

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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TUESDAY, MAY 16, 1922

INSPECTION NEEDED

Whether the electric wiring had anything to do with the fire in the store of Messrs Patons Limited on Sunday morning may or may not have been definitely established. In any case it is generally conceded that many buildings in the city are so wired that a fire may occur at any moment. This may or may not be so; the point is that no one knows whether it is or not and everybody should know. There should be a regular and thoroughly efficient inspection of the wiring in every house in the city for out of any house may come a fire that will sweep the city. An experienced, competent electrical engineer, discussing this matter, declared there were houses in Charlottetown so wired that he would not consider it safe to sleep in them over night.

This is a serious state of affairs and steps should be taken at once to provide a remedy. If the city does not take immediate action no doubt the insurance companies will; they are not in business exclusively for their health and they are not likely to take any more risk than is absolutely necessary to do a safe business. They cannot order compulsory inspection but they can charge their patrons for the additional risk incurred from faulty wiring.

This is a wooden city and no unnecessary risks should be taken. We have the best fire brigade in Canada and a record of many years to prove it but even they may at any time be up against a conflagration that they cannot control. Fires of "unknown origin" are not uncommon and the "unknown" may be a crossed wire in somebody's attic. Anyway the uncertainty should be removed at once by such inspection as will give reasonable assurance that the electric fires flowing continuously through our homes is under reasonable control. The expense of such inspection would not necessarily be heavy while the cost of neglecting to provide it might mean millions.

SAVE THE CHILDREN

That none of the children playing on the streets have been killed or crippled so far this season is no doubt due to that over-riding providence which watches over the irresponsible but much of the credit is also due to the patience and watchfulness of the drivers of automobiles and carriages. While scores of children from the creeping stage to the ball-playing stage are allowed to play in the streets accidents and fatalities may be expected. The police occasionally shoo the youngsters off the streets but no sooner does the officers' back disappear around the corner than play is resumed and autos and carriages must dodge them as best they can. So far they have succeeded but the fear of a tragedy is always impending.

It is useless driving the children off the streets, useless for the police to try to keep them from over running lawns and gardens, throwing stones and breaking windows, destroying newly planted trees as has been done on some of the squares recently and doing other mischief; the only remedy is to hold the parents responsible. If parents have no more regard for their children than to let them play with death on the streets they should be compelled

to care; if they have no regard for the value of property than to let their children destroy it, they should be taught the value of it by making them pay for the damage done. To catch a child in the act and have him reprimanded by the Police Magistrate is not only folly but an encouragement to the children to persist in their mischief-making. If, for damaged trees, trampled shrubbery and similar acts the parents were held responsible and compelled to pay in cold cash property value would assume a different complexion. There has been too much negotiation with children; a little responsibility thrown upon parents would be much more effective.

For the sake of our future citizenship as well as for the present comfort of the city a very much sharper surveillance of the children should be instituted. A very few years hence the children now roaming the streets day and night will be our voters and our lawmakers. How are they going to fill the role? What shall be the quality of their citizenship?

In cities not any larger than Charlottetown one or two policemen, provided with motor cycles patrol the streets regularly and systematically keeping track not only of law breakers but especially of children and, where necessary, keeping them out of mischief or bring their parents to book if mischief is done. One such officer in Charlottetown would suffice and whatever the cost might be it would be found a profitable investment for the city.

"AS YOU LIKE IT"

The explanation given by yesterday's Patriot of Mr. Hughes' changed attitude on the question of increased "useless officials" and increased salaries, namely, that "this is a progressive government and the heads of departments are busy men," is about as lucid as Mr. Hughes' own explanation. As the late lamented Abraham Lincoln once remarked "to any one who likes that kind of thing, that is the kind of thing he likes."

"LOOK AT US NOW!"

