

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (founded 1887) 50.00 per year (delivered) in advance 55.00 per year (postpaid) in advance in Canada, and 60.00 to U. S. A.

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1921

THE SKELETON APPEARS

Ever since that unfortunate day when certain members of the government imagined they could hide the corpse of the mutilated Public Accounts by suppressing the report of the inquest they have been in mortal terror that the skeleton would some day be discovered.

The report had been prepared by the Provincial Auditor by request of the Committee on Public Accounts; its accuracy is unquestionable as is the reputation and veracity of the Provincial Auditor who, when quoted by members of the government on other matters, has always been held up as an unimpeachable authority.

Naturally the resurrection of this document came as a thunder-bolt. The Speaker was dazed and was unable to say off-hand whether it was admissible as an amendment and he accordingly reserved his decision until after the week-end recess. So, no doubt Monday afternoon or night, he will be able to say whether it shall be rebuffed or allowed an opportunity of being placed on the journals of the House.

The report shows the net increase in indebtedness at December 31, 1919 over that of December 2, 1911 of \$113,174.30 or about \$40,000 less than the Bell Government claims it to be. In other words the net addition to the Public Accounts debt from December 2, 1911 to December 31, 1919, eight years and 23 days was \$113,174.30. This represents an average deficit of \$14,146 for the eight years the Conservatives were in power, compared with an average of \$45,033 for the 20 years of previous Liberal rule.

According to the showing for the current year the actual deficits of the Bell government promise to measure up to those of their Liberal predecessors. No wonder then that the Bell government was anxious to suppress this report. With an overwhelming majority at their command, docile to the party whip and being regardless of their political reputations for honesty and integrity, the government sought to gain a temporary victory over the Opposition by a high-handed and unconstitutional act without precedent in any other legislature under British rule.

THE OCCASION AND THE MAN

Along the dim corridors of history, ancient and modern, one fact seems to persist through all the ages, namely that the occasion brings forth the man. In the darkest periods, when national existence was trembling in the balance when the battle seemed hopelessly lost, when the future stood up on its hind legs and declared, "thus far shall thou come and no further", the right man appeared in the right place, the nation was saved, the battle won and the future which had loomed so threateningly, receded into the dim distance leaving in its wake, an unobstructed plain of golden promise and possibility.

These pregnant reflections are conjured up by an act of unparalleled generosity and philanthropy just disclosed in the history of our own little province, an act so

quietly and unostentatiously performed that in very truth the left hand was not aware of what the right hand had done.

We refer to the "loan" of his "prize Holstein bull" to the government by the Honourable W. M. Lea, Commissioner of Agriculture—the loan, free of charge of an animal that had brought glory to the province and profit to his owner; an animal also which was the proud head and the future hope of his owner's fine herd of prize-winning Holsteins.

This animal was "loaned" to the Falconwood Farm so unostentatiously and so generously that the Superintendent of the farm took it for granted that he was bought in the usual manner and had become the "property" of the Department. He was "loaned" in pity for the former herd which, through long neglect, had borne the disgrace of having at their head a "scrub bull".

This occurred, as such incidents have occurred all down through the ages, at the time of our greatest need. The Falconwood herd was threatened with extinction because its leader and head was a "scrub". There was nothing to fight that could save the situation but the "prize Holstein bull" owned by the Commissioner of Agriculture, and the limitations of our constitution are such that this animal could not be purchased without subjecting his owner to a fine of \$100 a day for every day he sat in the House after the purchase, and worst of all, he would lose his seat. This, neither the government nor the Commissioner could afford to do. What was to be done? The Commissioner came to the rescue and "loaned" the bull absolutely free of cost to the province, "loaned" him at the expense of the possible sacrifice of his own valuable herd, loaned him to save the situation!

For such an act of liberality the pages of P. E. Island history will be sought in vain and we hope the government will, with its usual resourcefulness be able to render to Mr. Lea some tangible recognition. Would it not be possible to pass a "cure all bill" to so amend the constitution as to make it yet possible to purchase that bull? Possibly also the loan could be continued until Mr. Lea has no further use for his seat in the legislature. In any case such an act of sacrifice and generosity should be rewarded somehow.

