



THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

THE LEGISLATURE PRO-ROGUED

Yesterday afternoon saw the prorogation of one of the longest sessions of the Provincial Legislature. The long session was neither very broad nor very useful in the proper sense of those words. Its chief product was talk beginning in expressions of mutual admiration and glorification of the government and ending in much undignified bickering and clamor. At the close of last year's session the Guardian volunteered some advice to the Bell aggregation to the effect in brief that they should hold a daily caucus, as their predecessors had done and there dispose of their differences, so as to present a united front in the House. This prudent counsel seems to have been adopted and followed during the earlier weeks of this session. When it was broken off, dissension and disaster followed. It was a disunited and disgruntled party, much given to recrimination that was dismissed from its legislative duties by His Honor, the Lieutenant Governor yesterday.

ous and dignified course was followed throughout the session, and one which we feel assured the country will endorse. The length and expense of the session and the weeks spent in windy talk lies wholly at the door of the Bell government.

FIVE O'CLOCK CLOSING

The merchants of Charlottetown have agreed to close their stores at five o'clock every afternoon, except Saturday, during the coming season commencing Monday, May 2nd. This is a departure which will be greatly appreciated by the merchants and their assistants. The stores for the most part open at eight o'clock in the morning, and the merchants and their assistants are kept busy all day. With the advent of summer weather, closing at five o'clock will give these in-door workers an opportunity to enjoy the summer evenings out of doors in whatever sort of recreation or pastime they prefer. As most of the business in the summer is done in the forenoon and early in the afternoon this early closing movement should not interfere to any great extent with household shopping. Householders must bear in mind, as they did last year, that the stores close at five o'clock instead of six o'clock. This means that summer time is enjoyed by the city merchants while the farmers hours and clocks are not interfered with.

Current Comment

The Patriot doesn't seem to like our treatment of the "want of confidence" motion as a Government defeat. It would much prefer to have it dealt with as a joke, but it is altogether too serious for that. Of course, on general principles the whole combination is only a huge joke and our evening friend the admitted Court Jester. But jokes of the expensive kind, and this one is of the costliest, are not welcomed into popular favor by an already overburdened people. If a Government is not strong enough to carry its measures through the House, it most surely does not enjoy the confidence of that body, and none knows better than themselves that they are absolutely without the confidence of the people. It was told us from the floor of the House, and advertised with even greater eloquence and vehemence in their organ the Patriot, that they were a united body, without any of that discord amongst them which the Guardian had suggested, and that a beautiful harmony prevailed in their ranks. We were not much impressed with that undercurrent of affection to which they laid claim, the appearance to us being rather more along the line of one of those cat's concerts, with which most people are familiar, and which has so often made the night hideous, and disturbed the neighbor's rest.

And with this stake plainly before them the question was submitted to a vote of the House. It was as clear a challenge to his followers to stand by the Government in the constitutional way as ever voiced by a Prime Minister in any parliament, and an equally strong declaration that by the result the Ministry must stand or fall. And the result in all correct language demanded a "fall." Mr. Bell and his colleagues were told in plain language that the legislature has not confidence in their public and fiscal management, and that they now proposed to take matters in their own hands, and so they voted against the Government motion. With this result before him, it was his plain duty, as advised Hon. Mr. Arsenault, to immediately hand his resignation to the Lieutenant Governor, and following the time honored custom, recommend as his successor Mr. Hessian, who for the time being at least had commanded the confidence of the House. Another condition also arose which should command the attention of the Premier, if he insists upon retaining office, and that is that TWO MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET VOTED AGAINST HIM upon a want of confidence motion. There are strong precedents pointing out his course of action in cases of this kind. Hon. Isreal Tarte, for instance, in the Laurier Government that course embodies the forcible hint to these two members that their resignations are wanted, and will be promptly accepted. Will the Premier follow the statesman's course, OR WILL HE PERMIT HIMSELF TO BE SAT UPON?

