

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 1922

HUMANIZING JUSTICE

Last year a bill was passed by the federal government amending the criminal code so as to allow the appointment of a probation officer for the province and suspending sentences under certain conditions. We note that the legislature of Ontario has taken steps to test the efficacy of this measure by passing an act authorizing the appointment of probation officers in any city, town, municipality or district desiring such an official.

We have more people and more domestic animals to the square mile than any other province in Canada. We have hotels and private boarding houses all over the island capable of accommodating all the visitors who come here and they are coming in increasing numbers yearly. We have the best climate in North America for the simple reason that our atmosphere is being continuously ocean-washed by gentle sea breezes, modifying the temperature and preventing extremes of either heat or cold.

The idea, briefly, is to substitute for the usual jail sentence a probation period during which the accused must report at regular stated intervals to the probation officer. The latter is required to keep track of the accused, to do what he can to secure employment for him, to advise him and to see that he becomes linked up with good company, good clubs, the church, etc. Social workers and court authorities are taking great interest in the matter and are hopeful of good results.

We have beautiful sandy beaches for bathing and swimming, navigable rivers for boating and canoeing a stretch of forty miles of river navigable for motor boats and canoes runs east and west from Charlottetown. We have numerous streams in which fine sea trout abound, and suitable picnic and camping grounds along every stream. We have deep sea fishing all around the island and lobster factories all round the coast at intervals of only a few miles.

The movement is intended primarily to redeem first offenders especially from the consequences of a jail period. It is well known that jail environment is not generally conducive to good morals and it is felt that it is worth while to give every offender, except the incorrigible, a chance to redeem himself. Many first offences are slips, not necessarily criminal, and many who have accidentally made such slips have been converted into real criminals by a term in jail.

There is much in this movement to commend it. There are many juvenile offenders who through accident or slip, rather than criminality, render themselves liable to a jail or even a penitentiary term. Such a term would probably mean ruin whereas, if given a chance with reasonable punishment, such as that involved in compulsory periodical reporting and constant surveillance, they might be rescued.

It is worth while attempting to save even the criminal, much more, to prevent the young offender becoming a criminal. The principle of probation and surveillance under suspending sentence might well be tried right here in Charlottetown where petty offences to say nothing of more serious ones, are becoming too common.

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Notes By The Way

Down to Friday last 26 Liberals, 26 Progressives and 21 Conservatives, 73 members in all, had spoken in the Budget debate at Ottawa, filling 458 pages of Hansard. Thus it appears that nearly two-thirds of those who had so far spoken were either critical of the Fielding budget or squarely in opposition thereto. One half of our island representation in the House seems to have been so far silent during the debate. Hon. Messrs. Sinclair and McKinnon have been discreetly silent. This last phase is one for Queen's County electors to consider.

Possibly the two members from Queens, P. E. I. may yet be heard from before the final vote is taken. Since this Province entered the union in 1873 representatives from Queens have usually had something to say when weighty questions, such as the tariff were under consideration. The two members who have so far been silent in the budget debate were visible enough during the election campaign of December last. No doubt they found it a difficult task to reconcile the Fielding tariff with the platform to which they pledged themselves only a few months ago.

Free agricultural implements, untaxed food-stuffs, reduced duties on boots and shoes, clothing and the necessities of life were freely promised in December, but where are they to be found in the tariff of June? Alas, they have melted away like the winter snows in the sunshine of spring! And yet so far we hear of no protests made to the government or in the House by our island representatives. Apparently theirs was a consenting silence to the tariff which is quite the contrary of their pre-election promises and professions.

No protests were made by our professionally low tariff or revenue tariff men against the Fielding tariff now brought down which is quite as protective in all its essential features as the Conservative tariff was. Two and a half per cent. off the duties on a mower or a binder or a plough counts for nothing against the 50 per cent. increase in the sales tax. Nor is the Fielding tariff a revenue tariff according to the principles laid down by Messrs. Sinclair and McKinnon in their campaign speeches. They then held that if the tariff were reduced it would so increase importations as to produce more revenue. If those who framed the tariff believed this doctrine they might have acted on that belief. They did not believe it!

