

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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A FAREWELL VISIT.

The Honorable W. L. MacKenzie King is paying what is probably a farewell visit to Prince Edward Island. His visit, it is worthy of passing remark, is of considerably longer duration than any of those paid us when he was actively representing us as the member for Prince County. Notwithstanding the strenuousness of the campaign Mr. MacKenzie King evidently has plenty of time on his hands; he is spending nearly a week in this province whereas the Prime Minister can afford us only a day and a half. The explanation no doubt is that while the clientele of the latter extends from coast to coast, the Honorable MacKenzie King's good offices for his party are confined to Quebec and what he can pick up in the Maritime Provinces and in Ontario; he has been practically ostracized from the middle west and the farther west. His own constituency of North York has been abandoned as absolutely hopeless and the fact that he has had "no time" to devote to it during the campaign so far may do duty after the election to account for his defeat there.

Altogether Mr. MacKenzie King's tour has in it all the minor cadences of the Swan Song; it is a farewell visit and withal a pleasant one. He is a pleasing speaker and can talk entertainingly to the galleries, but no one takes him seriously as a leader of men or the leader of what was once a great party. In absolute weakness he sought association with the Wood-Crerar organization and that party "has lifted up its heel against him." They have placed candidates in the field to oppose him; they have turned him down flat and today he stands at the head of a remnant of the Liberal party, a remnant that has already repudiated the platform adopted by the assembled wisdom—or the assembled opportunism of the Liberal leaders of all Canada in August, 1919.

Even this restricted leadership is now slipping out of his grasp. The Fielding-Gouin aspirants for leadership compelled him to "walk the plank" into North York where political death awaited him rather than into Prince County where he had a hope. And now Mr. William Pugsley is resigning the governorship of New Brunswick to enter the lists against Mr. Fielding as leader of the Liberal party.

For the present the Liberal party is dead and is not even a measurable factor in the coming election. The only real opposition to the Meighen government is the Crerar-Wood combination masquerading under the name of Progressives. They are to be reckoned with as a possible force in amalgamation with such Liberals as may be elected and who will be dominated by them. But the Crerar-Wood combination is gradually being exposed and our Canadian farmers whom they inveigled into their association are being unceasingly deceived. Their free trade policy which if adopted, would mean the death knell of Canadian agriculture, is being more thoroughly understood as the campaign proceeds and will have flattened out into the vote catching device it is before election day. Electors who were momentarily captivated by the cry of free agricultural implements and other manufactured products now realize that free trade is a two edged sword which, while admitting free into Canada the products of American factories and of American farms especially pork, bacon and eggs would mean ruin to Canadian factories, Canadian farms and Canadian markets.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS

The report of Dominion Criminal Statistics for 1920 has just been issued. Regrettably it shows no

improvement over previous years; in fact it shows the reverse. The following extracts speak for themselves:

"The total number of convictions for the year ended September 30, 1920 is 162,708, being an increase of 25 per cent over 1919. The increase of 1919 over 1918 was but 5.12 per cent. The report, however, shows this heavy increase to be almost entirely in the non-indictable or minor offences which increased from 111,623 in 1919 to 144,265 in 1920.

In 1920 there were 57 charges for murder as against 79 for 1919. 26 convictions for murder as against 28 for 1919. Total convictions for 1920 were 2,901 as against 2,614 for 1919.

Summing up, the report says in conclusion:—

"The most notable changes shown in the above table are the large increases in breaches of municipal by-laws, liquor acts and drunkenness. The decrease in Militia Acts is due to the cessation of military operations. The increase in breaches of Municipal by-laws which is almost 50 per cent is principally in cases relating to highway offences of various kinds. The increase in offences relating to the temperance legislation is 39 per cent over 1919, and convictions for drunkenness have increased 64 per cent, since the previous year. The number of cases of drunkenness for 1920—39,769 is the highest since 1915, when it was 41,161.

