

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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PRODUCE PRICES.

Half a million pounds of Danish butter were landed in New York the other day and sold wholesale there at fifty cents per pound. The prevailing price of American butter in New York is, or was previous to this importation, 70 cents. In Toronto and other Upper Canadian cities butter is selling at about 80 cents; in Charlottetown, retail, at 65 to 70 cents.

In Europe the demand for butter is almost unlimited and the supply by no means sufficient. So scarce is it in England that the ration system is still in force and the limit is an ounce or two a week to each person. Denmark, taking advantage of the exchange situation is able to sell butter in New York at a larger margin of profit than is permitted by law in England.

The Danes are thrifty farmers; they have for many years held the top place for butter, cheese, eggs and bacon in the European markets, always commanding the highest prices for all their products. Their dairy cattle are, or were before the war, the best type of cattle in the world and their record for milk production is about twice as high as that of Canadian cattle. The Danes are now our competitors not only in the European markets but on our own ground. They are only now getting on their feet after the disturbed conditions created by the war and we may rest assured they are sufficiently thrifty and progressive to re-establish themselves in their former position in the world's markets.

Are we ready for this competition? Are we able for it? These are questions that must be faced by Canadian farmers in the very near future and the sooner the better.

Prices of farm products are at present abnormally high; abnormally because the conditions which raised them are abnormal. We are filling a vacuum caused by five years of destruction and of non-production and until this vacuum is filled the relation of supply and demand will be abnormal, reverting gradually to normal as the supply approaches the demand. The supply is gradually nearing this stage; the devastated countries in Europe are beginning to produce and they are a thrifty people. With cattle destroyed, markets diverted, farms unmanned it will take them some years to catch up but they will catch up and they will get back to their original markets. Before the war our principal competitors in dairy products in the British Market were the Danes and they held a higher place than we. They will be our competitors again. In the meantime we have an opportunity to get into the European markets and to establish ourselves there. In that market there is only one thing that counts, namely, merit. This merit must be achieved and our place in the market secured before we can hope to successfully meet competition. The time to do this is now, while there is room for our products. At present we have a good home market but we have no guarantee that even here we shall not meet foreign competition so it behooves us on many grounds to be up and doing.

In this province particularly our only salvation is to maintain high prices for our agricultural produce. With high prices, even abnormal prices for our farm products, prosperity in all other lines is assured. Quality will assure us the best prices the market anywhere can afford. Attention to quality then and the greatest possible production is our hope and all our energies should be directed towards producing more and better goods.

PATRIOT'S PRELUDE TO FRENZIED FINANCE

The Patriot's editorial explanation of affairs at Falconwood, in its yesterday's issue, is well headed "cornered at last." It now admits that the material for the needed repairs at Falconwood were on hand in July and August last, and asks with the assumed innocence of a child newly awakened, "What business, what right, had a defeated government to purchase \$2000 worth of material after it had lost the confidence of the people?" Has the Patriot forgotten that at the very outset of this controversy it was plainly told that this material was purchased in the early summer of 1919 before the election, although not delivered until July and August? The Patriot's assumed amazement will thus deceive no one.

It pleads as an excuse for the Bell government's neglect to begin operations with the repairs on hand, that it had no money, not a scrap of paper even, when it assumed power and that it was confronted on every hand with debts etc., etc., and so it permitted the disgraceful condition to continue through a whole winter till February 9th. Well, any consolation the Patriot and the Bell government can get out of that admission they are welcome to, but it will not satisfy an intelligent public.

The Patriot labors hard to find "an insult to the Commission" in the Guardian's statement that "it should not be too much even for the intelligence behind the Bell Commission to understand, etc., etc." As the Commission do not carry their "intelligence behind" them, the Patriot should have been able to put the cap on the intelligence referred to.

It is hardly worth while arguing with the Patriot. The people now understand the situation thoroughly. They know the Commission—that is, what was "behind the Commission"—was a sham and a delusion engineered solely for political effect and to pave the way for the Bell government's entry into the frenzied finance which now evidently confronts the people.

CURRENT COMMENT

Hon. Robert Rogers in his address at Ottawa commented upon a strange coincidence, that when Liberals are in opposition they agitate for things but never fulfill their promises when in power. How so, can only true is this in our own province. Has the Bell government redeemed or attempted to redeem a single pre election promise? In real fact they are doing in nearly everything the very thing they most severely denounced when in opposition. They were prolific in charges against the agricultural department. What have they done for agriculture? They vehemently railed against that "iniquitous income tax," and harped against priority appointments to office. Now, in power, the headsman's axe is ever glittering and swinging, while the tax office is working overtime on the job to wring the last cent out of the poorest of our people.

In 1913 the Matheson Government amended the Income Tax Act. The bill, as explained on the floor of the house was designed to protect the poor man's bread-and-butter. At that time living costs were cheap and \$500 of a man's wages, if his income did not exceed \$1200 was exempt. The distinct spirit of the act was to exempt the living of the poor man, no matter who he was. War broke out and costs of living more than doubled up. The letter of the Act did not meet these conditions. In this emergency the late government adopted the spirit and refused to oppress the poor. It was only enforced against those able to pay.