But the vote in question was one of the strongest and most pronounced "want of confidence" resolutions that the straight parliamentarian can conceive. The Montague incorporation Act amendment when introduced was pointed out by the leader of the opposition as irregular, and not introducible by a private member in as much as it disposed of money from the Provincial Treasury, and as such became, or should become, a Government measure. But this objection was passed over in an almost total silence, and adopted by the legislature. Then the Government awoke to the fact that the affairs of government were being taken out of their hands, "while they slept," and they decided to assert their rights, Premier Bell from his place in the House, emphatically declared that the bill "because it placed the responsibility for the planking of the Montague Bridge upon the Provincial Government." "It never should have gone through," and on the grounds above stated, that a bill introduced by a private member involving an expenditure of public money CANNOT BE CONSIDERED CONSTITUTIONAL." The issue was a clear cut one of the pure kind upon which GOVERNMENTS MAKE THE STAKE OF THEIR EXISTENCE.

And how frequently that \$500,000 indemnity and the \$2,000,000 salaries has saved the Government from disruption and dissolution, is only known to the inner circle. It is the most powerful adhesive of discordant elements ever utilized by any political clique, in this or any other country. It is a peculiarity of the Dolphin that if you harpoon and attach its offspring the mother will hang to its side accepting any and every punishment even to a quiet submission to death. Like this sea mammal so our Government hold their supporters as on a string BY THE HANDS THAN WRITES THE CHECKS. There has been visible all through the piece an element of discontent that none of their outward artificial pretenses can conceal. The passing of that indemnity grab was the masterpiece of strategy that saved the situation, at least up to the present, but the sounds and rumblings, the conflicts of wing against wing, and section against section, is not promising for a stable future like that of the past.

Despite the power of the dollars to hold together, there is this pulling away, those want of confidence votes, WITH ALL THEIR THREATENING ASPECTS.

Another item in constitutional practice which may be considered in this connection, comes in a statement by Premier Bell when talking to one of those questions of "Privilege" which those on the Government side of the House displayed such a fondness for. It was in relation to an item in the Guardian having reference to a released prisoner from Queen's County jail. It was not contended by Mr. Bell that any of the facts were mis-stated, but that this paper had without warrant attempted to fasten responsibility on the Government, and which they repudiated. It was the Prohibition Commission he said who sent this man to jail, "AND THE PRISONER WAS RELEASED BY ORDER OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR WHO ALONE HAD THE RIGHT TO PARDON OFFENCES AGAINST THE PROHIBITION ACT." He further added, "The City of Charlottetown had an officer whose duty it was to look after such menaces to the public health." Now in relation to this last defence let us say it is foreign to the question. The City has such an Officer, and his care is the public health. But the question raised by the Guardian, was THE RIGHT OF THE GOVERNMENT, OR ANY OTHER BODY TO DUMP SUCH A DISEASE MENACE INTO THE CITY FOR OUR HEALTH OFFICER TO LOOK AFTER.

The matter was called to the attention of the Government through a letter in the Guardian, and BY HON. MR. ARSENAULT ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE. It was debated by the Premier and the Attorney General. The prisoner was promptly released thereafter, and the Patriot, their organ, announced that he was to be sent to an institution for treatment. And then the content complained of was made in the Guardian. It has since been more firmly established and then the Premier gets behind the cloak of the Lieutenant Governor. Has responsible government absolutely ceased in this Province? Has the Lieutenant Governor actually dismissed his advisers, or does he, as Premier Bell's answer would imply, act without the advice of his advisers? Of course the Governor is the centre of executive clemency, but Mr. Bell will have to show that an entirely new method of procedure has been adopted before he can convince intelligent men that he released this man acting upon his own violation without invitation or advice of his constitutional advisers. By whom and upon whose advice was this man thrown out into the open of the city to become the admitted menace to the health of the community? And then to rise to a question of privilege because a newspaper reasonably comments upon the self-apparent.

