

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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CONFUSION

Out of the confusion at present prevailing in political circles order will no doubt come eventually. The advent of the Progressive party into the ring has, temporarily at least, upset the balance and the result is the present unsettled situation. The King government has survived the first division and this gives it a lease of life for the remainder of the present session. The government, however, recognizes that its tenure is a precarious one and may terminate abruptly at any time. This is not a satisfactory condition of affairs. A government whose existence depends upon its ability to compromise with either or both of two opposing parties cannot undertake any important legislation, can have no strength to grapple with such problems as are certain to arise and, altogether the situation is a most undesirable one.

The Progressive party at present holds the balance of power. By throwing in its weight with either of the other two parties it can make or unmake the government. The other two parties realize this and each uses its powers of persuasion, with or without emolument, to secure its assistance and this assistance may be for the benefit or the detriment of the country. Were the Progressive party united and sufficiently strong to undertake the government, the situation, under efficient leadership, would resolve itself into the original two party system and this is probably what will sooner or later eventuate.

The Progressives, it is well known, are very largely an offshoot from the Liberal party. Dissatisfied with conditions in their own party they chose to secede and form a new party rather than align themselves with the Conservatives and, to account for their position, they denounced both parties, declaring that the country's only hope was to begin anew to assemble the best elements in both parties and form a new party. The theory looked sound; it satisfied the disgruntled Liberals and a few Conservatives and the third party in the House of Commons today is the result.

This party has had its first test and it failed. It came into parliament with a fixed, definite policy. That policy was utterly ignored in parliament, they received nothing; they put up no kick, they "became as other men" when they secured their election.

The Farmers' Sun, the organ of the Progressives, before the vote on the Budget was taken, said editorially, "The Progressives to a man should register their disagreement with the Fielding Budget and its guiding principle and, if in so doing, they force the present administration out of office the country will not hold the Progressives but the Liberals responsible for the situation that arises."

This, the Progressives in the House did not do. They put up no protest; they believed politically as they had believed before they became Progressives: a sufficient number of them voted with the government to keep the government in power.

The fiscal policy is the only bone of contention between the political parties in Canada. On every other policy all are practically in accord. For forty-two years the Liberal party preached against the protective policy and when in power within these forty-two years they practised protection. During the present session they threw off their mask of antagonism to

protection and are now openly protectionists. The Progressives have also, regardless of previous creeds, winked at the principles of protection embodied in the Fielding tariff.

There are, possibly those in all three parties who are honestly opposed to protection, who like Dr. Michael Clark, believe in "free trade as it is in England" (as it is not in England today). Possibly this group, offshoots from all three parties, may get together and form a free trade party to take the place of the free trade Liberal party which is now an extinct political party. In the meantime, with Conservatives, Liberals and Progressives practising protection and the latter two preaching against it while practising it, it would appear that the only question at issue is the honesty and integrity of the respective parties and on this there should be little difficulty in selecting a party to which the government could safely be entrusted.

TIME TO FIND OUT

It is currently reported and generally believed, indignantly at that, that the Bell government intends to stage off the by-elections until after the session. This, many have long believed would be the aggregation's way of saving its skin. The loss of the five by-elections would be a death blow and a severer slap in the face than a defeat in a general election. The latter could be accounted for somehow but the loss of five seats while the government is in power would be a vote of censure which even the Bell government could not stand up against.

With the by-elections staged off, the government is meanwhile spending extravagantly on the roads; everything else has been dropped. Nothing matters except pouring out money on the roads, not only on government projects under the Highways Act but in jobs elsewhere. No doubt the hundreds who are given jobs on the highway are expected to become sufficiently grateful to the government to support its candidates at the general election.

Whether these rumors be true or not they are sufficiently like what the Bell government would undertake, to make them worth looking into and taking precautions against. If the issue of writs is too long delayed the Lieutenant Governor should be appealed to and the elections ordered and not only by-elections but a general election.