But the tax reducing economists have a different programme. They want and must have money no matter who suffers. The maimed and helpless returned soldier, who did not exist when the act was amended, receiving small living pension now, learns that this is not "salary or wages" and not legally entitled to exemption. A farmer who when living was cheap sold his farm and retired to the city to live on his small interest from the proceeds has the same story pitched up to him. The widow, with small children to raise and educate, with a four or five hundred dollar income from rents or pensions, has no exemption. The wage earner or soldier man whose income comes from the adjustable character are the only ones exempt under tax office interpretations. Those whose incomes are fixed and impossible of increase are as much up against the trebled cost of living as are those under salary or wages.

City school teachers are after increased pay. Education of children is the best asset we can give them. Our teachers must be put at least on the same plane with other wage earners. Our School Board should see to it that this is done. Is this the opportune time to ask the City to tax themselves more heavily for this purpose?—Has the local government not promised the teachers an increase of salary? If the school act is to be amended and a new scale of salaries fixed, is it proposed to discriminate against urban teachers? These large centres are now paying big supplements to their teachers. They are the heaviest contributors to, and have the

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

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THE CUT-DOWN TROUSERS

(By E. A. Guest)

When father couldn't wear them mother cut them down for me. She took the slack in fore and aft, and hemmed them at the knees; They fitted rather loosely, but the things that made me glad were the horizontal pockets that those good old trousers had.

They shone like patent leather just where well-worn breeches do. But the cloth in certain portions was considered good as new. And I know that I was envied by full many a richer lad. For the horizontal pockets that those good old knickerbockers had.

They were cut along the waist line, with the opening straight and wide. And there wasn't any limit to what you could get inside; They would hold a peck of marbles, and a knife and top and string. And snakes and frogs and turtles; there was room for everything.

THE TIGER AWAKE

(London Daily Mail)

Most old speeches of politicians make wearisome reading, but in Clemenceau's speeches of the crisis the words seem touched with living flame, and even though the emergency has for ever passed, can still send the blood pulsing. The secret of his success was that he faithfully served great aims. "I am not here to look after my own political fortunes; I am here to wage war," was one of his sayings; and he was true to it. Happy the nation that in the hour of trial can find such a man to lead her, and happier still the man who has been able to render such service. As the years recede and from the perspective of history the greatness of his achievement is better understood, there can be only one verdict upon him and his work. He did what shall not be forgot, and now "he belongs to the ages."

Others View Point

BRAWN AND BRAINS

(Ottawa Journal)

Anarchists who tell workmen that they should own the plants in which they labor and should get all the proceeds from their toll hold of little account the brains that manage the plants. They call it injustice that one man should get thousands of dollars for his work while the workmen gets hundreds. And yet labor itself recognizes the value of superior brains and ability in its own endeavors. Labor pays the heads of its organizations handsome salaries ungrudgingly because it believes they earn them. A New York newspaper has revealed the interesting fact that the head of the Dockbuilders' Union of New York and New England is paid \$1,500 a month or \$18,000 a year. The men who contribute to this salary earn about \$200 a month. Mr. Gompers' salary as head of the American Federation of Labor is \$10,000 a year. Mr. Warren E. Stone, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, is paid a like sum. Many other union heads draw corresponding big salaries. They are paid by the workmen for their ability, just as capital pays for ability in its industry.

If the argument that the earnings of all should be alike holds, Mr. Gompers should be paid no more for the very great services he renders organized labor than any of his ordinary assistants.

A CONVENIENT ATTIC

(London Sphere.)

Mr. Henry A. Lytton, of D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, whose season at the Princess Theatre is fast drawing to a close, tells a Lancashire story. The husband of a woman in one of the spinning districts had committed suicide by hanging himself in the attic of their cottage, and one of her particular friends was telling her sister that she must go round and see the poor widow. The other advised her on no account to enter the unfortunate incident, which brought forth the reply, "I shouldn't think of such a thing; I shall only talk about the weather, etc." So making her call she commenced the conversation by saying what a lot of wet weather there had been lately. "Yes," replied the widow, "I blessed the weather today. I was obliged to get on with my washing, and there is no chance of drying at all." "Oh," chimed in her friend, "but you have a very nice attic for hanging things in."

Wants a Chance in Boxing Rules

In his descriptive article on the Carpenter-Beckett prize fight, Mr. George Bernard Shaw remarked that, under the old rules, Beckett could have been brought to the mark after his knockout, and could have continued. He did not intimate that Beckett would have proved a match for the Frenchman, but merely that after being down for ten seconds he was little the worse for it, and might have continued to fight, had he been allowed a longer period for recuperation. This is interesting to lovers of boxing in view of the fact that Mr. A. G. Hales, noted English war correspondent, sporting writer and amateur boxer, declares that the ten seconds rule is all wrong, and that if the sport is to be revived, the rules ought to be amended so that a man knocked down will have fifty seconds in which to gather himself together again. The result will be that we shall have longer contests, that spectators will get a better run for their money, and that there will be a fairer test of the relative abilities of the contestants. Answering in advance the argument that this will make for brutality, he points out that a referee has always the power to end a match when it is plain to him that one of the boxers is out-classed.

