

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Mr. Charles Dalton, President. J. R. Burns, Editor and Publisher. D. K. Currie, Associate Editor.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1922

LECTURE COURSE

This, Thursday, evening the Concert and Lecture Course for 1922, under the auspices of the Caledonian Club, will open in the Club Rooms with a lecture on "Scottish Ideals in Education" by Dr. S. N. Robertson, Principal of Prince of Wales College. The Doctor's reputation as an educationalist and his well known interest in matters historical are a guarantee that this lecture will be both interesting and educational.

The course mapped out for this season includes eleven lectures by some of our best known public speakers. Burns' Concert, two evenings a dance and conversation and musical evening, the whole programme assuring interest and entertainment.

The Caledonian Club deserves every commendation for having initiated this, the only organization of an intellectual and social purpose in the city. The course was instituted last year and proved a most useful and elevating one. This year an even better programme has been prepared and we have no doubt that all our citizens who have long felt the crying need of such an institution will avail themselves of its privileges. The lectures are entirely free and all citizens have a standing and cordial invitation to attend any or all of them.

COMMISSION AND PROHIBITION

We have shown in our article of Tuesday's issue that the duty of actively operating the Prohibition Act devolves largely upon the Inspectors, and in the city and incorporated towns, the police. The prosecutors must see that the fines and expenses are immediately paid, and in default the defendant taken forthwith to jail. The money must be without delay forwarded to the Secretary of the Board who is responsible to the Commission, and every quarter a certified return must be made to the Government. No organization can long exist or prove effective without an executive head. Under the Prohibition Act, the Commission of six members, is nominally the head, presided over by one of their members as chairman. Actually the Executive head of the Prohibition Law is the Secretary who is supposed to be an honorary officer of the Commission. Upon his shoulders rests the responsibility for the smooth working of a rather complicated machine; upon him all the blame for mistakes and neglect of officials for the non-success of prohibition in certain parts, for the zeal or over zeal of officers in other parts; for keeping check on the officers, for keeping and making out the many books, forms and documents necessary for the fulfilling of the law. Yet, this official, the virtual head of the most influential "uplift" movement in the province is supposed to devote his time, energies and temper to the work not only without remunera-

tion, but with all the abuse and adverse criticism thrown in. We had hoped that the Government had seen fit to recognize the responsibility and labours of the officer and had authorized the Commissioners to pay its secretary a sufficiently remunerative salary for the work he performs and the ability he displays in the exercise of his office. But the Bell Government, "stricky as they make 'em" refused to gratify the opposition's alleged curiosity on the point, so that even now the public is at a loss to know whether or not the Secretary and Executive head of the Commission is remunerated for his arduous and multifarious duties.

Probably the public is not aware, but it is largely due to the efforts of the Secretary, Mr. Henry Smith and the Rev. R. G. Fulton that the Commission owes its existence. These two men it was who conceived the idea of taking Prohibition out of politics at a time when some of the extremists, including the Patriot, were working themselves and the public into a fever heat over the alleged shortcomings of the then Government in the administration of the law. We would, therefore, have been very sorry indeed to have had the enforcement of the Act thrown back into the hands of the Attorney General for that would have meant the practical undoing of all the Matheson-Arnscliff governments accomplished in building up a system from which the suspicion of politics was barred. We are glad, therefore, that we misunderstood Mr. Smith when we gained the impression that because of the great trouble involved in the enforcement of penalties that part of the work of the Commission had been handed back to the Attorney General. All the same we cannot see how the Secretary can satisfactorily carry on his multifarious duties under the Act without adequate remuneration and clerical assistance. The Secretary should not only be paid but he should have an assistant to enable him to attend to his correspondence to assist in the keeping of his books and records and in keeping the public informed on the work of the Commission. Complaint has been made that public support is lacking and that people are more prone to adversely criticize than to actively assist the Commission by word and action. Now this in a large measure is due to the lack of publicity regarding the work of the Commission. We suggest that if a little more light were thrown upon the Commission's activities people would take considerably more appreciative interest in the Commission and its work, and we are pleased to note that the new Commission has begun well in this respect. We intend returning again to this subject, and at an early date will publish certain facts and figures regarding the enforcement of the Act which will throw a somewhat lurid light on the ineffectiveness of imposing penalties and collecting fines.