The tariff was obviously made to please Quebec and it has done so. Quebec has no large manufactures of agricultural implements, as Ontario has, but Quebec is protectionist at heart. The speech of Sir Lomer Gouin in support of the Fielding budget was as sound a protection doctrine as ever was spoken in the Canadian parliament, qualified by the few deceptive words in which he said that this had been always the policy of the Liberal party. That was an amazing statement which we cannot expect Messrs. Sinclair and McKinnon to endorse. But they listened to it without protest.

Nothing is clearer than that Quebec dominated the counsels that made the tariff what it is. Mr. Fielding would hardly have so satisfied the platform of 1919 and all the professions of Liberal candidates in the Maritime Provinces and Ontario, had it not been for Quebec's insistence. Nor would he have gone so far in refusing the Western Progressives everything they asked for had it not been that both King and Fielding yielded everything to Quebec. That is the way it looks at the time of this writing but the game is not played out yet. Once the tariff is adopted some new alignment of the Progressive party must follow.

Daily Selections for Guardian Readers

From the W. S. Louson collection

THE FRUGAL SNAIL The frugal snail, with forecast of repose, Carries his house with him wherever he goes; Peeps out, and if there comes a shower of rain Retreats to his small domicile again. He's his own landlord, his own tenant; stay Long as he will, he dreads no Quarterday. Himself, he boards and lodges; both invites, And feasts himself; sleeps with himself o' nights He spares the upholsterer trouble to procure Chateaus; himself is his own furniture, And his sole riches. Wheresoe'er he roams, Knock when you will—he's sure to be at home. Charles Lamb.

Another Old Friend Quits Lloyd George

Much discussion has been caused in political circles in England by the recent denunciation of Lloyd George by Sir Henry Wilson, late Chief of the Imperial General Staff, and now in charge of the defence of Ulster. Sir Henry gave a newspaper interview that is almost ferocious in tone, and which must have made as unpleasant reading for the Prime Minister as anything his eyes have rested on for a long time. It had the added pang of coming from a man who was lately his personal friend and great admirer. Lloyd George's friends hint at ingratitude. They point out that it was Lloyd George who gave Wilson his chance. When the Prime Minister fell out with Sir William Robertson, and the latter was forced to resign, it was the lanky Ulsterman whom he placed in his stead. Even before this Wilson's rise had been rapid. He was considered one of the finds of the war, and undoubtedly his finder was Lloyd George. Mr. Asquith denied Wilson a position in accord with his great abilities, because Wilson was a Carson man before the war.

Ireland Causes Break

Lloyd George proved broader-minded. He realized that, despite some surface eccentricities, Wilson was a great soldier. The Premier did not make him a great soldier. He merely gave him a chance to prove what was in him, and Wilson triumphantly proved it. During their close association Wilson came to have a great admiration for the Welshman, and each is on record as testifying in the most glowing terms to the genius of the other. What broke their friendship was the course pursued by Lloyd George with regard to Ireland. Wilson believes that the Prime Minister has betrayed Ulster, and Wilson's devotion to Ulster is much stronger than his devotion to any man in public life. So he retired from office and entered Parliament. Lloyd George has no stouter critic than one who is likely to be listened to with greater respect by at least one part of the House.

A Secret Revealed

The question of ingratitude would seem hardly to enter into the question at all. But another question is raised by the Wilson interview. To what extent is a former public servant justified in making public knowledge that came to him in his official capacity? For instance, Sir Henry says: "We are in Palestine because some years ago Mr. Balfour now Earl of Balfour, made a speech. We remain there because the politicians have been told that if we get out, we shall have an organized Jewry against us in every capital."

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The Progressives have been rebuffed and trampled upon in the budget debate and in the Fielding tariff. Conservatives and Liberals both attacked their policy from different angles in discussion while in the tariff and in regard to reduced freight rates, the wheat board and the Hudson Bay railway, the King Government has so far refused them everything they asked for. There is an irrepressible conflict between Quebec and Progressivism. It may yet destroy the Progressive party, a result which many Conservatives and Liberals would not greatly regret. But if the Progressive party is to survive it must fight, it must with its utmost force resist the deadly blow which the Fielding tariff and the King Government have dealt it.

DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS. ALL KIDNEY DISEASES. RHEUMATISM. BRIGHT'S DISEASE. DIABETES. BACKACHE. 1087 THE PROGRESSIVE

of the world. Shall we? I don't know. Our Tommies are there to prevent the Arabs from cutting the throats of the Jews. If we went out, they would go, too." He adds the interesting information that in Palestine strongly against the advice of the War Office.