Boxing a Great Sport

He makes these points in the course of an article in the National News of London, and begins by remarking that: "Boxing is a great sport: it is now recognized as one of the principal pastimes in the most important centres of the world. It can be classified as the 'sport of princes,' as horseracing has so long been nominated the 'sport of princes,' as horseracing excellence, the young man's game, and a very splendid game when carried out under proper conditions for it demands much in the way of self-restraint from its votaries. To be a successful boxer, either amateur or professional, a man must live a clean life. Every fight fought with the gloves is a 'sermon in action'—each battle cries aloud to the thousands looking on: 'Live like real men; be clean, control the beast that is in you, muzzle your appetites, both of flesh and spirit.' There is another side to boxing, quite apart from the sporting side. It is a business of great and growing importance. When we see purses verging upon 100,000 pounds put up by promoters of championship events we must realize that boxing is a business. And, as far as the financial element is concerned, it is the most important business connected with athletic sports."

Ten Seconds Not Enough

Mr. Hales continues: "I have seen nearly every man of note, from Jim Mace to Jimmy Wilde, on the gloves: from John L. Sullivan to Pal Moore; from Carpenter to Ledoux; from Peter Jackson to Tibby Watson. In Britain, France, America, Australia, New Zealand and Africa. I have followed the 'sport of princes' and loved it, and love it still and I don't want it to die, and it will die if the present 'knock out' rule is persisted in, for the public is sick to death of paying big money to watch one-round fights. No man living can make sure that a battle between two big men is going to last more than a few seconds whilst we cling to the essence of the Queensbury rules, and the essence of those rules is, that a man shall be counted out when down for ten seconds. Our fathers knew better than we know in this respect. They gave a man a half minute when knocked down in which to recover, and the result was they got good battles in return for their money. I am no slavish believer in things past, but in some matters the 'old brigade' could teach us a thing or two; and this is one of them. No sound, thoroughly fit man can be beaten by one punch if he's game, providing he has a reasonable time in which to pull himself together."

The One-Punch Artist

Is the ten-second limit a reasonable time? It is not, says Mr. Hales. A kick on the chin properly applied will drop the gamest and fittest man on earth for that period, and thirty seconds later he may be as fit as a daisy, able and willing to continue the match—but in the meantime he was counted out. There is only one cure for this state of affairs, and that is to extend the time limit from ten seconds to fifty seconds. Then we should get some real boxing matches; men would learn to box all over their opponents and the one-punch artist would disappear. Every one interested in boxing must see the danger of nauseating the public by short, sensational con-

tests, and, as I remarked before, it is the public who pays. We are all uneasy already of "fluke" fights, and as long as the ten-second rule remains the rule of the game we shall have them. Give us value for our money. We have a right to demand it, and we do demand it. The fifty-second rule would make the game a bit slower to watch in some respects, but far better to have it that way than just one stiff punch and a fasco.

Charley Mitchell's Idea

Mr. Hales concludes: "I do not want to take credit for this as an original idea—it came to me years ago from the late Charley Mitchell. He had been giving me a lesson, and we sat chatting over boxing in general, and Charley said: 'The ten second rule will kill the game when the big purses come; the public will not stand for it.' And he added: 'Make the rule fifty seconds instead of ten in all championship bouts for big or little men and you will not see a championship of England lost or won under fifteen rounds.' I have made a very close study of public boxing since then, and I fully endorse the great fighter's views, and consider the time has now fully arrived to ask those who control boxing and those who engage in it for sport or a livelihood at once to join issue and amend the famous ten-second rule. The promoter who takes his courage in both hands and makes the change will reap a golden harvest, for the public will flock to that hall where they are reasonably assured of being allowed to get fairly into their seats before the so-called fight (?) is all over. The rule I have prepared would not entail unnecessary brutality. A referee always has the power to stop a battle when it is obvious one contestant has no chance. The rule would breed cleverness, not brutality, and a race of good, clean, left-handed boxers would come in its wake."

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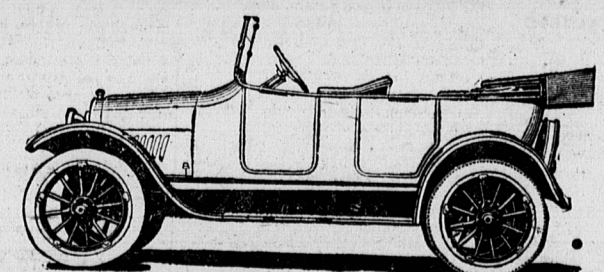
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