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. S. Louson.
"DOWN AND OUT"
These words, so pathetic are burned on my brain.
Forget them I never can.
They have touched me so for they are the cry
Of a poor despairing man.
Three words, but ah! me a story they tell
A sad one and true there's no doubt.
And my heart in pity goes out to this man.
A man who is "Down and Out."
And this is the fate of a cultured man
Who has served his Country and King.
Alas, that to many war's aftermath
Should wreck and disaster bring.
Brave men of all ranks, and of gallant corps,
Who have helped our foes to rout,
How cruel it seems that any need say
That now he is "Down and Out!"
Adrift, adrift, on the ocean of life,
Oh what a desperate plight,
To be tossed about by the merciless waves
With no friendly sail in sight.
We would not ignore a drowning man's cry
But loudly for help would shout,
Yet the cold passing glance is oft all that's bestowed
On the man who is "Down and Out."
To your brothers distress, Oh give of your best
Till once on firm ground they stand.
When a sad plea you hear, do not turn a deaf ear
But hold out a kind helping hand,
And lift them up from the depths of despair,
Nor question their need, nor doubt.
But do all you can for the stranded man,
The man who is "Down and Out!"

GOOD ROADS

The educative campaign on behalf of improved highways gains much impetus from the holding of a convention of the Canadian Good Roads Association in a district, and the people of Nova Scotia, realizing this, have decided to enlarge their effort beyond the three days of the convention, May 10, 11 and 12, and to hold a series of meetings of local organizations on the day before and the days following the bigger gathering. No more enthusiastic body of members has been encountered by the officials of the Dominion association than those connected with the Nova Scotia Good Roads Association, the Motor League and kindred organization the Maritime Provinces, and the delegates who go to Halifax for the second week in May will find the most complete arrangements.

The special meeting of the executive of the Canadian Good Roads Association held in Toronto, enabled the officers to hear from S. L. Squire and Russel T. Kelley, encouraging reports of Western enthusiasm for the convention, and besides the attendance of the Western Premiers previously announced, it has reported that at least thirty-six delegate will make the journey to the East, representing provincial, civic and municipal governments in the four Western Provinces, as well as many members of automobile organizations who will go to Halifax for the annual meeting of the Canadian Automobile Association which takes place during the Roads Convention.

The possibility of there being an official delegate from the British Ministry of Transport, has almost become a certainty, for W. Rees Jeffreys, who is a member of the Permanent Commission of the International Association of Road Congresses, and who has pleasant recollections of a former visit to Canada, has written to George A. McNamee, secretary of the Canadian Good Roads Association, that he is consulting with Sir Henry Maybury as to the naming of the delegate from Great Britain to the convention.

The President, of the American Road Builders' Association, M. H. Fabery, of Chicago, has accepted an invitation to the convention and banquet, and as this is most important organization of its kind on the Continent his presence will give the Halifax convention an international character apart from the experienced road engineers from the United States who will give papers on practical subjects to the delegates.

The Deputy Minister of Highways for Ontario, W. A. McLean, one of the keenest advocates of good roads, has promised to give a paper on the "Right of Way and Road Bed Widths," two important points in highway construction. With him will be George Hogarth, chief engineer of the Ontario Government. W. P. Tollman, street commissioner of Winnipeg and president of the Winnipeg Motor League, will be one of the official delegates from that city. Acting Mayor S. F. Rutherford and City Engineer P. E. Jarnan will represent the City of Westmount, while City Engineer and General Manager J. Duchastel de Montrouge, will also attend.

The hon. president of the association, A. W. Campbell, Commissioner of Highways for the Dominion Government, has written that he will officially represent the Federal Government at the convention, and will, no doubt, speak on the live question of Federal aid.

The first annual conference of municipal officials will be held on Thursday afternoon, May 12, at five o'clock, under the chairmanship of Mayor J. S. Parker, of Halifax. Among the subjects to be discussed will be the financial responsibility of cities in relation to country roads by Mayor T. L. Church, of Toronto, while another subject will be local taxation and bonding for street improvements. This conference is supplemental to the interprovincial conference of highway officials and to the special conference of local and provincial good roads associations, which have previously been announced, and each of which will deal with special subjects after the general convention has risen each day.