Daily Selections for Guardian Readers

From the collection of the late Mr. W. S. Louson FOR BUSINESS MEN MY AIM If any little word of mine May make a life the brighter, If any little song of mine May make a heart the lighter, God help me speak the little word, And take my bit of singing, And drop it in some lonely vale To set the echoes ringing. If any little love of mine May make a life the sweeter, If any little care of mine, May make a friend's the fleetier, If any lift of mine may ease The burden of another, God give me love and care and strength To help my toiling brother.

Others' View Points

The First Menu. (Answers, London) Has it ever struck you, when gazing at the bill of fare in a restaurant, how such cards came to be originated? It was in 1541. At Ratisbon a grand State dinner was held, to which most of the German nobilities had been invited. Although the feast was a complete success, we are told that Duke Henry of Brunswick was ill at ease. He had a strip of paper in his hand, at which he kept looking. The guests thought he was memorizing notes for a speech, but

Stranger Than Noah's Ark

(Toronto Gazette.)

Anybody accustomed to living in the wilds might be expected to resent being compelled to spend eight weeks on the high seas writes a correspondent from Tibury, England. The Tasmanian devil, which arrived at Tibury with a collection of other creatures in the White Star liner, Medic, was full of resentment.

Nor did he fail to voice it. He has advantages in emotional expression that are denied to other animals. He can growl like a dog and spit like a cat, and he can do the two things at once. His temper is atrocious, and he seems to have quarrelled with the entire world—a furry, insubordinate bundle of rage and nerves.

On board the Medic I met Mr. A. S. Le Souef, who has brought the collection of animals from Australia and New Guinea. He took eight hundred specimens on board at the beginning of the voyage, but a portion of them were put ashore at Durban, and Bloemfontein.

A pair of rose-crowned fruit pigeons have been brought for Lord Northcliffe, who saw and admired them greatly when he visited the Zoological Gardens at Sydney. These birds are about the size of a starling. Their plumage is as brilliant as that of a bird of paradise, and they have on the head a crown of rose-colored feathers.

Among Mr. Le Souef's collection there are kangaroos, wallabies, rat kangaroos, bandicoots, wombats, opossums, flying squirrels, parrots, cuckoos, cassowaries, lizards, carpet snakes, fish, trawls, swans, bird of paradise, minahs, shilling starlings, Tasmanian devils and emus. The feeding of this various family was no small undertaking. Here are one or two specimen bills:

Birds of paradise—Raw beef, hard-boiled egg, currants, apples, cake, crushed biscuit, hemp, bananas.

Flying squirrels—Condensed milk, bovril, bananas, bread.

Honeyeaters—Condensed Milk, bovril, dried flies, hard-boiled egg, cake.

Compared with this the diet of one is said to have inquired: "May I ask the nature of that document, most noble Duke?"

The Duke of Brunswick, with a little reluctance explained that the dinner was so sumptuous for any person to do justice to everything. He had, consequently, got the cook to prepare a full list of the dishes, so that he might select what he fancied most.

"Clever dodge, that," remarked the others, when the story got broadcast. "We must get our kitchen-master to do the same for us."

And so a "bill of fare" or menu, was from that time an "institution" at feasts, etc.

Lord Riddell and U. S. Reporters. (Brooklyn Eagle)

No tribute ever paid to the press of America has been more impressive than that of Lord Riddell, George Allardice Riddell, who is returning to London after playing successfully the difficult role of liaison officer between the British delegation to the Arms Conference and the correspondents. He says:

"American newspapermen are the most delightful people I have ever met. Their desire for accuracy is perfectly overwhelming. They are consumed by the idea that they must not make mistakes."

This is praise indeed. Lord Riddell has been said to hold the same position in the magazine field in Great Britain that Lord Northcliffe holds in the daily newspaper field. But Americans who think of the magazine as a monthly should remember that the News of the World, Lord Riddell's favorite, is a weekly, said to have the largest circulation in the world, about 2,500,000. It is distinctly a newspaper, though not a daily.