ANOTHER SHORTAGE DISCOVERED

Mr. Saunders dilated at great length in the legislature on the alleged inaccuracies of the Guardian in presenting its statement of the liabilities of the provinces in which we showed that instead of reducing the liabilities the Bell government had added to our indebtedness. In yesterday's Patriot a statement based upon Mr. Saunders' figures is published. We are glad of this as it gives us an opportunity to point out a very serious misrepresentation of the government to the extent of taking credit twice for no less a sum than \$26,106.32. On page 9 of the External audit the government takes credit as an asset for the amount of "cash in Bank and liquor on hand of the Prohibition Commission of \$26,106.32. It also takes credit for "revenue due schedule H, \$128,742.32. On turning to schedule H, page 19 of the same report we find that this total of \$128,742.32 includes this same asset of \$26,106.32. This means that the Bell government is a matter of \$26,000 worse off than the Guardian gave them credit for. Probably, given time, we might find further examples of crookedness in the Bell government's manipulation of the Public Accounts.

Current Comment

When people are hedged in by surrounding hypocrisies, big in character and vast in number, it is truly difficult to determine which is the biggest and most reprehensible. Yet in the competition of this trade stock feature of the Bell Government, Notice No. 64, tabled in the House by the Premier, with Hon. Walter M. Lea as second, it does not actually qualify for first place it will surely rank as a good second. These two Hon. members have given notice that they will move the following resolution—"Resolved that it is desirable that legislation be enacted by the Parliament of Canada which will prohibit the importation of intoxicating liquors into this province for the purpose of export."

This question has already been fully canvassed before the Federal House; backed up by all the strongest temperance forces in the whole Dominion. It has been thrashed out in a prolonged and heated debate, and has been decided by the passage of the Doherty Act giving to each Province the rights, which this resolution pretends to ask for, upon their being approved by a referendum of the people. The Parliament of Canada took the strong ground that in this matter a vote of the people must in each province determine the character of its prohibition enforcement. Premier Bell and his colleagues are well apprised of this, and they know as well as they know of the rising of the sun that this issue, thus nationally determined, will not be interfered with by any remonstrance from a weakling combination of their class. These men talk democracy and yet here, if they were in earnest, they would strike a fatal blow at the very foundation of the principle, by destroying, or asking the federal powers to destroy the right of self-determination by the people. And their double faced sinister motive behind the resolution is to generate some cheap capital against the Federal Government for refusing a palpable silliness, and to deceive the temperance people into the belief that they favor prohibition enforcement.

The Government now have it in their power to ask for a referendum on this very question, under

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

IMPOTENT WEALTH

Wealth, says Ruyard Kipling in a recent address, is not all powerful. "Someday or later you will see some man to whom the idea of wealth does not appeal, whom the methods of amassing wealth do not interest and who will not accept money if you offer it to him at a certain price. At first you will be inclined to laugh at that man, and think that he is not smart in his ideas. I suggest to watch him closely, for he will presently demonstrate to you that money dominates everybody except the man who does not want money."

"You may meet the man anywhere, but be sure that whenever or wherever you meet him, as soon as it comes to a direct issue between you his finger will be thicker than your fingers. You will find that you have no weapon in your armory with which you can attack him. If more wealth is necessary to you, for purpose not your own, use your right hand for the proper work in life. If you employ both arms in that game you will be in danger of stooping."

TAKING GOD INTO COUNSEL

"I will commit my way to the Lord, and he will direct me. No doubt thy joys, though dark the way may be. Nor murmur, for the sorrow is from God. And there is comfort also in thy rod. I will not seek to know the future years. Nor cloud thy joys with dark to-morrow's fears; I will ask a light from heaven, to show how, step by step, my pilgrimage should go. That the way to get it

the Dominion Act, and to let the people decide by their votes, and they know that the Federal legislature will not now recede from it at the instance of the smallest province in Canada. The larger provinces are, one by one, acting upon this Act, and already four provinces have adopted it by sweeping majorities, while in Ontario the referendum election is now on, the vote to be taken in a few days. If there was a vestige of sincerity in the Bell Combination they would lose no time in bringing on this election, but being trained in the arts of deception and treachery they prefer to launch their bluffing resolutions with the imagination that they can continue to fool the people. Moreover, they do not need to appeal to the Federal Parliament for relief for they have ample powers within themselves for every purpose of prohibition. While it is apparent that they cannot prohibit imports, it is absolutely sure that they can control them after arrival. They can prevent its bottling, repacking, storing and not improbable its re-shipment. And of an absolute certainty THEY HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT THEY CAN TAX IT, and if they can tax it \$1000 they can with equal assurance tax it \$20,000 which would be prohibitive. But the hypocritical course pleases them best, and they act accordingly.

