

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

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CURRENT COMMENT Letters From The Front Our Ottawa Letter

UNSETTLED AND UNEXPLAINED

On the eve of the legislative session now about to open we can but await such explanations and such settlements as may be extorted from the floor of the House when accounts must be brought down and examined. What explanations may come the people will have an opportunity to examine for themselves, we can only repeat what has been said, more or less in detail in our columns since the last session.

The Patriot claims that it has told "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth" and that the Guardian has misrepresented the facts. The people must be the judges. It is quite true the Patriot has made many "explanations" but against the Guardian not against all who, at public meetings or in correspondence, criticized the government, but while it has dodged every issue it has never explained.

The Patriot has "explained" that the conditions discovered on taking charge compelled the Bell government to adopt an opposite course to that for which they were elected. It has not explained why the government, finding that it could not carry out the policy on which it was elected, did not resign at once as it should have done rather than run counter to every promise it had made.

Did the Patriot tell "the truth" the whole truth and nothing but the truth in connection with what it called the Bolshevik attitude of the Prince of Wales college staff? Will it now tell that whole discreditable story as the people through the province know it?

Will it tell "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth" about the promise alleged to have been made to Messrs Higgs and Duffy that the provincial poll tax in Charlottetown would be reduced from three to two dollars? Will it justify the two city members in handing out this promise to allay the wrath of their constituents assembled in an indignation meeting and, when the meeting was over forget that the promise had been made, forget that the same meeting demanded their resignation if the promise was not implemented? The Patriot "explained" this with the sneer "would the Guardian have them resign for the sake of a dollar?" The constituents of these gentlemen regarded the promise and its violation in a very different light than "for the sake of a dollar."

There are other instances also which have not been explained but for which explanations will be looked for. It is not sufficient to say that the people are contented, that they are satisfied the government could not have done otherwise than it did. The charge of having acquired power under false pretences has not been disproved; the charge of incompetence still stands uncontradicted; the charge of studied and deliberate deception is regarded by the great majority of our people as proven. And so, with the charges of which the above are only a few, we await the session and its revelations.

THE MANDATE

Little, we imagine, will be heard during the remainder of the session about the mandate of the Meighen Government to carry on. A majority of twenty five, after a thorough discussion of the whole question during which the two leaders of the Opposition Hon. Mr. MacKenzie King and Mr. T. A. Crerar, expatiated from two different standpoints and united in the opinion that the Meighen government had lost the confidence of the people, is a reply which leaves little room for doubt or controversy. That the Meighen government stood on a mandate and a constitutional stand by it.

right to carry on to the end of the parliamentary term had never been doubted except by those who were anxious to see the overthrow of the government and who saw in the present period of unrest an opportunity to score.

The discussion on the address established more than the right of the Meighen government to carry on; it established the fact that both Mr. MacKenzie King and Mr. Crerar are definitely out of the running and that, no matter how soon the Dominion election comes off their chances, collectively and individually, of obtaining control of the government are nil.

The tariff question, although carefully dodged by Mr. MacKenzie King is today the liveliest question in Canada; it is really the only political question with which Canadian farmers and Canadian manufacturers are interesting themselves and, no matter how it may be clouded and buried under other issues it will not down.

Within the past year Canadian farmers have learned more about the tariff than they had ever known. In normal times when the markets of the world were open to the United States and to Canada, when the wheels of Commerce were running smoothly the tariff as it was and as it had been for forty years caused but little concern. We enjoyed a small measure of protection and had become so accustomed to it that we scarcely realized that we owed it to our industrial centres scattered all over the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific, centres which absorbed practically all our surplus products.

A change came within the past two years. Great Britain practically closed doors to the United States and the surplus products of that country had to be disposed of somewhere. Canada, their nearest neighbor was the natural dumping ground and they poured their produce in over our low tariff wall. How effectively they could do this is indicated by the fact that the single county of Annapolis, Maine, bordering upon the province of New Brunswick produces annually twenty million bushels of potatoes, more than New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island together can produce. Last fall and this spring they have been shipping these potatoes into Canada and the result is that the Canadian farmer is today obliged to sell his potatoes at from thirty to fifty cents a bushel.

The same is true of pork. With millions of bushels of cheaply produced corn, corn so plentifully and cheaply produced that they are using it for fuel, the American farmer can raise hogs for less than half what it costs in Canada. This cheap and inferior pork is now coming into Canada in hundreds of car loads, the small duty being insufficient to affect its importation. The result is that Canadian pork today is down to a price at which it will not pay to raise it.