It is doubtless true that the American newspapers would have been able to cover the Arms Conference in all its phases fairly well, if Lord Riddell had not been in Washington. Their Washington correspondents had and have relations with those who know things close enough to insure them against going far astray. But to the correspondents from London, and from Paris, and from Rome, as well as those from countries not in the "Big Five" the British publisher was a godsend. He always knew what was going on. He always talked freely. He was invariably courteous, even genial. And even the American reporters found his utterances a useful check on other sources of information.

Notes By The Way

(From The Examiner.)

Liberal governments in Prince Edward Island have always been volatile in their promises and pledged of economy and retrenchment, as was the Bell Government before and after training power in September, 1919. When in power they have almost always failed to keep within the provincial income. Some may think this is a hard saying, or one inspired by partisan feeling or motives. Electors, like other people are prone to forget.

For a few minutes let us consider the record. From April, 1891 to December, 1911, a continuous period of over 20 years, the Liberal party controlled the destinies of this province under successive leaders. We have no desire to unduly blame or discredit any of these public men. In no single instance do we doubt their honesty or integrity. A political leader cannot always have his own way. Of necessity he must be influenced and to a large extent guided by the views of his colleagues and supporters.

This prolonged period of Liberal rule was marked by one notable feature. There was not a single year in all those twenty years in which the provincial expenditure was kept within the revenue. Every year there was a deficit. There was not a single exception, not a momentary break, not a gleam of sunshine through the dark cloud of the year's close. Liberal rule began with a deficit. It was continued in deficits and ended in a deficit.

During those twenty years a surplus was of course, unknown. People forgot that there ever had been such a thing as a surplus named in our public accounts. Young men who had just come of age and become voters in the days of the Peters Government in 1891 were married, and became fathers and even grandfathers during this period. From the twenties they passed into the forties and never knew or heard of a surplus in all that time. Deficits, coincident with Liberal rule, had become a chronic fixture. Everybody knew what a deficit was, knew that it was apparently a sure

the kangaroo was very modest. The animals gave very little trouble during their long voyage. They were caged in pens and cages of deck, and there was a sacking curtain in front of each to protect the occupants from wet and wind. In the Australian Bight there was a severe storm. Seasickness broke out in the floating zoo, and three bandicoots died from it. Later, when the Medic was coming through the tropics, one of the wombats fainted and was put on deck to recover. It did this with extreme alacrity, and turned half a dozen somersaults before being captured and put back into its pen.

Insisted on Taking Baths.

In the English Channel, when the weather was cold and foggy, many of the birds insisted on continuing to take their morning bath. This practice was entirely against the best medical advice. No baths were provided, and the birds therefore used their drinking water. When this was taken away they washed in condensed milk. Then they had to have a real bath to wash the milk away.

Fox of them, except the Tasmanian devil, raised any real objection to making a sea trip, and some of the cranes are reported to have introduced a thoroughly nautical roll into their gait.

Some of the most amusing specimens are the minahs, which look like Chinese girls. The cuckoos are about as big as a pheasant, and have none of the tendencies toward domestic irregularity of the British variety.

The flying squirrel is a night animal, which lives only in the tree tops. He is rarely seen, even in Australia.

The carpet snakes are not poisonous, and measure six feet to seven feet in length. In Australia they are much used to clear farm buildings of rats.

Mr. Le Souef said that the collection is composed solely of animals that have been specially caught for distribution among various zoological societies in Africa, Europe and the United States. They were unloaded and taken to Regent's Park, London, where some of them will remain.

The Government of Australia is nationalizing the fauna of the Commonwealth, and will not allow animals native to the country to be disposed of without a special permit. As a rule they may be exported only if they are destined for a recognized zoological institution.

thing, and that deficits only differed from one another in size and amount, anywhere from \$10,000 to \$119,942.

After the Matheson Government came in and the first surplus was announced it is related that one of the younger Liberal voters turned to the dictionary to find the meaning of this, to him, new word. He was doubtful of the spelling and failed to find the word. His father came to his assistance. "What are you looking for my son?" "Why, I'm looking for that new word 'surplus' that I heard at the political meeting last night." This had the word passed out of the mind and memory of half our people under long-continued Liberal rule.

