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TUESDAY DECEMBER 6, 1921

THE DAY OF DECISION.

Tonight with the counting of the ballots one of the most strenuous political campaigns in the history of Canada will be concluded and decision will be rendered, whether finally or for further group arrangement remains to be seen.

In this province the various parties may look back over the campaign without much recrimination, on the whole, discussion has been carried on fairly and without bitterness or indulgence in personal attacks. As is usually the case in political controversies emphasis has been placed on the salient features in the respective policies, possibly too much on the weakness of opponents but altogether the electors have had ample time to study the questions at issue and whatever the decision may be it cannot be called a snap verdict, it cannot be charged that the electors have been taken at a disadvantage. Whether Premier Meighen returns at the head of a party sufficiently strong to form a government or at the head of a weakened party he will at least be given credit for courage and honesty in facing the issues fairly and squarely and giving ample time for careful and thorough investigation of such issues as the people are interested in.

One question which has been made much of and on which there is still much confusion and misunderstanding is our trade with the United States. That the Liberal party have extended this question far beyond the limits of patriotism is today conceded even by themselves. They have represented the American market as the one desirable goal for Canadian farmers. Calm reflection will convince the most earnest disciple of reciprocity that our production is but as a drop in the bucket compared with the production of the United States and that in a reciprocal exchange of products our markets would suffer the fate of the drop when overwhelmed by the bucket. They export millions to our hundreds in addition to supplying their own markets. In a reciprocal exchange with them we would be nowhere. However, this question has been placed fairly and squarely before our readers and whether the matter will be set at rest once more as in 1911 or for all time to come remains to be seen. The question of the tariff is the vital point in the present election, however, much it may have been confused and the effect upon our future markets, the future progress of our industries and the retention of Canada for the Canadians, will depend upon the relative strength of the three parties that are today to receive their mandate or their quietus from the people.

Many will rejoice that the campaign with its disturbing effects upon business and other activities is ended. "The voice of the people," whether or not it be, as the old Roman idea put it "the voice of God" must prevail in our system of democracy and by it we must be satisfied. We trust the result will be to the advantage of Canada and for a continuance of that prosperity which has followed us since we became a confederated Canada and a Canadian nation.

CHRISTMAS COMING

After the people have recovered from the election's jubilation, surprises and disappointments, as the case may be, their minds will turn naturally to the festive season upon which we are just entering. Christmas is once more upon us with its joyousness and its memories and also with its giving and receiving of Christmas remembrances. Many have deplored the "swapping" of Christmas presents, but it would not be Christmas without presents,

without mutual exchanges of Happy Christmases, made tangible and permanent by gifts small or large. Christmas is itself a gift and is the anniversary of God's greatest gift. The intrinsic value of a gift has nothing to do with its real value; the little Christmas card with its sincere good wishes has more of real value and is often more appreciated than the lordly gift with the price ticket only partially obliterated to show the donor's liberality.

But all this by the way, Christmas is coming and there will be the usual giving of gifts. What we started out to say is, do your Christmas shopping now. This advice has been handed down through many generations; it will be passed on long after the givers and receivers of today have been forgotten but it has been and shall be heeded only by the few. Christmas Eve will this year as in the past find the stores full of belated and disappointed buyers. The stores are now fully stocked with Christmas goods. The stocks are complete; every taste can be gratified and every customer can be waited upon without hurry or fuss. We trust our readers will take time by the forelock, read the Christmas advertisements, select their wants and do it now.

GOVERNMENT POND

The suggestion has been made that in view of the fact that there is some unemployment in the city, the City Council should take up in earnest the project of keeping Government Pond in fit skating condition during the winter. This could be done by occasional flooding and clearing off the snow after snowstorms. In an ordinary winter with perhaps half a dozen snowstorms the expense should not be great. If the weather should prove unusually fractions the project might be abandoned. As our winters usually go there should be little difficulty at least during December and January.

Such an opportunity as this beautiful sheet of water affords for healthful recreation should not be thrown away. Many of our children need it, many of our older citizens would enjoy a spin on the ice in the open air and the whole city would find much enjoyment as well as valuable publicity from strangers from having such an attraction. Every city in northern latitudes where winter sports are possible makes what provision it can in this respect and such provision is an asset to the city. This one at least is possible to our city and, added to those we already have, would prove a boon to many particularly and to the city generally. We commend the suggestion to the City Council.