The Hon. Mr. MacKenzie King and the party of which he is the leader, want this tariff further reduced, not only on agricultural products but on importations generally—a general revision downward of the tariff and an extension of the free list.

With this policy neither the farmers nor the manufacturers of Canada can agree and this fact was a large factor in defeating the amendment proposed by Mr. MacKenzie King. The "protective principle" in the tariff, the unequivocal policy of Premier Meighen under which what we have of Canadian progress has developed during the past forty years, is the only policy that Canadians will stand for. One great test of its stability is that the Liberal party, the avowed apostles of free trade, have never had the courage to put their policy into effect. The "protective principle" in the tariff is the only policy that Canadians will stand for. One great test of its stability is that the Liberal party, the avowed apostles of free trade, have never had the courage to put their policy into effect. The "protective principle" in the tariff is the only policy that Canadians will stand for.

There are people who say, and many who really believe that there is no such thing as honest politics. We are not of that school and because the pages of history, while too often tarnished by stories of the ill repute of unprincipled public adventurers, has much more abundantly been garnished by the records of men of unswerving reputation, and excellencies of character which have proven the grand assets of civilization. It is to men of this distinctive quality that the foremost nations of the world are indebted for their advancement, and because Canada has on the whole been blessed with wise and patriotic statesmen, in a preponderating majority, that today it is the most prosperous country, under adverse war conditions, to be found on the face of the globe. Public honor and public honesty is a jewel of incalculable value, and one which our citizenship should insist upon guarding to the very last extremity. The politician whose word or pledge can not be depended upon, who places no value upon his own reputation for honesty or honor, is not fit for any representative position, and a self-respecting people should not tolerate such a creature in the management of any of their public affairs. The public man is supposed to be representative of the character of those who elect him, and the men of small reputation reflects back upon them selves.

Amongst the fathers of Liberalism there were many who stood in this high reputation who filled an honorable place in laying the foundations of Canada's prosperity. All changes remember with respect and admiration such men as Alexander McKenzie, Edward Blake, L. S. Routhston, Sir Richard Cartwright, Mowat, Patterson, Joly, Fitzpatrick, Blair, Laurier and a host of others who flourished in ability and active patriotism, all of whom no doubt made mistakes, but of whose lives there was no blemish or taint of wilful wrong, and by whose labors and efforts Canada has been abundantly enriched. These great men had ambition vast and beyond that of their own paltry selves, and would revolt at the suggestion of anything which would surround them with political dishonor. "Your fathers, where are they?" But more seriously, who have we and where are the men of today who are fit to wear their mantles? MacKenzie King, for instance, as the party leader to succeed such men as McKenzie, Blake or Laurier; what a descent from statesmanship to the political office-hunting adventurer, Lapointe or Lemieux as substituted for the respectable Joly and the brother Jozel Tarte, or the ambitious McMaister begging to fill the shoes of a Sydney Fisher. If the spirits of the dead are permitted to hover around their former habitations, what a hell of agony they must suffer at the transit from honor to the gradation of the party and politics which they had given the best of their lives to establish!

Then getting into our local arena, in the days that are gone, the Liberal party had its stalwarts in reputation and in honor. Some of these have passed away, but their names still live upon our provincial pages. The names of Whelan, Galt, Haythorne, Sinclair, Perry, Daniel and Benjamin Davis, James Yeo, Frederick and Arthur Peters, Farquharson, Jas and John Richards, Beer and many others, now passed to their reward, were men who, whatever mistakes they made in judgment, always observed the codes of public honor and in no instance ever attempted to undermine our system of constitutional government, or deliberately outrage the popular will. Sir Louis Davies, and Hon. John Yeo are amongst the few Liberals living who would not stoop to dishonor, and bereft of those what a sadness there is in their succession? Who amongst conglomerate mass now masquerading as Liberals in provincial affairs are fit to hold a candle to any one of these giants of our past history? Where could you find amongst those former Cadus an individual who would sanction or participate in the wholesale deception of a people so flagrantly and so deliberately as the notorious Bell combination have done? Who amongst them could be prevailed upon, for the mere emoluments of office, to abandon every principle of statesmanship and brutalize over a people whose confidence they had won by false pledges and promises?

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

THE GREATEST THING IN THE WORLD

Nothing else in all the range of human experience is so expensive, but nothing else pays and repays so much as honest-hearted, intelligent loving. Love is the only word in the language big enough to make a definition of God. "God is Love." Do not love of one man for one woman, and of one woman for one man, or such sanctity is the human home builded. Within the preceding story of such character, do the children come and grow to the splendid soldiery of service.