SHORT-LIVED PERMANENCE

The heavy rains of the past few days have pretty effectually washed away any remaining evidences of permanence out of the new "permanent highways." The weather, it will be freely admitted, was particularly trying to newly made roads and few of the roads have stood the test; in some places they have, that is, where there was proper drainage which is by no means general. This is not mentioned for political purposes but rather to suggest again, as we have already suggested over and over again, that steps be immediately taken to save the roads damaged by the rains. It is not too late; the mud is still there; the loose earth thrown up into the middle of the road and which became partly firm and hard, still lies generally where it was originally placed and if prevented from flowing into the gutters may yet be made passable and even respectable. The rainy weather is not likely to last much longer and if the present plastic mud is kept in its place and smoothed off by drags or rollers

order to hold what we have.

Notes By The Way

Since the Dominion was formed the one question that has divided the two great political parties and which has been a perpetual bone of contention between them has been the question of customs, tariff and trade policies. From the early days after the union the declared policy of the Conservative party has been moderate protection for Canadian industries and from this it has never departed. It was professed when they were in opposition. It was immediately given effect at the first session after the party returned to power in 1878.

No attempt was made to deceive the people then and no one was deceived. The Conservative promise was kept to the letter and spirit of the promises made. How is it now? What is the record of the King government; in that regard they promised the people free food, free agricultural implements, but a few months ago they have in the Fielding tariff squarely refused to keep either one of these solemn promises. Instead of the near free trade policy which they promised they have given the country a protective policy. Instead of decreasing the high cost of living they have increased it. They grossly deceived the people.

The Fielding budget, which must hereafter stand as the high watermark of Liberal perfidy has been adopted by a majority of 18 in the House of Commons. But the solid vote of the Conservative party condemned it. By an overwhelming majority the Progressive party also condemned it, including the solid Progressive vote from the Prairie provinces, while the small Labor vote was also recorded against the Fielding budget. Thus a badly scared government which for weeks had been rebuked, and reproached from all parts of the House, at last escaped defeat by a majority of 18 not because of its merit and only because members of all parties were opposed to forcing another election upon the country at the present time.

The Fielding budget thus condemned by Conservatives, Progressives and Labor alike was not squarely and honestly defended by either the leaders or the supporters of the Liberal party. They framed excuses for it, they pleaded the necessity for revenues, they regretted that it seemed inadequate. Take Premier King's contention that his party were not bound by the Liberal platform of 1919, because it was "only a chart," a scrap of paper in fact. Or, take Mr. Fielding's pitiful plea that he was not bound by it because he had never

approved of the free food or free implements plank! We submit to any fair minded reader whether these excuses bear the impress of truth, or of honesty or of honor.

Or take the excuses of Hon. Mr. Motherwell—he is Minister of Agriculture in the King government—who in the budget debate declared, "If I made a will last year and another this year, which will hold?" and again when he said: "We are entitled to use any legitimate means to save our faces." Trying to save their faces when confronted with the gross deception they had practiced upon the people—that was the sum and substance of the entire Liberal defence of the Fielding budget and the great betrayal of honor and trust which it embodied! Sir Henry Drayton's amendment, which was voted down, censured the government for "flagrant violation of pledges amounting to disregard of political honor and tending to lower the standard of public life," was literally true.

Hon. Charles Murphy, now Postmaster General, in a speech to his constituents before the last election, had this to say in regard to political deception and dishonesty: "Repeated breaches of public professions, no, only dishonor those who are guilty of them, but what is far worse, they destroy those standards of public morality which the people have been accustomed to associate with men in public life. And when before were there so many and such flagrant breaches of public professions as are embodied in the Fielding budget? By the passage we have quoted they are condemned out of their own mouths almost as strongly as in the Drayton amendment."

Now take a statement from Mr. Fielding's latest speech, on June 13th, just before the vote was taken in reply to Mr. Meighen. We quote: "He (Mr. Meighen) stresses the policy laid down in the Liberal platform in 1919 and inquires: 'Is that statement true?' There are some statements in it that are true. Again he asks: 'Is this budget to day complying with the Liberal platform of 1919?' 'No; nobody ever expected it to do so!' Here we have it in a nutshell in Mr. Fielding's own words. The Liberal platform contained some statements that were true. Like the bad boiled egg, parts of it were good in his estimation! But nobody ever expected it would be carried out! What is this but a confession on Mr. Fielding's part of "such a breach of public professions as dishonor those who are guilty of them?" just as his colleague the Postmaster General had said.