A "LAST WORD."

Last night's Patriot gives its "last word before the battle" to its readers. If it were a "last word" before a battle in which the life of the advisor was concerned we imagine it would have been a different "word," and generally contradictory of everything in its yesterday's pages.

The Patriot's "last word" has been repeated in various forms since the beginning of the campaign. It is as vague and indefinite as its first and intervening words. Its purpose is to mislead and to misinform. It is a remarkable achievement in even a Liberal newspaper that it has been able to discuss political issues for two months and to avoid the very questions in which its readers are most interested. But when it is remembered that it has the veritable views of its leader, Mr. MacKenzie King, to draw from and that these views differ as widely from each other as water does from oil

Current Comment

Ere this issue reaches the most remote of its readers the final ballot will have been cast, settling, if not for five years, most certainly for a considerable period, the question as to who or what party will be entrusted with the Government of Canada. Whatever the decision of the people may be, so far as the Conservatives party is concerned, it will be accepted gracefully, and as Premier Meighen has declared, with satisfaction to himself. That a vote adverse to the Government will be given seems to be abhorrent to every dictate of sensible reason, but next to the horse race there is nothing less safe than election forecasts. Never before in the history of the country did a party appeal to the people with a cleaner and straighter record. Governments of every color in the past have had their scandals and their corruptions charged up to them and proven by unquestioned evidence, but here we have a party, holding office for two consecutive terms of almost two years, and expending vast sums of money in the heat and excitement of a great war, summing up three or four times that of any preceding administration, and this without a single dollar of dishonest or corrupt expenditure being laid to their door, with the supporting evidence of any form of truth.

With truth there have been charges innumerable, and greater than ever before in our political history, but their emanations were of the behind the tree kind, never made in the open and never fathered by any one who would take the responsibility of facing investigation. They were in short "the veriest of slander made with the deliberate intent to wrong the party they were directed against, and to deceive the country, with the object in view of getting a few dishonest votes. All governments in the past have been up against more or less of this filth slinging, and some of them with some measure of justification, but never before was it carried to such a shameful excess as in this campaign. How far these estimates will extend their influence is yet to be determined. Our conviction is that

(Continued on page seven)

The achievement loses much of its apparent cunning.

The last word has been spoken by the press and by the candidates; the result now remains with the electors. It is possible that the people may again be misled, possible that the constant appeal to unrest and business and industrial unrest may have had its effect but we refuse to believe that the majority of Canadian voters have been misled and deceived. We await the result of the ballot with confidence and in the hope that the good spirit that has guided Canada safely thus far, through many difficulties, through the world's greatest war, to her present prosperity and splendid nationhood, has not deserted her.

Daily Selections for Guardian Readers

From the collection of the late Mr. W. S. Louson

TROUBLES

If you cannot get rid of your troubles you can try being stronger than they are; you are not bound to live under their tyranny. They are a cowardly throng that will crush you, try to run away from them, and they will overtake you. Face them, and they will cower and even vanish.

If your lips would keep from slips. Five times observe with care. Of whom you speak, to whom you speak, and how, and when and where.

I don't know how the great loving Father will bring all our right at last, but He knows, and will do it.—D. Livingstone.

Sometimes people who are left unmoved by the most fervent preaching are reached by a word fitly spoken by a friend.—Harold P. Barker.

LOVE

Love is enough. Why should we strive for power? It brings me only envy and distrust. The poor world's homage pleases but an hour, And earthly honors vanish in the dust. The grandest lives are oft times desolate; Let me be loved, and let who will be great. Love is enough.

The Public Forum

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

THOSE HOLSTEINS

Sir,—I notice some letters in your paper concerning some pure bred Holstein cattle at the Hospital Farm and it seems Mr. Lea refuses to answer same. Why is he able or is he not? The public are anxious to know.

I am, Sir, etc.,
HUGH CUMMISKEY,
Johnson River,
Nov. 28th, 1921.

That Pamphlet

Sir,—Regarding Mr. A. E. McLean's statement in today's Guardian that he knew nothing regarding that now notorious pamphlet until he read it in the special Saturday issue of the Summer side Journal, I would like to say that I, in the presence of other witnesses, heard a well known Liberal worker phone Mr. McLean throughout the week regarding this pamphlet; now that was not on Saturday.