A deputation from New Brunswick recently waited on the federal government asking for assistance in saving their last year's potato crop and pointing out that many thousands of bushels would have to be dumped if such assistance was not forthcoming. The assistance asked for was a reduction in railway freight rates and an embargo on American early potatoes until the local crop was disposed of. They pointed out that the slump in the home market was due to the prohibitive duties imposed by the Americans which closed the American market against Canadians. The federal government gave the stereotyped promise that the matter would receive serious consideration and that anything that could possibly be done would be done in so worthy a cause. Meanwhile the potatoes are rotting and pointing towards the dump. It will be remembered that when potatoes were selling here and in New Brunswick at about 75 cents to a dollar, Liberal candidates and Liberal stamp orators and Liberal newspapers were shedding tears with the farmers, bemoaning their hard luck under wicked Tory rule and promising that when they, the Liberals, came into power they would get something worth while for their potatoes and here we are again.

GOOD SUGAR SEASON.—The past maple sugar season in Quebec is reported to be the best experienced in the last quarter of a century. Those who sapped in the first week

Notes By The Way

(From the Examiner)

Liberals as well as Conservatives everywhere about the province are wondering and asking what has become of all the money raised by taxation and borrowed by the Bell Government? This question has been asked by editors and correspondents in the newspapers and by elected representatives of the people from their places in the House and no satisfactory answer has so far been given.

Nearly half a million dollars more than any previous government had to spend was expended by the Bell Government last year and they cut out important public services like the mussel mud supply for farmers and the Dalton Sanatorium for consumptives, before enjoyed by our people. And still they had an actual deficit, although they deny it and claim a paucity surplus of \$2,000. That is a small matter one way or the other. Give them all they claim and still the question remains as pertinent and alarming as ever—What has become of all the money?

What has become of the money usually voted and always needed for roads and bridges? Mr. Metherell, a faithful supporter of the Government, complained in the House that the road grant had been cut down by \$2,000. With so much mileage under the highway scheme there should be more money spent on ordinary roads and bridges, he said. They had voted for the highway scheme, believing this would be done. Now instead of more money there was less money for other roads. He named a draw-bridge in his district which he declared to be "in a scandalous condition, as it had been for years," apparently ever since the Bell Government came to power.

And what said Mr. Saunders, another ardent supporter of the Government, who followed Mr. Metherell's lead? "I agree with that," he said. "We are economizing in the wrong direction. We need some improvement on our cross roads, and this estimate should be increased by at least \$5,000." There is the whole case in a nutshell—comparatively few miles improved under the Lobster Highway Act and thousands of miles of other roads, equally important to the residents along this coast, so neglected for years as Mr. Metherell describes, while the grant for these roads is cut down. If there is no money to repair these roads and bridges, even when their condition has become scandalous, where has all the tax

Daily Selections for Guardian Reader

From the W. S. Louson collection

THE BETTER THING

It is better to lose with a science than to win by a trick unfair; It is better to fail and to know you've been, Than to claim the prize was square, And to claim the joys of a far-off goal. And the cheers of the standers by And to know down deep in your inmost soul A cheat you must live and die.

Who wins by trick may take the prize, And at first he may think it sweet, But many a day in the future lies When he'll wish he had met defeat. For the man who lost shall be glad at heart And walk with his head up high, While the man who never must play the part Of a cheat and a living lie.

The prize seems fair when the fight is on, But save it is truly won You will hate the thing when the crowds are gone, For it stands for a false deed done And is better you never should reach your goal. Than ever, success to buy At the price of slowing down in your soul. That your glory is all a lie.

—Edgar A. Guest in Detroit Free Press.

DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS FOR ALL KIDNEY DISEASES. RHEUMATISM, BRUISES, BACKACHE, DIABETES, GRAVEL. 4087 THE PROPRIETOR.

money and the borrowed money gone?

"No new roads are being opened," said Mr. Metherell. Mr. Stewart, Leader of the Opposition, cited a piece of road near Georgetown, upon which a lot of money was spent in simply injuring it. All that was done was simply to throw up the dust." Mr. Dewar told of meeting a motorist on the old Forty Eight road last September who preferred this unimproved road to another road three miles south of it and more convenient for him, which had been improved under the Highway scheme at a cost of \$1,800 per mile! Whether the bulk of the highway money "goes into the pockets of the contractors," as Mr. Dewar intimated in the House, or not, we have no means of knowing. The weight of testimony clearly is that the people do not get value for the money spent.