SCRAPS OF THE OLD HOME!

There may not be much left of it, but here and there a trace: That book—a prize from Sunday school. Some shabby dolls that played a stuffed company—how it thrilled! A chair all cushioned, low. But each reminds us of its grace—That Home of long ago! Old-fashioned rubbish, someone calls. That sampler on the wall, pink with roses and the shade, blue in gray and fully. Those crocheted mats of ruby wool. A box of dolls, we know. But still, they're just dear bits of— That Home of long ago! That Home of long ago!

The above named volume published by The Canadian Bank of Commerce for Private circulation is one of the most handsome, tasteful, and probably the most appropriate memorial work in connection with the Great War that has ever been published in Canada. Indeed it is impossible that anything published elsewhere has surpassed the book in elegance, or is more thoroughly imbued with the spirit of young Canadian manhood as revealed in those ever to be remembered years, 1914 to 1918. The impulses of patriotism and sacrifice which inspired enlistments in every part of Canada nowhere found more significant or enthusiastic expression than in such a nation wide institution as The Canadian Bank of Commerce. All told, seventeen hundred and one of its officers undertook war service. Two hundred and fifty-eight laid down their lives, and finely toned portraits of every one of these appear at the commencement of the book, as well as of the one hundred and thirty-one who received decorations; amongst both appear the portraits of a number of Island boys, and of the members of the staff who served, of which there is a complete list at the beginning of the volume, appear the names of many more.

The "Letters" illustrate the emotions which swayed educated young Canadians, and furnish first-hand evidence of the spirit in which they fought, endured and died. The episodes recorded are both tragic and humorous, but all are illustrative of the sang froid with which they faced danger. A quoted quotation from one letter illustrates the feeling that animated all: "War and banking, alas, are very different, and we will all be mighty glad to return to the routine of finance when we get through, but none of us, rest assured, are coming back until the books are balanced here."

Assuredly The Canadian Bank of Commerce was well inspired when it resolved to publish this noble and beautiful volume as a gift to the relatives of the fallen, and the equally brave members of its business family who were fortunate enough to survive.

GRAIN GROWERS AS AUTOCRATS

Mr. Henders further alleged that the North-West Grain Dealers Association actually dictated the price at which wheat had to be paid for at country elevators. In his opinion, this was most unjust. It was only reasonable to suppose that there would be different prices for grain coming from different sources and different quarters of the world to different people and all these prices would not be fixed definitely. Continuing, Mr. Henders said: "Would it not be reasonable to expect that buyers of grain soliciting these orders, securing these prices might be in a position to allow the element of competition to enter in, and that the producer might reasonably expect to get some consideration along these lines. But all this is eliminated. The closing market price for the grain is taken, the freight rate is deducted among other charges, and then a spread is also taken for money accrued to these operators through this system."

Mr. M. R. Blake—Member for North Winnipeg—joined in the discussion with the following remarks:—"The report of Price, Water-

SENSATIONAL CHARGES

March, 2nd, 1921—Parliament was provided with a real sensation last week when serious charges were preferred in regard to the handling of the grain trade in Western Canada. Nothing else has been talked about since in the corridors of the House. Wherever a group of members are gathered, you can hear them excitedly discussing the subject and speculating as to the outcome. The Farm or representatives, including the Honourable Mr. Crerar and others connected with the United Grain Growers Company, pretend to be undisturbed by the charges, but their demeanor indicates that they are most uneasy. Great pressure is being brought to bear on the Government to appoint a commission to investigate the whole condition and it may be that the suggestion will be followed. This week will likely tell the tale and there will be "wigs on the green."

The bill was opened in the Senate on Wednesday last, when the Honourable Rufus L. Pope declared that if there was any institution that had robbed the country it had been the Co-operative Organization of the Grain Growers of Western Canada. Continuing, he said (quoting his own words) "Take the millions in grain that have never paid for at the terminal elevator which they charged up to the farmers; they have taken millions and divided it up amongst themselves. If this Government does its duty, they will appoint a commission to enquire into this organization and if that commission does not find that it has swindled the western people, I am prepared to leave this House and never to enter it again."