The number of persons fined for drunkenness in 1920 was 36,222, and the fines paid amounted to \$315,099, unpaid fines totalled \$65,294. The figures for 1919 were 21,975 persons fined, \$188,176, fines paid and \$39,763 unpaid. For breaches of prohibition and other liquor regulations the number of persons fined in 1920 was 9,674 who paid \$1,442,754, in fines and refused to pay \$244,676. The figures for 1919 were 7,079 persons fined, \$930,947 in paid fines and \$247,995 in unpaid.

JUST LIKE THE PATRIOT

Mr. MacKenzie King's speeches read like a political editorial in the Patriot, all denunciation of political opponents, glorification of self and party; but nothing specific. Indeed the Patriot has slightly the advantage as it has declared itself definitely in favor of free trade going and coming, whereas no one has yet discovered where Mr. King stands on the tariff policy.

MAKING NO PROMISES

It is understood that the Hon. Mr. MacKenzie King informed one of his supporters who interrogated him with reference to local matters, that they were making no pre-election promises. "Elect us to power," he said, "then we'll see what we can do." This recalls the old game "shut your eyes and open your mouth and see what drops in!"

THE PATRIOT ADMITS IT

"Of course," says yesterday's Patriot, "there are two sides to every question, frequently the right and the wrong side, and we believe that Mr. King and Mr. Mc-Master also Mr. Duff (evidently an afterthought) have got the right side of the political questions."

This places the Patriot, by its own admission, where the Guardian has said all along it belonged, on the wrong side of the question as its policy is the exact opposite of that of Mr. King.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The United States farmers demand protection and have secured it in the Fordney tariff bill which shuts out all Canadian pro-

Current Comment

Mr. A. E. McLean, of Prince County, is open for congratulation and commiseration, with rather a big excess of the latter. His congratulation is due to the fact that in running with the hare and holding with the hounds in the Bell Government's TAXATION programme, he was accepted by the majority of the Liberals in the Convention, as being the least of the two evils, as against Mr. A. C. Saunders the out and out political spantel that persisted in licking the hand that scourged. He is entitled also to more or less credit for his management of the wires to secure a convention at all, in view of the Soviet's disposition in this province to make their selections in the hole and corner gathering, without regard to the popular will. His personal friends can now see the cleverness of his dodgings upon the Bell taxation scourge, and the reasons for his quiet acquiescence in those measures, after making a slight outward show of protest, and escaping to the chair of the Committee to avoid an actual vote upon the question, at its most dangerous and important stage. If Mr. Saunders had have only been as wise in his day and generation, and done some dodging and beating around the bush, instead of making long speeches to prove that their black acts were really white, he might not now be suffering this ignoble turn down at the Convention.

But Mr. McLean is even more entitled to the commiseration and sympathy of all who can have tender feelings toward a political shuffler in that he has before him a very rough and thorny road to travel. While it is true that he will not have any specific policy to expound or defend, there will nevertheless be this difficulty always before him, of wading through all the various policies expounded at different points by his leader, Hon. MacKenzie King and, from this mass, of selecting the scraps which he thinks will be least offensive to his constituents, and which like the promises he made to them prior to the last local election, will be the best designed to mislead and deceive them. This will be no easy task and will be made more difficult by the organs of his party, more particularly the Patriot which will be eternally putting him into one hole after another and blundering as it dodges from pillar to post in its attempts to catch and profit by every will-the-wisp in sight, or in clumsily trimming its sails in the effort to catch some passing breeze. He will also be up against the inner clique of his party who will not forgive him for this turn down that he gave to the Soviet's appointed.

These things, however, are not the troubles within his own house and the dangers which menace him from false brethren. In opposition to him there is the president of the United Farmers of Prince County, Mr. Horace Wright, back-

ducts from their market. Should we let down our tariff bars and let them pour their agricultural products into our markets? This is what the Liberal policy would have us do.

Daily Selections for Guardian Readers

PHILOSOPHY

Soul, dost thou fear For today or tomorrow? 'Tis the part of a fool To go seeking sorrow. Of this can I say Thou canst not contrive them. To He that shall give them. Thou may'st not outlive them. So why cloud today With fear of the sorrow, That may or may not Come tomorrow?

