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THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Dr. Charles Dalton, President. J. H. Burnett, Editor and Publisher. D. K. Currie, Associate Editor.

Morning Daily (founded 1887) \$2.00 per year delivered in advance. \$3.00 per year (monthly) in advance in Canada and \$4.50 to U. S. A.

MONDAY, MAY 1, 1922

PEDIGREED SEED

The past year has clearly demonstrated the fact that the demand for reliable Island grown seed, whether of grain or potatoes, far exceeds the supply we have been able to produce. The Potato Growers' Association has done excellent work and produced a comparatively large quantity of certified seed potatoes last year but they have orders today for thousands of bushels which they cannot supply.

This is equally true of seed oats. We are importing yearly large quantities of seed oats, mainly from Ontario, the quality of which in no way compares with the registered seed oats grown in our own province. Last year was an unusually unfavorable year for grain in this province owing to the prolonged summer drought, but wherever registered Island seed was sown it yielded a good crop. This lesson should not be lost upon our people. There is always a temptation to buy as cheaply as possible and in the matter of seed this is often done at the cost of a large proportion of a year's crop.

Whether we grow oats and potatoes for home consumption or for export ordinary business prudence demands that we grow that which produces the best crop and brings the best price. This can be done only according to the regulations laid down by the Federal Department of Agriculture and the carrying out of these regulations is within reach of all. Every farmer can raise pedigreed seed oats and certified seed potatoes of the best varieties. If he raises these for sale he has the advantage of the higher price as well as of the bigger crop; if he raises them for his own exclusive use he has the advantage of the bigger crop.

The majority of our farmers are obliged to raise more oats and potatoes than they can feed on their own farms. The ideal system, if it were possible would be to feed on the farm everything that is grown on it. In this way all the fertility taken out of the soil would be returned to it. This is not possible however as it would require a much larger stock of cattle than could be attended to with the help now available. For this reason the surplus produced for export or for sale should be of the quality and variety that is most profitable. We should not grow a bushel of either potatoes or oats that could not be sold for seed.

There is no danger of overrunning the demand for good seed. The experience of the Potato Growers' Association and of those who have for years been growing registered seed oats has conclusively demonstrated this and both organizations should receive all the help and all the encouragement they deserve and we trust that ere long every farmer in the province will be a member of both.

A BELATED DEFENSE

The Patriot as usual rises to the defence of the Bell government in awarding the contract for iron culverts to an American concern in preference to a Canadian factory. According to the Patriot the American firm now turns out to be Canadian! Why did not the Honourable Mr. Crosby think of this when defending his department? The information to hand up to the time the Commissioner of Public Works concluded his apologetic explanation was that the American concern had a distributing office in Canada; that there was not a Canadian dollar invested in the concern and not a Canadian employed by it except possibly one or two office hands, while the concern the Bell government turned down because of

"subtle influences" employed, many hundreds of Canadians including 200 returned soldiers!

The Patriot which has been in many a hole and has had considerable experience in wiggling out of them has in this case tried a belated wiggle which will, like many others in its experience only let it deeper into the hole. To excuse a wrong is just a little worse than doing the wrong, and to take employment out of the hands of Canadians especially during the present crisis with its unemployment and financial stringency is a wrong that none but a dyed-in-the-wool partisan would try to excuse.

ANOTHER CLAIM

In enumerating the boundless benefits which the Bell government and especially the Department of Agriculture has conferred upon the province, the Honourable W. M. Lea includes the Potato Growers' Association to which he alludes as one of the "great things we have done". Neither Mr. Lea nor the Bell government, directly or indirectly, has had anything to do with the origin of this organization of the Potato Growers' Association; in fact Mr. Lea gave the proposition a half-hearted welcome at its inception. The credit for initiating the organization of the Association belongs exclusively to one man, that man is Mr. John B. MacFadyen, Augustine Cove. Mr. MacFadyen at least six years ago in the columns of The Guardian advocated the organization of the Potato Growers' Association. Later the Rotary Club got behind the movement, had Mr. MacFadyen and other prominent farmers address a Rotarian meeting at which the Hon. W. M. Lea was present and threw cold water on the proposition, arguing that potato growing was not nearly so profitable or beneficial to the soil as dairying, and therefore dairying and not potato growing should be encouraged. Those who knew the profit to be derived from growing seed potatoes, however, persisted, an organizing meeting was called; officers were appointed and the Potato Growers' Association became a fact. In due course it grew into the splendid institution it is today and now that it has succeeded, the Hon. W. M. Lea claims it as his child!