How the Warm Days do Bring Out the New Things

Half the joy of a walk on a bright Spring day, is in seeing the handsome new apparel that is being worn. IT'S A JOY JUST TO SEE THE NEW THINGS; but vastly more gratifying to be among the happy wearers of the new apparel.

Make your selections while the whole season is before you—when there is largest gratification in wearing the new styles and when the longest period of service is obtained.

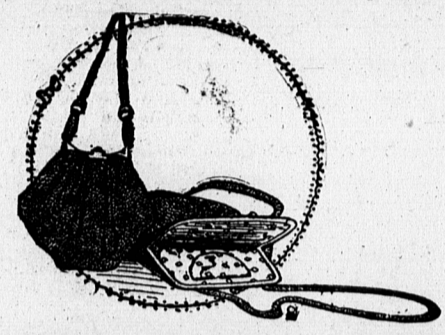
Special displays in all the READY-TO-WEAR APPAREL sections TOMORROW.

FOR THE HOUSE DRESS. Lace and net frilling in organdy andorgette points.

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TO BRIGHTEN UP THE SPRING SUIT collars and vestees and the popular Peter Pan collar from 75c up in white organdies with touches of colors.

WOOL FOR THE SUMMER SWEATER. Monarch Dove and Monarch Down in all the newest shades 30 and 50 cents a ball respectively.

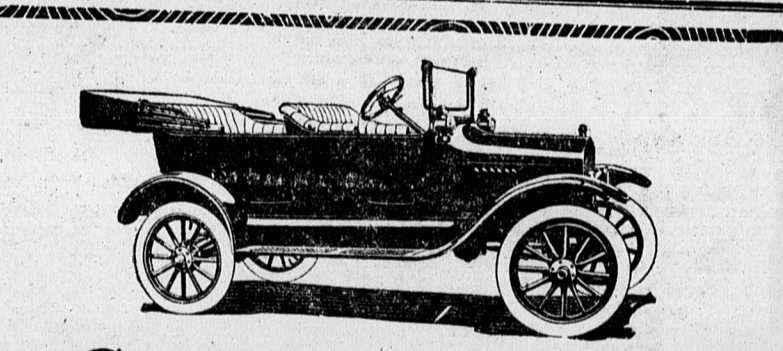


The Hand Bag or Suit Case for the Honeymoon Trip

Of course, it must be smart and substantial looking; for its important first service; also it must be of a quality that will serve for many years, for it will always carry with it deepest sentiment as well as more utilitarian contents, and should last a lifetime if possible.

We have the kinds that will dignify those who carry them, and from which long service is assured:

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We have on hand some good used Cars of different makes. These Cars have all been thoroughly overhauled and put in good shape. They are ready for use and are marked at a price for quick sales. The lot include Fords, Maxwell, Briscoe, Overland.

We are pleased to announce that we are unable to secure any second hand DODGE CARS. But we can give you some snaps on the other makes that we have on hand.

We have two one ton Ford Trucks in stock with bodies complete and one Fordson Tractor

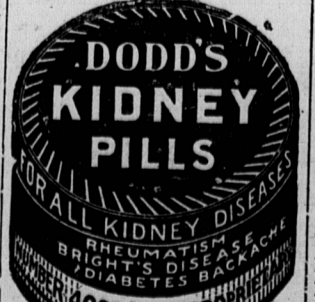
KENNEDY & WEBSTER TD

174 Great George Street

The highwaymen are described as being well dressed. They first were reported from the vicinity of Conellsville.

The Old Gardener Says

Whatever novelties you have in your garden this year, by all means include some of the new zinnias, for they are exceedingly attractive, and have a long blooming season. Among the most distinct of the new kinds is a cactus-flowered zinnia, the petals of which are so curled that the flower looks very much like a cactus dahlia. The colors range through shades of yellow, orange, pink and crimson. Another unique zinnia is a conical shaped flower which makes a most unusual appearance if grown in rich soil.



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