Be it observed that the twenty years here brought under review included those boasted fifteen years of "Laurier prosperity", when Liberalism was dominant alike in the Dominion and in this Province and the two governments were in such delightful accord. Yet that was the period during which deficit was piled upon deficit in one black mountain chain under Liberal rule. In our island Province it is a record without a parallel in the history of any other political party, or in any other province of Canada. It is a shocking and ominous record as well, and one of which all should be reminded now that the same sinister elements have become dominant at Ottawa and here, lest we forget.

Under Conservative rule, following the long period above reviewed, the province enjoyed able and economical administration during eight years, but that Government was denounced by The Patriot daily as extravagant and lavish in expenditure. A favorite epithet applied to it by the Liberal organ was "splashaway." "Splashaway" government? But still any fair minded voter compare the financial record of that government with that of the Liberal governments which preceded it, with their unbroken catalogue of deficits, or with the mad race of taxation and expenditure upon which the Bell Government has entered, and then he can say which method is the more economical, and which has resulted in extravagance!

It was ever thus with Liberal Governments. The Mackenzie Government of 45 years ago, in bad times, was swamped under a succession of deficits. The Laurier Government in a more prosperous financial cycle, had a full treasury and a number of surpluses, but sunk them all and many millions more in a crazy scheme to build a transcontinental railway 2,500 miles long from Moncton to Prince Rupert, through the northern wilds, paralleling existing roads, and which has never yet half paid for the coal it burns, yet while lavishing out these hundreds of millions uselessly, Sir Wilfrid could not spare a dollar to improve our winter transportation to and from the mainland! Borden did that and how have we repaid him?

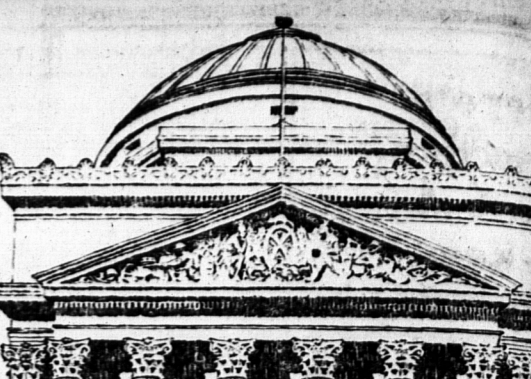
Take another instance close at hand. Over in New Brunswick they have had a Liberal Government since 1917. The revenue has been increased by taxation to twice what it was when they came to power and yet successive deficits have been rolled up during that brief period of over \$300,000 and now the Government is trying to borrow \$1,500,000 by issuing bonds to be added to a present crushing provincial debt. Here in Prince Edward Island the Bell Government is following the same ruinous policy of doubled taxation and increasing debt loaded upon a people who grew fewer in number from year to year. Whither are we drifting? What will the end be?

SAYS SENSIBLE MEN ARE SEEKING PEACE BELFAST, Jan. 10.—Cardinal Lange, preaching after high mass at Armagh today, and referring to the political situation, said that the state of affairs in the country was very critical. A number of sensible men on both sides of the controversy were engaged in strenuous efforts to bring about peace and union, and arrive at an agreement, he added. His Eminence earnestly asked the people to pray fervently that these efforts would be successful, and he did not doubt that a

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Exodus Exaggerated OTTAWA, Jan. 10.—Newspaper dispatches appearing in the United States and in some Canadian papers announcing that 200,000 Memnonites are leaving Canada for Mexico were declared greatly exaggerated by an official of the Department of Immigration and Colonization to the Canadian Press today. Census figures of 1916, which are split among the members of the late available as yet, the Dalit Eitmann and among the people of Iceland would be a greater percentage than even war time only 27,000. Telegraphic information received today by the department says that not more than 500 Memnonites have left or are contemplating leaving Canada. CHARTERED BANKS LAST 20 BRANCHES YEAR TORONTO, Jan. 10.—The Canadian chartered banks suffered net loss of 20. In the aggregate number of their branches in November, opening seven and closing 27 offices, there are now 43 branch banks in Canada.

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