WARREN GROVE BRIDGE

Many times during the past year attention has been directed to the dangerous condition of the bridge at Warren Grove, North River. There have been no accidents yet, probably due to the publicity given to it and the consequent care exercised in passing over it. The bridge is between ten and fifteen feet high with no railing on one side and a large section of one side carried out recently by a washout. In avoiding this washout there is danger of driving over the fifteen foot precipice on the other side. At night especially this bridge in its present condition is a menace to life and property and has been so for over a year.

There has been considerable boasting over the highway projects forty per cent. of the cost of which is paid by the federal government and the other sixty per cent. borrowed but we hear nothing about those bridges and roads which are to be paid for out of ordinary revenue. The revenue is needed to pay official salaries, increased sessional indemnities and to make up fake surpluses, the borrowed money and the free grant may be expended freely in building mud monuments to the memory of the Bell government, try

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 Promises

Sir,—I see by The Guardian that the House is in session. Now that we are having windy speeches from the blow-hards of 1919, and as the order of the day is to table some questions, I would like to ask the members of the West River District, Messrs. Hughes and LePage, what has been done with reference to that \$2,000.00 they promised the returned soldiers when canvassing for their votes.

Did these members ever speak in the House about that \$2,000.00 or did they take it unto themselves as a part of the salary grab?

Speak up George and Brady and tell us about your election promises.

I am, Sir, etc.,
AFTON HALL.

Notes By The Way

(From the Examiner)

On Thursday evening in the House we had a fine exhibition of the business ability of the Bell government. The members of the government and their supporters were unusually punctual. During six weeks previous they had been dilatory, meeting at any old hour, of ten one to three hours after the time appointed. Now they were on hand and alert. The estimates were to be railroaded through the House. And this was done in true splash-away, dash-away, spend the cash fashion.

The items for the Attorney General's and Hon. Mr. Lea's departments had been mainly rushed through at a previous sitting at a rate which gave no time for reasonable consideration. But now the machine had been lubricated with "the rich oil that from the treasury steals," gripping smoothly over all its bearings, full power was turned on, and with Chairman Higgs at the throttle and all hands at their appointed stations it was evident that a supreme effort was to be made to break all previous records. And they did break all records and distanced all competitors.

Through the east window that opens on the press gallery, the town clock is in full view. By the clock, and by the printed estimates on the desks of the reporters, this fact was demonstrated: Items that make a total of more than half a million dollars were voted in one hour and twenty minutes. For those eighty minutes at the rate of \$6,500 per minute, more of the people's money was voted away than all the revenues received by

Daily Selections for Guardian Reader

From the W. & Louson collection

HE IS RISEN

(A. L. Read in the Presbyterian Witness)

O death! thou art defeated!
In this glad Easter Day,
For lo! the stone of bondage
By angels rolled away
Reveals a tomb deserted—
Come, see the place He lay.

O sorrowing disciples!
Behold the risen Lord,
The Master well beloved,
The Friend by you adored.
The cruel marks He shows you
Are tokens of His word.

O blessed resurrection!
O triumph of the grave,
O wonderful atonement
A world of sin to save;
That all might share the glory,
His life He freely gave.

Behold the shining vision
Pass upward from your sight,
The Lord of Heaven ascending
From darkness into light;
For ever more dispelling
The gloom of endless night.

EDITORIAL NOTE

At the auction sale of Messrs. W. B. Prowse and Sons on Friday afternoon \$30,000 worth of automobiles were sold. The purchasers were mostly farmers, only a comparative few of the cars being bought by citizens. The sale was an exceptionally large one and the extensive purchase an evidence of the unabated prosperity of the county.

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(the Arsenault government in a year!

