shadow of the cross, clearly indicates. I believe that those who are in favor of this union have rightly interpreted the mind and heart of Christ, or I would be in the group who seek to thwart the movement. We seek to obey the call of the Spirit. JOHN PRINGLE. Sydney, N.S., 2nd March, 1923. Aim To Bring 18-Year Old Back To School. HALIFAX, N. S., March 22.—A bill providing for part time schools and making it compulsory that employed adolescents between the ages of 16 and 18 attend these for a period of at least 300 hours out of the year, was introduced by Premier E. H. Armstrong in the House of Assembly today. Employers would be required under penalty to allow such adolescent employees the time necessary to attend the schools and pay them at their regular rate of wages while they were taking the classes. Cities or towns which have more than fifteen employed adolescents between the ages of sixteen and eighteen would be required to establish part time classes with government aid. This session has started very late. I am finding no fault with the Government on this point, but so it is. We are now into what newspapermen call the Ides of March. Five weeks more will bring us to about the first of May. I assume that when the Government called this session they were prepared with their reports. They should be ready now to have everything tabled, and I presume they are. Last year we got through with the initial debate very quickly and I cannot see why we should not get through with it just as expeditiously this year. The real debate is the Budget debate. Then the House has the Public Accounts and other material before it, and members are then able to discuss the record of the Government during the past year. At the present time we can only deal with generalities. I would like to see all the reports tabled immediately and the debate carried on as rapidly as possible so that we can get through at a time when those of us who have work to do can do it. We should so arrange it that matters of importance will not be dealt with in the dying hours of the session when out-of-town members are worrying about their farms and when we are not in a mental condition to give the attention and study to those matters which they deserve. In so far

That Body of Yours. By James W. Barton, M.D. (COPYRIGHT) WHAT ABOUT YOUR EYES? Perhaps you don't want to bother about your eyes, or perhaps you don't want to be told that your eyesight is poor or failing. Perhaps also you don't like the idea of wearing glasses. Now there isn't any reason why you shouldn't help nature out a little sometimes. Surely Nature came to your aid often enough besides if your eyes are not up to normal, and you are using them as if they were you are going to do them an injury, that may cause permanent trouble later on. So, if you will not go to see an oculist just try your eyes out on your own account. Get some good white paper and with lead pencil make a half dozen fine small squares exactly three eighths of an inch each way, separated from one another by three eighths of an inch. Now with heavy black ink put the letters D.E.C.L.P.B. within the squares, the body of the letter being not more than one sixteenth of an inch wide. Rub out your pencil marks. Now step back fifteen feet from your card which is on a level with your eyes. Next, take a card and place it over the right eye and see if you can read the letters distinctly with the left eye. Then try the right eye. If you can read the letters distinctly with each eye singly then your eyes are all right as far as sight is concerned. If one shows the letters more distinctly than the other, or if there are wavering lines about some of the letters then your eyes are not absolutely normal. Remember this is a crude test, and cannot compare with a test that would be given you by an oculist or optometrist, but it may arouse sufficient curiosity in some to incite them to take an interest in those important organs—the eyes.

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WANTED MEN. There's the chap with the "Can't" and the chap with the "won't" and the chap who's betwixt, more or less; There's the chap with an "Aye," and the chap who ought to be "Nay," and the "No" when it ought to be "Yes"; There's the chap who's too weak to get up when he's down—too Bluffed to strike back when he's hit; And the chap who bobs up when he ought to stay down; and the Chap who does nothing but sit; There's the chap who is brave when he's nothing to fear, and the Chap who's afraid without shame; But the world wanting men has no patience with these—what it Wants is the fellow—dead game!

Leader of the Opposition

Continued from Page Three year, of two or three thousand dollars, and if they owe as much as they did last year, the surplus is not of very much importance, and very little attention to it will be paid by the electors of this province. I notice, too, that my hon. friend still has the obsession about this deficit of \$25,000 or thereabouts. I do not know now that it is possible or further worth the attempt to discharge his mind of that idea. We have explained it to him time and again, but he has made up his mind that there was a deficit at that time. It is a pity to deprive him of that little hallucination if it is of any comfort to him. He has said also that the Conservative Government had been a CURSE to this province. My hon. friend has strange ideas as to the nature of a "curse." His ideas, I am afraid, have become so distorted that it is scarcely any wonder that even some of his own followers desire a change. Is it a "curse" to get an increase of \$100,000 from the Dominion Government? Is the establishing of a mussel-plant to supply the farmers a "curse"? Does he call substituting a large number of our old wood bridges with steel structures a "curse"? Was the increase in the number of school inspectors and the teachers' salaries at that time a "curse" to this province? These things were done by the Conservative Government, but I do not believe the people will say they were a "curse." The curse to this province is an irresponsible Government, which promises anything to gain power and then goes back upon its promises and does nothing. That, I believe, will be considered by our people the greatest curse that can come upon any country. Should be "All Set." This session has started very late. I am finding no fault with the Government on this point, but so it is. We are now into what newspapermen call the Ides of March. Five weeks more will bring us to about the first of May. I assume that when the Government called this session they were prepared with their reports. They should be ready now to have everything tabled, and I presume they are. Last year we got through with the initial debate very quickly and I cannot see why we should not get through with it just as expeditiously this year. The real debate is the Budget debate. Then the House has the Public Accounts and other material before it, and members are then able to discuss the record of the Government during the past year. At the present time we can only deal with generalities. I would like to see all the reports tabled immediately and the debate carried on as rapidly as possible so that we can get through at a time when those of us who have work to do can do it. We should so arrange it that matters of importance will not be dealt with in the dying hours of the session when out-of-town members are worrying about their farms and when we are not in a mental condition to give the attention and study to those matters which they deserve. In so far

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