Mr. R. C. Henders, Member for Macdonald, Manitoba, said in effect that when the Government control of wheat was removed the expectation of many farmers was that the price would be increased but instead of that it has been a "Largo" bodies of respect. The farmers considered that the whole exchange was to blame for this. In the face of lower prices, a good many farmers held their wheat in the elevators, hoping that by so doing they would eventually secure a higher price, but they were fooled, as they believe through the manipulation of the grain exchange. A responsible Minister of the Crown in Saskatchewan had stated that wheat held in country elevators and terminal elevators which the farmers supposed could not be sold without their permission had actually been sold and the unlawful selling thereof was the means of depressing the market. "If it is true," said Mr. Henders "that we have country elevators taking the wheat of the farmer, selling it without permission, utilizing the money and then, when the farmer does sell, charging him up with storage and interest right up to date of sale, it is a serious state of affairs."

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Furniture—Carpets—Linens—Curtains—Bedding—Picture Framing—Furniture Repairing

This morning--sale of odd lace--scrim and imitation swiss curtains



All odd curtains in stock go on sale this morning at 9.30 a. m. Mostly one pair of each design but a number of patterns with from two to four pairs.

All at Very Great Reductions! Scrim Curtains—\$1.25 for 75c. \$4.50 for \$2.50. \$5.50 for \$3.00. \$6.00 for \$3.50. \$7.50 for \$4.00. \$8.50 for \$5.00. \$9.50 for \$5.75. \$11.00 for \$7.00 per pair. Imitation Swiss Net Curtains—\$6.75 for \$4.00. \$8.50 for \$5.00. \$9.50 for \$5.75. \$10.00 for \$6.00. \$10.75 for \$6.50. \$11.75 for \$7.00. per pair. Nottingham Lace Curtains—\$2.50 for \$1.45. \$3.00 for \$1.85. \$3.50 for \$2.00. \$4.00 for \$2.50. 4.75 for \$2.80. \$6.00 for \$3.50. \$9.00 for \$5.50. 16.00 for \$9.50. \$17.00 for \$10.00 per pair.

COME EARLY! IT IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO BUY CURTAINS! NO APPROBATION NO CHARGE

Beer & Weeks

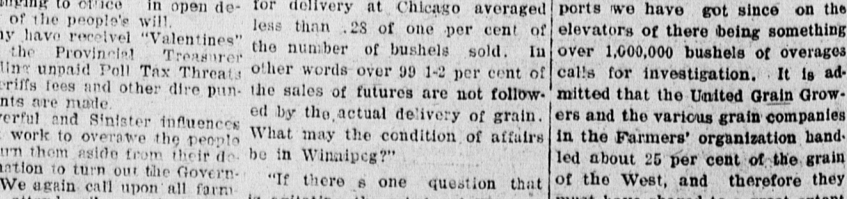
THE PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by persons of civic and political interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by its correspondents.

A WARNING TO FARMERS

Sir,—A bold attempt is about to be made by hidden influences, favorable to the Bell Government, to sidetrack the United Farmers Movement in this Province and turn it into a merely co-operative society. A series of meetings are already advertised at which political discussion is to be excluded. Ugly rumors are afloat of an "understanding" between the Government and certain individuals who joined the U. F. Movement for that purpose. It would seem that the "plot" might succeed by its very boldness. We would call upon all farmers to take immediate action and assert their sacred rights of full political discussion and action. Such discussion and action is sorely needed at the present moment, with a gang of Political Healers clamoring to office in open defiance of the people's will. Many have received "Valentines" from the Provincial Treasurer regarding unpaid Poll Tax. Threats of Sheriff's fees and other dire punishments are made. Powerful and sinister influences are at work to overawe the people and turn them aside from their duty. We again call upon all farmers to attend all meetings and thwart the plot of those disguised emissaries of the Government. A fuller exposure will appear shortly. I am Sir, etc. UNITED FARMER

Perfection Grain and Seed Separator



Your seed grain is not up to the standard this year. It will need special grading. Get a "PERFECTION." It will do the work and save you money.

A. Horne & Co. ago. The actual grain available for delivery at Chicago averaged less than .28 of one per cent of the number of bushels sold. In other words over 99 1-2 per cent of the sales of futures are not followed by the actual delivery of grain. What may the condition of affairs be in Winnipeg? "If there is one question that is agitating the minds of Western farmers at the present time more than any other, it is that of the handling of their wheat products. Scarcely a day passes that we do not see in some paper an item regarding the handling of the wheat crop, the Canada Wheat Board, wheat pools, or in reference to some similar phase of the grain question. I believe it can be said without exaggeration that this is the question of paramount importance in Western Canada today. Rumors are rife, charges and counter-charges of wrong-doing are in the air, and the result is that the minds of the Western producers are agitated abnormally on this question." ROBBING THE FARMER Mr. M. R. Blake—Member for North Winnipeg—joined in the discussion with the following remarks:—"The report of Price, Water-