In those 80 minutes more money was voted away by these Salary Grabbers than had ever before been received by any government of Prince Edward Island in all its long history. But just then the money mill got checked, slowed down and stopped. The grant for legislation caused the trouble. Mr. Dewar moved to reduce the indemnity. Mr. Brodie seconded the motion. At once the government forces sprang to arms. The bayonet point of order was presented to the breach of the mover and seconder. It was a tremendous crisis for the grabbers.

For if the Salary Grab was lost, what hope to save the party? The craft of the deceivers was in danger, and for many minutes they shouted the battle-cry of plunder. Never before in parliamentary annals in British countries had a motion to reduce expenditure been declared out of order, but Chairman Higgs was equal to the occasion. He ruled the motion out, the grab was rescued, the party saved and the spending mill was started again, voting thousands and tens of thousands almost as rapidly as before. By one o'clock the entire grist was ground out.

Let the honest, intelligent elector ask his representative when he returns home, whether what is here stated is true or untrue. If true, the fact is without precedent. Ask for a "yes" or "no" answer. Don't accept evasive answers. And if the fact is proven, as it must be, for truthful denial is impossible, then ask him why was this done? Why was the impossibility of fair consideration of the hundreds of different items thus thrust upon the House?

This deed was done in the night, a fitting time; it was done by the men who gained power by deception and political fraud, by men who so much fear the light of honest truth that they shut the doors of the public accounts committee against the press. These men voted away more than half a million of the people's money, money that was wrung from the people by hard taxation in only eighty minutes.

They did it right merrily, too, with laugh and jest such as become a crew of gamblers at the card table. "They had just a few serious moments when their own ill-gotten money seemed in peril. That danger passed, they became joyous and jubilant again, merry as Nereus' fiddling when his capital city was in flames. The people's money, the toilers' money, the farmers' money? A good joke! As if the rich top dressing of taxation had not already so fertilized the farmers' fields that musty mud is no longer called for. A good joke, by heck! Ha! Ha! Ha!

A TROPICAL WONDERLAND

ITS ROMANCE AND ITS RACES

By Rev. J. F. Denny, Souris

VI.
Into the open space cut out of the bush steps the Indian. There he stands, skin a deep brown, thickest in build, heavy stolid features under stiff black hair. He rarely smiles. When he does the effect is like the glint of sun on a rock. His laughter is curious. Its sound is more akin to a croak set to music than anything I know of. This is the only true son of the soil in Guiana. You cannot read the history of that land without knowing the Indian. He is first cousin probably to the aboriginals of Canada, the Micmacs, Iroquois, and the rest. There is, however, a Caribbean strain in this little brown man of the forest. He is Macuri, or Arawak. There was a day when he was spread thickly over the American forests. Today his numbers are dwindling. He falls an easy prey to pneumonia. The recent influenza epidemic carried him away in scores. Sarsaparilla, to sickening susceptibility to sickness is due to Christianity. According to these the Gospel is summed up in the word, "clothes." The faith of the preacher has taught modesty. So far as my observation goes, it makes very little difference whether he wears a frock coat and grey pants, or parades the streets clad only in a string of beads, a mosquito net and a smile, he still succumbs. And my own conclusions are borne out by those of the Rev. Father Carey-Elwes, a priest of beautiful missionary spirit who is giving his life to these wanderers in the wilderness. The fact is, the Indian is a dying race. Soon his slow smile and docile, simple ways will be seen no more. In his native state he is a mighty buster, a patient subtle fighter, a weaver of baskets and hammocks out of the beautiful "Eta" grass, the product of the "eta" palm, whose fan-like leaves stand boldly out of the swamp. His native religion is one of fear. The forest is not a thing of beauty, but an abode of demons. Every leaf is the habitat or the instrument of a devil. Darkness is filled with terror. The night is a time of trembling when even slumber is dreadful with spectres of the bush—illusions.

The government safeguards his interests. He has his concessions where he may live in comfort, while the churches have planted places of refreshing in the desert. The Indian, however, is a wanderer. At heart a gipsy, he is never at rest except when he is on the trail. "Here today and gone tomorrow" might be his motto. In a short time it will be his epitaph.

MORSE INDICTED
BY FEDERAL JURY
NEW YORK, April 29—Charles W. Morse, New York financier, his three sons, and 17 other defendants today were indicted by the Federal Grand Jury on a charge of using the mails to defraud in the sale of stock in steamship companies.

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