Let us suppose a section of country road five miles long is "improved" under the highway scheme at the cost of \$2,000 per mile, \$10,000 in all. At once there is begun an interest charge of \$600 a year for all time against that piece of road. And besides that the road must be repaired and kept in order from year to year the same as before and at little less cost of money and labor. The Premier did once intimate that means would be provided for the upkeep of the improved sections, but nothing further appears to have been said or done about it. So to the great question, "What has become of the money spent?" is added the further question of How much more must the people pay than they are now paying for this Lobster Highway Scheme?

When this province was in the making, when the farms were being cleared and under merely nominal taxation our people were increasing rapidly in numbers and were industrious and thrifty such a scheme of borrowing and spending as the Highway Act involves would have been rejected as sheer madness. Now it is imposed upon the people by the Bell Government without asking their consent—actually imposed upon a people whose numbers have been diminished by 25 per cent., and at a date when this remnant are under the pinch of hard times! It is for the people to say whether this is or is not a reckless gamble by political gamblers with the people's money and with the people's future, as we believe it to be.

We give our readers fair warning that the Bell Government faces an alarming deficit during the current year which can only be met by further borrowing, or by heavy further borrowing, or by both together. Let any one who doubts this statement ask Premier Bell, or Commissioners Lea or Crosby, and note the answer. Evasive it may be, but we do not think they will have the hardihood to make a frank denial. Of course, The Patriot will say the finances are quite satisfactory. That will not satisfy the people, the banks or other creditors of the Government. We await any answer from a reliable source that may be given to this note of warning.

Was Merchants Bank Of Canada Run On Rocks?

MONTREAL, May 12.—The day was wholly taken up in lawyers' arguments in enquete court here to day in the case of D. C. Macarow, general manager of the Merchants' Bank, charged with having wilfully signed a false return for the month of October as general manager of the bank. At the conclusion of the day, George H. Montgomery, K. C., who with N. K. Laffamme, K. C., made the argument for the defence had concluded his case and adjournment was made to tomorrow afternoon to enable him to do so also to allow of further remarks which Charles A. Wilson, K. C., counsel for the prosecution, and his associate, J. J. Creelman, K. C., may have to offer. The case of Sir H. Montagu Allan, president of the Merchants' Bank, was adjourned until tomorrow with the understanding that it would then stand over until His Lordship Judge Cusson had given judgment in the Macarow case. Judge Cusson intimated that this decision would not be given until at least ten days after the completion of the argument. Mr. Wilson in his argument insisted on the letter of the law as contained in various clauses in the bank act, maintaining that the legal interpretation meant that there should be a committal. In the review of the case by counsel for the defence the outstanding point made was the claim by N. K. Laffamme that because the opinion of one expert, H. B. McKenzie, to the effect that the rec-

RAND UPEHAVAL

INTERESTING SIDELIGHTS. WHITE MINERS AND KAFFIRS VISITING S.A. RESIDENTS' VIEWS.

From the Sydney, Australia Sun, Mr. Kennedy referred to is a son of Mr. W. J. Kennedy, Tea Hill, and will be remembered by a wide circle of friends having visited here a few years ago. Mr. Kennedy is expected here again about July 1st on an extended visit.

Direct from the Rand, where he spent the past 13 years representing American manufacturers, Mr. W. J. Kennedy, an American, arrived in Sydney today by the Earl of Bathurst, and gave some interesting sidelights on the strike.

"Trouble has been brewing for a long time," he said. "During the war gold was such an important factor that the workers engaged in that industry were given all their demands. But now that the price of gold is down to 97s, if the mines are to remain open—their production must be reduced."

"Mining magnates sought to decrease the proportion of white men working in the mines." Until recently the proportion was eight niggers to one white, and the magnates sought to make it ten; for whereas he nigger is paid 2s to 2s 6d a day, the wages of a white man vary from £40 to £100 a month. Much of the work at the time done by whites, in my opinion, can be accomplished by the niggers just as well.