I am, Sir, etc.,
ONE WHO WAS PRESENT,
Albany, Dec. 5.

Gov't. Done Its Best

Sir,—I was more than surprised to read in a recent issue of your paper a letter signed "A Discerning Soldier," which, to my way of thinking, would have been more appropriately signed by using "In-?" as an ending for the word "Discerning."

Granted that like the rest of us he did his bit in the late war, and although he may have been an asset to the army, he is hardly one to his country, but rather as a liability, as his own words would signify.

He frankly admits that he is good as sold his last vote, in hopes of getting a two thousand dollar gratuity when he had already received more than he expected from the present Government.

As we all know that the Canadian soldier has been used far better than any of their comrades in the late war, that should be sufficient Canada has done her best for us, now it is up to us to do our best.

I think you will agree with me when I say that votes such as his were not needed in the coming election. What we want is honest votes, not votes given in hopes of receiving.

Our friend did not consent to sign his name to his letter and I hope that if he writes again he shall be honest enough to do so, as I have been beating about the bush.

One word before closing. Our friend may class himself as a loyal citizen, to which I may add "Thank God we have but few like him."

I am, Sir, etc.,
ALLISON H. MACLEAN,
N. S. Senatorium,
Kentville, N. S.

Mr. Wheatley's Challenge

Sir,—The Hon. Geo. E. Hughes is graced with that convenient and elastic memory that has brought the Bell Government into such notoriety. He undertakes to deny the interview I had with him regarding the Falconwood cattle deal as contained in my letter in the Guardian of Friday last. Like many other of his statements it is disconcerting to the public in print.

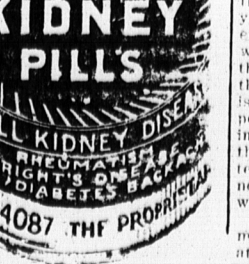
As Mr. Hughes very well knows the statement made by me is true both in substance and in fact, and to give it further force I am prepared at any time to ATTEST TO IT BY A SWORN STATEMENT.

I would suggest to Mr. Hughes that, as a member of the Government, he institute an official enquiry into this whole cattle deal and let the whole thing be exposed to the light of day. As Mr. Lea is loath to give the information asked for, a thorough investigation would clear the air and settle the question.

I am, yours, etc.,
GEORGE WHEATLEY.

A SOLDIER'S MOTHER

Sir,—I would just like to add a few words to the voice from Georgetown, who spoke right to the point. I am the mother of a returned soldier, who nobly did his bit in Flanders fields, and you can guess that if he were here, he would not surely let the false accusations pass with reference to



the manipulation of the soldier's votes, while they were "over there." I'll venture to say this challenge: that those sarcastic politicians who stand up and make this charge against our boys, never sent a son, no, not even a brother, but yet the mean insinuations. To the returned men, the pride of our country, let me say, that when Germany first proclaimed war "you didn't take a stump," on Flanders fields, "you didn't take a stump" when the question of Union Government came up "you didn't take a stump," so I feel sure you will not take it either from any loquacious politician, who opens his mouth and belows out, like the whale when he gobbled Jonah: "Oh! the extravagance of the Meighen government. The railroads for instance, the wasted money. Why the railroad officials are paid too high; their pay will have to come down whether other prices come down or not. Then too, there is the post office; too many officials there; 13 of them should be sufficient. Then there are the merchants, the jobbers, manufacturers. Why they are absolute Gormandizers. But oh! You fear little farmers, we didn't have time enough to shake hands with you all, but you just walk into our snare like good little men and take your women with you and then we will have you by the ear. And the returned men, we can't remember how that you did much, but this we do remember; that you were simple and easy enough to cast your votes for the Tories for they bribed you." What camouflage have they got? Now, what about the Bell government? They very graciously celebrated their victory on the first occasion by adding a big handle on their salary and tax the people nearly out of the province over it. And which of them needed the money so badly? don't think Premier Bell required it. "His chickens are likely to hatch." The Attorney General, "his must be pretty well brooded" on his clients and clients are made well enough to dig down in their pockets. Did "Commissioner" need the money? Kindly tell me who did. Now, what they should do with this Government side money is to cut it in two, and either erect a memorial in the form of a monument, or give it towards the construction of the proposed new City Hospital. What positions have they given our returned soldiers? They were mean enough to discharge our very obliging citizen Mr. Lanigan from the office of Government School Supply. Did he put a returned man in? Numbers of other incidents could be mentioned, but if they manage to reap their harvest this time, they will govern themselves accordingly and commemorate the occasion by extending their salaries from \$4,000 to \$6,000 at the start. Believe me they are right after the dollars as well as any "extra-legal government" as they call it. About the former candidate, he has his own way, but he will be returned to Parliament; he wouldn't get a chance to put a unctuation mark in. He can be compared to the little school boy that, "if he don't get it out of his book he will forget what little he 'd know." Now, about P. S. Brown, well he is like the little ship that fell into the portage "no ood, no harm." Look boys! This is what we want to see. Honor to whom honor is due; and to you I quote the words of the poet:

Who would not be a traitors
Who would not fill a coward's grave
Who would not see base as he a slave
Who would not turn and flee
Remember boys, Great Britain, Belgium, Sweden, Denmark and all European countries stood out for the United States. Why would we not benefit as well? So, now, take the advice of a soldier's mother, "Don't take a stump," but when the 6th day of Dec. arrives vote for the candidates of the party who stood by your side when you were all in Flanders' fields.

I am, Sir, etc.,
A CHARLOTTETOWN HERO'S MOTHER.

United States Markets

Sir,—I notice considerable attention is given of late to the Canadian imports and exports, also regarding the prices obtainable in our own markets as compared with elsewhere.

Now, to be candid, I do not consider that the persons who write these letters are doing so with the purpose of helping anyone to arrive at any just conclusions. In a letter signed "Egg Dealer" (see Patriot Dec. 3rd) one must conclude that the writer never handled eggs other than in an attempt to consume them when placed on his breakfast table and he evidently does not know the difference between cold storage stock, and the fresh laid article. When speaking of larger markets I would have you believe eggs are only worth 42 cts. per doz. in the market, whilst in New York or some other large egg consuming centre they are worth 92 cts. Now the writer is either wilfully deceiving his readers, or knows very little about the egg business, and it should be the duty of the public press to refuse to accept such letters for publication. If the press is going to open up a public forum for disseminating false information, then it is only fair that you make your position known to your readers so that they may know just what you have to offer. You know that you have often been made that three-fourths of all advertising is either false or misleading. What percentage of the statements made in the Press today are facts, or at least to convey the truth? Are not 90 per cent of such letters written to mislead the public?

The public question also is given much attention in the Press just at the present time and in a great many letters it is claimed the

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HEAD OFFICE - MONTREAL

United States is a large buyer of enough in our markets, as few foodstuffs. But how many times holding over large stocks when they know our markets can be shorted at any time by foreign imports. You are well aware of what happened to our own dealers last year in the meat line. It is claimed by some people that large dealers in Canada are raising the people and demanding exorbitant prices. If so, why did the largest American packing plant close down their Canadian branch in Hamilton, Ont., if the prices obtained here permitted large profits? Did they not prefer to operate in home where profits were higher? They could easily have purchased American hogs, brought them into Canada and sold them in our markets. The duty is 22 cts. per lb. and American hogs are cheaper than Canadian hogs at present 2 cts per lb. less and this is sufficient to offset the duty. Surely this could not happen in Canada where we are told there are so many big interests. The Liberal politicians tell us the sinners are all in Canada at present and saints only in the United States. According to a recent issue of the Toronto Globe, dealing in detail with our export of hams, and based on Great Britain, it is claimed we have practically lost this market due to the fact that Denmark and Holland are producing in large quantities and at lower prices, and, this being the case, we ask, where are our meats being consumed? We know they are not going to the United States, whose tariff today is prohibitive. No, these meats are being consumed at home and our farmers are getting more for their hogs than the farmers in the United States. It is important, we should know something more about this so-called great consuming market in the United States for Canadian food stuffs and would refer you to the recent Report of the present Secretary of Agriculture in Washington, in which he deplores the conditions that exist in connection with the farming industry of that country and points to economic chaos in the United States because of the great surplus food supply

(Continued on page seven)



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