For our part we cannot account for such superficial stupidity. If there was anything real deep in the scheme, or if it was one of which there was the slightest chance for them to get away with, we might be able to understand their action, but in this case where the veil is so thin, and the deception so self-apparent, it gets beyond us. The temperance people of this province are as well acquainted with the traffic conditions, the governing laws, and the expedients alike of bootleggers and governments, as the Bell combination are, and to deceive them the Premier and his scheming associates will have to invent something better than chaff or bluff. It was only a few days ago that the Premier was likened to the "Jack-daw in borrowed feathers," but the simile of the "wolf in sheep's clothing" would be more fitting to this "Resolution." After damning the cause of prohibition to the uttermost, with his new garb of an "angel of light" he would enter the fold as a pseudo-advocate of prohibition.

Let it be remembered that it was the Conservative Government that consolidated the Prohibition Act, and gave to us the Prohibition Commission, and that Act, administered as they designed it, was recognized as the very best means of suppressing the traffic in intoxicants, and at the same time providing liquors for medicinal and mechanical purposes. Under the earlier system of permitting the vendors to absorb the profits there was an admitted encouragement for the vendors to strain the Act to increase their sales. The Liberals, led by Mr. Bell, started a campaign in line with this phase of public opinion, to have "INSPECTED" liquor "AT ACTUAL COST." To overcome this difficulty the Government directed a changed policy; to remove the temptation from the vendors by giving them a direct salary, and by controlling the sale absolutely through the Commission. The prices were to be fixed at a rate which it was understood would provide a sufficient revenue to cover the cost of the Commission and the enforcement of the Act, BUT WITHOUT ANY PROFIT TO THE GOVERNMENT. They were not after this "blood-money," which was denounced as unclean from every temperance platform in the province.

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Happenings Of The Week

The Marquis and Marchioness of Hartington and Lady Maud Macintosh, who arrived at St. John on Monday, spent a few hours in Montreal Wednesday, en route to Calgary, where they will join the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire who are touring through Western Canada.

Mr and Mrs James Patou, who spent a delightful Easter among the gaities of New York are now in Boston where they will remain a week before leaving for Montreal, on return home.

The nurses' graduation in the Prince County Hospital on Thursday evening was a most important event in the lives of the young lady graduates, Misses McNell, Hoggood and Dymont, who received their diplomas in the presence of a large audience of interested friends. Many complimentary remarks and words of direction were offered the graduating class who with their matron Miss Ross and their sister nurses looked exceedingly nice in their becoming uniforms.

Among the new features offered by the fashionable Parisian dress-makers is a different odor for every frock, and the scent is provided by sewing sachet into the seams of the gowns, or by artfully hiding little bags of the most delicate odor in corsages and panniers.

The Minstrel's Dance in the Casino last evening was one of the jolliest affairs of the season. This is one of the nicest halls in the Maritime Provinces and the music last night would be hard to surpass. Dancing was continued until an early hour.

Cupid is reported very busy just now and very soon the results of his labors will be made known with several interesting weddings for May and June.

Mrs. W. H. Howse entertained at the Russ Hotel on Thursday afternoon at the tea hour and was hostess Friday evening at a Bridge in honor of her friends.

Miss McKinnon, matron of the P. E. I. Hospital went up to Summerside on Thursday to attend the Prince County Hospital graduation exercises.

The Misses Muirhead of Summerside left this week for Detroit, Mich. where they will visit their sister, Mrs. W. B. Morrison.