Effect of Upehaval

"On the other hand, the Chamber of Mines, which controls the mining industry, declared that if the mines were not worked on a cheaper basis 40 per cent. of them would have to close. That would mean the unemployment of 8,000 white and 70,000 blacks, and a loss to the country of £12,000,000 a year."

"It must be admitted, however, that the cost of living has not been reduced since the war in keeping with the standard of wages sought by the owners." But the worker has been badly advised and as a result of this upheaval he will be worse off now than he's ever been. "The Chamber of Mines will achieve its object—most of the strikers will be prisoners and the mines will be worked by niggers and the willing white workers. There is no doubt that the proportion of white men in the mines will shrink."

"The upheaval will also be the death knell of another custom. Up to the present in the Transvaal and the Free State negroes are not supposed to do skilled work. This practice will now disappear."

Set-Back of a Year

Mr. Kennedy said that the set-back the country would receive will amount to a year. Since January 6, to date, £7,500,000 would have been lost. Of that total the country would have lost £6,000,000—the other £1,500,000 would have gone abroad in dividends, etc.

"Johannesburg was where we were resident. We left Africa on February 14, and even then the shopkeepers in Johannesburg were wondering what they could do to make ends meet. Rents there were high—ranging from £25 to £300 a week—and they were not taking enough to keep them supplied with petty cash."

Mr. Kennedy said that personally he did not think the foreign element was as much in it as reports to Australia made out. "Amongst the things distinctive of South Africa," he said, "is its ability to recover quickly after depression following on industrial trouble."

"It is undoubted now the trouble is ending that there is a period of business prosperity ahead."

fun had been depleted by \$8,000,000 had been accepted, the Merchants' Bank had been wrecked, whereas the opinion of the expert engaged by the minister of finance, George Edwards, was that there should have been written off an amount of only \$1,300,000.

Several of the patrons hastened

A Real Treat and an inexpensive one at that— CHASE & SANBORN'S SEAL BRAND COFFEE. Obtainable anywhere in Canada. Sold only in 1/2 lb. and 2 lb. airtight tins. Whole, ground or fine ground for Tricolorator or percolator use. CHASE & SANBORN, Montreal.

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MORE HEAT FROM LESS FUEL. Image of a Banner Pipeless Furnace.

"Help Me, I Am Dying!" QUEBEC, May 16.—"Help me, help me I am dying," gasped Eugene Chartrain, as he rushed from the sidewalk into an ice-cream parlor at the corner of Grant and St. Joseph streets about 10 o'clock tonight. Several of the patrons hastened

MALDONALD'S BRIER The Tobacco with a heart. PACKAGES 15¢. 1/2 lb TIN 85¢.

Household Necessity

Make Gillett's Lye your household assistant. Use it for making soap for washing dishes for cleaning sinks for washing greasy pots and pans. It cleans and disinfects.



Soviet Loan Proposal

LONDON, May 15.—The British Government is not prepared to make a loan to the Soviet Government. This announcement was made in the House of Commons this afternoon by Sir Robert Horne in reply to a question. His answer was received with loud cheers. A memorandum, Sir Robert stated, has been sent to the Soviet delegates setting forth the proposal the British government was prepared to make.

Sir John Butcher tried to get Horne to go further, by asking him for an assurance that there would not only be no direct loan in the form of grant of credit. Sir Butcher avoided an explicit reply by saying, "I am afraid that is a question which would require definition."



The Clifton Niagara Falls CANADA

Opens on Tuesday, May 23

Fronting on Queen Victoria Park and directly facing Niagara Falls, The Clifton has one of the most picturesque locations of any hotel in the world. As a place to rest or a place to play it is unexcelled anywhere. Summer days here are really delightful, for the air is spray-cooled, and you will sleep the night through. And Clifton service pleases people who demand the highest standard of hotel accommodation. A holiday at The Clifton offers you Golf, Tennis and Bathing; Motor Trips through a frontier which abounds in points of historic interest, and which for scenic beauty is world famed, and delightful Dinner Dances every Wednesday and Saturday.

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