A Hard Hit

A similar charge is made with regard to the backing of the Greeks against the Turks. The War Office was always dead against this policy, and he asserts that the course taken by Lloyd George was advised against by Lord Curzon, Foreign Secretary, and the British Ambassador at Constantinople. He continues: "It comes to this—in Palestine, as in Turkey, Mr. Lloyd George put his money on the wrong horse. We shall never get peace in Palestine, or Mesopotamia, or Egypt, or India until we make love to the Turks. It may be very immoral, or it may not; it is a fact." Then he delivered a savage thrust: "Can anyone tell me why Lloyd George backed the Greeks? Was it to please Zaharoff?" Now Sir Basil Zaharoff is not well known in the New World, but in Europe it is known that he is one of the powerful political and financial figures of the world. He is a Greek by birth and is supposed to have been influential in the coup that deposed Constantine and brought the country into the war.

Empire or Lloyd George

He is said to have advanced large sums of money to the Allies, and the suggestion that the British Prime Minister is in some way influenced by this mysterious foreigner is about as unpleasant a thing as could be said. But Sir Henry Wilson is a hard hitter. At one point in his interview he said, "it simply comes down to this, that we cannot have the Empire and Lloyd George. It's too expensive. One of them must go." The same idea has been expressed in other words and appears to be one that is gradually taking possession of the minds of many men who are by no means blind to the remarkable gifts of the Prime Minister, but who are steadily losing confidence in him as a man of principle. Most English-speaking people, we suppose, are more interested in the British Prime Minister's course in Ireland than in India, Egypt or Palestine, and this is what most closely concerns Sir Henry Wilson, the Ulsterman. The events of the next few weeks in Ireland may show whether Lloyd George has deservedly forfeited the confidence of his former friends.

CANADA NEGOTIATING IN LONDON FOR THE PAYMENT OF \$60,000,000

LONDON, June 12.—Sixty million dollars of Canadian public moneys are involved in negotiations which are now being carried on by the Canadian authorities in London with the British and Roumanian governments. The sum of \$35,000,000 is in dispute between Canada and Great Britain in connection with the repayment of the British war debt to the Dominion. As announced, the Imperial Treasury takes the curious position that the debt, which was accumulated during the war, should be repaid only at the pre-war exchange rates. The Canadian authorities, in conversations held during the past few days, have pressed for payment at the existing rates of exchange. They point out that this was the course followed with the British war debts to other countries; for instance, the United States, and applied to all ordinary commercial transactions. The debt was incurred for munitions and supplies furnished, and these rose steadily in price with the change of money values during the war.

MORE VANCOUVER SHIPMENTS

TORONTO, June 12.—Further innovations in extending the exports of Vancouver are reported. The experiment of sending frozen fish to New York, via the Panama Canal, was successful in every respect and a second ship has left with a further consignment of 350 tons for the same market. For the first time British Columbia lead and spelter has been shipped from the port of Vancouver to Europe via the Panama, and large quantities will in future go forward to Belgium and the United Kingdom.

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WOULD MAKE PEERESSES IN MINISTER'S 'PANTS' AS NATIONAL ISSUE

LONDON, June 12.—It was decided at an important meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Women's Organizations today to take measures to secure such changes in the Sex Disqualification Act as to enable women to sit in the House of Lords. The hope was expressed that the Government would introduce and secure the passage of a bill at this session making peeresses in their own right eligible to sit in Parliament under the Sex Disqualification Act. It is admitted to the House of Commons there is no justification for excluding them from the other House. Lady Rhonda, who recently failed to win her place for a seat in the House of Lords, said in an interview in the Manchester Guardian today: "The committee at first agreed to my petition by a vote of seven to one. It is a most unusual thing for the House of Lords to turn down or refer back a report of the committee of privileges. Had not the Lord Chancellor lent his authority to the suggestion of so doing it seems unlikely that the House of Lords, shall not do so because of their sex. That is to reiterate that the status of women is inferior to that of men. Such a decision is going to react in every professional and working woman."

EDITH LEITCH TO PLAY IN CANADIAN TOURNEY

LONDON, June 12.—Miss Edith Leitch, of England, and Miss Molly McBride, of Montreal, are sailing on the steamer Montrose, June 30, both entering for the ladies' golf championship of Canada. Miss Cecil Leitch will be unable to play, but hopes to accompany the couple.

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