Oh! what a glory doth this world put on For him who with a fervent heart goes forth Under the bright and glorious sky, and looks On duties well performed and days well spent! For him the wind, ay! and the yellow leaves, Shall have a voice and give him eloquent teachings, He shall so hear the solemn hymn, that Death Has lifted up for all, that he shall go To his last resting place without a tear.

Longfellow.

THE PUBLIC FORUM

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

The Exhibition Program

Sir,—The letter that appeared in your paper recently referring to the singing of the universal favorite in our city, Mr. Chas. Earle, has shocked the people. Mr. Earle on many occasions has delighted large audiences with the same selections. The people look for them and it is only Mr. Earle who can sing them. Without Mr. Earle's name on the program no concert is complete. So, Charlie, we hope to hear you again in song and encore!

I am, Sir, etc., LOVER OF GOOD MUSIC.

Defective Stovepipes and Flues

Sir,—One of the commonest causes of fire in Prince Edward Island has been defective stovepipes or flues in overhead attics or rooms out of ordinary sight. It is a very common custom in this Province to run stovepipes through ceilings and floors and to a chimney in the room or attic above. Too frequently these up-air stovepipes prove the destruction of the house. Out of sight, out of memory is what causes the trouble in dwellings, stores, and many other places.

This is the time of year when these fire traps should be carefully gone over, and once a week would not be too often to have a look at them. When a pipe is hot it expands and when it cools it contracts as a tendency to drop out of place.

We have had several very extensive fires from this cause in Prince Edward Island within the last few weeks, and the public should use every effort to save their own property as well as that of their neighbours.

Thanking you for giving this matter publicity, I am, Sir, etc., E. H. BEER, Provincial Fire Marshal.

And by all the money and the influence of the great Grain Growers combine of Western Canada, that this will be an important, although not necessarily a decisive factor, he will be constrained to admit. The fact that he himself, was generously advertised as the probable Farmers' candidate, in case he should fail to land the liberal nomination, will not add to his strength. Straight line Liberals will see in this a reproduction of the shuffling instinct of the local legislature, while the Farmers will surely look upon it as another betrayal of their confidence and their cause. And when these forces have given expression to their determination by their votes at the polls, our downhearted friend will be able to say: "Murdered in the house of my friends." And in the end, divested of that hope that spurs the ambition of every political adventurer, forlorn, down and out, like Wolsley, he can exclaim: "If I had but served my country, as I did (my own interests) it would not have left me in his extremity."

And then his biggest of all difficulties is that he is opposed by the Hon. Jas. A. McNeill, a man of exceeding great personal popularity, one who was never a shuffler, who has always sailed the one straight course, true to his friends and the people who elected him, and whose word was always his bond. Behind this personal and public popularity of a Government at Ottawa, with one straight and sound policy that does not require to be shifted to meet the views of every different locality into which it is introduced, and which for the last half century has been endorsed by the whole of Canada every time that it has been submitted to the popular vote. Added to this is the assisting force of the strongest Prime Minister that ever stood at the head of the affairs of government in this country, who on the platform, in soundness of logic, in political and administrative strategy, has no equal on the face of this continent, and who whenever he meets an audience at once captures their confidence and approval against all comers. Of a truth, Mr. McLean is truly up against it, and is more surely a subject for compassion and sympathy than either resentment or contempt.



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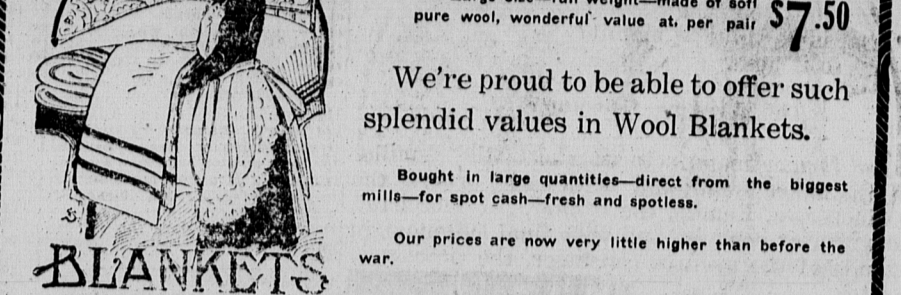


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