One of Mr. Basil King's masterpieces "Earthbound" is being produced in the movies and is now being shown in the Maritime Provinces. It is hoped that Charlottetown theatre goers may have the pleasure of seeing this unique and tragic drama here in the not too distant future, this being the birthplace of the noted author.

The sympathy of many friends will go out to the family of the late Mr. Alex. Martin ex-M. P. in their recent bereavement.

Miss Lavinia Kennedy, youngest

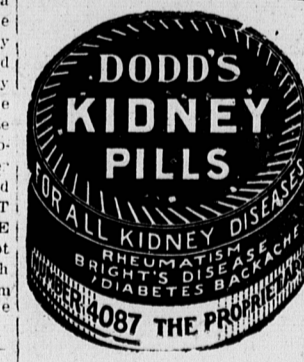
daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Kennedy of New York, has just won the Scholarship in the Grammar School. The little girl although only eleven years old passed the highest examinations of twenty five hundred pupils. Samuel James their son also won the scholarship in the Stuyvesant High School, this being the second time for the young man.

One of the visitors over the week end was Mr. C. B. McCready, organizer of the Canadian Junior Red Cross. Mr. McCready had the pleasure of meeting many former friends and he received a most cordial welcome from them all. Itumor has it that several interested parties are planning to visit him on his return home.

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ASTHMA USE RAZ-MAH NO Smoking No Spraying No Sneeze Just Swallow a Capsule RAZ-MAH is Guaranteed to restore normal breathing, stop mucus, soothe the inflamed bronchial tubes, give long nights of quiet sleep, contain the habit-forming drug. \$1.00 at your drug store. Trial free at our agencies or write Templetons, 142 King W. Toronto Local Agents Reddin Bros

Spring's Crowning Glory A Fetching New Hat With the first breeze of Spring the mind turned to a new hat—but now that the sunshine is here for good a new hat is imperative. Our milliners are ready to fill your order, with the latest Canadian and American models for tailor or dress wear, for the mother, daughter or kiddies. THE FINAL TOUCH—THE VEIL Meshes that enhance beauty—meshes that soften facial lines—meshes that give the desired privacy. Marvelous how much a thin Veil can do and be. New kinds—so original in effects—so smart. You're sure to find just the sort you like or need. BRIGHT COLORS PREDOMINATE THIS YEAR The robin redbreast has put on his new jacket; the blue bird is brilliant again; but, first of all in the galaxy of beauty are Miss and Madam "P. E. Islander"—blooming girls and radiant woman who this Spring are doing their shopping at Patons. SILK PETTICOATS WITH NEW ATTRACTIVENESS New Spring Styles, as to silks, as to shapes, as to trimmings, as to weight. Taffetas, jerseys, satins—in colorings to meet the requirements of the new fashions. And besides—the new prices are lower. THE CORSET THAT IS, BUT IS NOT Such is the fashionable accessory that must support both gown and body, but must not detract one iota from the graceful uppleness of the wearer. The new modes were designed with that thought; selected and brought here for that service. The fitting is most important of all, and for that depend upon us completely. UNDERWEAR COMFORT FOR LOVELY SPRING DAYS What a pity to fail to enjoy the finest days of the year because one hasn't ready the light-weight Underwear, to change with the thermometer. Here are the best kinds for now and the near future. ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY We want to show you (the best working shirts in Canada) for the money, our lowest price is \$1.00, we have it in any neck size up to 16 and the bodies are FULL size. Our next price is \$1.25, those are here in many different patterns including the good old black with fine stripes. Our range at \$1.50 is perhaps the biggest range, showing all the best colors in any neck size up to 17 and with bodies that will fit a "REAL" man. We take you from this quality to shirts selling at \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.25 up to \$2.50. The \$2.50 quality is made of extra heavy duck, has pockets, double stitched throughout, and comes in khaki or black. And just when we are talking shirts, you perhaps will need one for Sundays, so on Friday and Saturday we are putting out a table of soft cuff, open front, light striped shirts without collars at \$1.50, some of those sold as high as \$3.75, but there are only perhaps a couple of sizes in each pattern, but we have good patterns to show you in every size from 14 to 16 1-2, so come and pick out at least a couple. You never got more value for your money. PATONS LTD.



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