Others' View Points

The Only Way

(Toronto Globe) The financial position of Poland is said to be much improved, and it has made agreements with Russia, Germany, the Little Entente and the Baltic Republics. Thus its foreign trade will tend to increase while its military expenditure can be reduced. Only in this way can Europe recover its commerce and industry.

Getting Together

(Manitoba Free Press) For the first time in their history, the Boards of Trade of St. John, N. B., and Halifax N.S. had a conference at Halifax last week to discuss problems common to the two cities. Halifax and St. John are Canada's Atlantic coast ports, and it is surprising to hear that there has been so little cooperation between them in the past. At maritime cities, situated a few hundred miles from each other they must have many matters of mutual interest. In the past, however, there has been rather than a spirit of get-together, an element of animosity between the two ports, no doubt to the hurt of both. Cooperation is better than fighting and the example of Halifax and St. John should be good medicine for other neighboring cities who there is a spirit of foolish rivalry. Competition is good, but mere bickering is a nuisance and a hindrance to growth.

Where The Bicycle Flourishes

(New York Globe) In England the bicycle still flourishes. "The open road," says an enthusiastic advertiser in The London Nation, "makes an irresistible appeal to the cyclist, because he realizes that leisurely touring—easy and universal—places within

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his reach an ever-widening vista where good views and good country abound." Accompanying the text is a drawing, quite after the style of the American 'nineties, of a contented sportsman gliding without effort through a landscape consisting of a mountain, a tree—an old English oak, no doubt—and a village with perhaps a Norman tower in the background. England is compact, so that the traveller goes a long way in a short journey; the United States is on the grand scale and he who would make its acquaintance must go fast and far. As the country, so the national temperament. The English pleasure bicycle is a symbol of vast importance.

A Famous Savoyard

(Westminster Gazette) The news of Mr. Rutland Barrington's death will be lamented by countless playgoers of a generation that is not yet very old; but it will, at the same time, bring back to them many happy memories. Rutland Barrington was one of the old Savoyards—the actual creator of many of the parts which have contributed to the enduring popularity of Gilbert and Sullivan opera. He had the instincts of an artist, with out which nobody could do entire justice to a Gilbertian character; he had a fine presence; and, notwithstanding the jibe which accused him of "always singing a sixteenth of a tone flat," he had a fine voice, which he used to excellent advantage. If Savoy opera raised him above the drudgery of the touring company and established his reputation, he, in his turn contributed much as did George Grossmith, and Jessie Bond, and others of his colleagues whom his death recalls to mind to the extraordinary success of Gilbert and Sullivan.

You Need Not Be Extravagant

Another season has come. It seems but yesterday since we were all preparing for last Spring, but low and behold, here is another Spring at hand, and our Furnishing Department is overflowing with bargains in shirts, underwear, ties, collars, gloves,—everything men want, to make them comfortable.

With Spring, comes an obligation service to yourself. It is a time when the purse strings must be loosed and the small change put in circulation. We do not expect any extravagance in buying. You do not need to be extravagant if you buy your furnishings from us. What we do expect, and what every person should do, is to buy what you need. In other words, let it be your motto to buy from us what you need, but buy carefully.

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The Continental Bank will be the second of its kind to be established in the mutual savings bank laws of this state, passed by the legislature some years ago and patterned after similar laws of New York and Pennsylvania.

The officers of the new bank are: Daniel G. Vucetich, president; T. J. Donohoe, vice-president; H. Brett, vice-president; Wm. A. Sullivan, secretary; and F. W. Gardner, assistant secretary. The directors are R. C. Frankie, Dr. Daniel Buckley, Peter B. Scholtes, James P. Gleason, B. F. Kehrer, Paul Carrigan, T. J. Ivora, B. J. O'Reilly, Thomas McCloskey, D. M. Lancaster and Patrick L. Murphy.

Mr. McCloskey referred to is a son of the late Mr. Patrick McCloskey of this city.



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