

CHARLOTTETOWN is in some respects a remarkable city. It is not remarkable, however, for many of those objects of interest which might be regarded as monuments of enterprise and public spirit on the part of her citizens, either living or dead. On the contrary, her streets and squares, in fact the general appearance of the town present on every hand unmistakable evidence of the penuriousness and incapacity of the majority of those entrusted with the management of her public affairs. We might go further than this and add that the spirit of private enterprise appears to have been dead for many years.

The situation of Charlottetown may be said to be all that could be desired. Built as the city is at the confluence of the three noblest of the many beautiful sheets of water which the Island traverses, overlooking a safe and commodious harbor, one of the very best in the world, nature did much towards giving us a suitable site on which a beautiful city might be reared. But we can point to very few evidences of the beautifying hand of art. It is true that those to whom the important work of laying out the city performed the duty assigned to them in a creditable manner. They gave us streets both straight and wide, and a number of public squares, thus affording ample scope for ventilation and healthful recreation. With these great advantages in the favor of the citizens to begin with, it must be generally conceded that our city does not now present a very artistic appearance to the eye of the traveler. We have among us a number of living fossils whose ideas, if they have any, are so far behind this age of enlightened progress that their earthly pilgrimage should have ended centuries since. And so long as our citizens persist in placing the control of public affairs in the hands of men of this unprogressive stamp, so long shall we be deprived of those conveniences which are a necessity of every well-regulated civic community, to say nothing of those improvements which add to the appearance of the town. When contrasted with other places of much lesser importance our city occupies a rather unenviable position. No system of water-works, no telephone communication, except between a few railway officials, and between the office and residence of one private citizen. No public hall, except a miserable apology for one used twice a week for market purposes. Streets poorly lighted, very few shady walks, squares that are an eyesore to every citizen who has any conception of the appearance they should present, our streets in a wretched state, and our sidewalks a disgrace—this of itself, without referring to many other public wants, of which mention might be made, is a record in which any city possessed of the same advantages as Charlottetown should be ashamed to point.

Owing to the generosity of a paternal Government the citizens have a public park, but in the mansion of the hand of civic enterprise is again painfully visible. With the judicious expenditure of a comparatively small outlay, this park might be transformed into a place in which the weary citizens would resort with pleasure for recreation and amusement during the summer months. A beginning was made in this direction some years ago, but the annual park grant has since dwindled down to the starvation allowance of \$200 for the keeper.

From an architectural point of view our city also presents an appearance far from imposing. Many of the original structures are still permitted to disgrace our streets, and the most prominent of our public buildings is a specimen of the powers that be appearing to be in no manner rebuilt it. An improvement in our style of architecture can only gradually take place, a change in this direction being necessarily slow. With certain limits in most other cities, the character of the buildings to be erected is in the hands of the corporation, but here a person is free to put up an unsightly tinsel box anywhere in the city, no man or body of men having the power to say him nay.

Judging from the beggarly pittance appropriated by the City Council for streets and squares this year, we cannot expect much in the way of permanent improvement this season, as the result of such a small outlay. Some years ago, when our civic expenditure was controlled by men whose ideas were somewhat more in keeping with the onward march of modern progress than those of the ruling party in the Council to-day, we could point with some degree of pride to our public squares. But, alas! we have been for years on the backward march, and those places which the citizens could formerly regard with feelings of pleasure are now the resort only of hungry bovines. Now, however, we are pleased to see indications that at least some of our citizens are about to arouse from a lethargy by which they have been held captive for years. A movement, having for its object the planting of our squares and principal streets with ornamental trees, is now being inaugurated. We trust that the spark of public spirit has not departed from our midst, that it has only been lying dormant, and that the movement

to which we refer will receive an impetus which such a powerful aid alone can give to carry it forward to a successful issue. There is no doubt that the appearance of our town can be greatly changed for the better by the judicious planting of suitable trees, and we hope that all who feel an interest in the city's welfare will contribute, in some way, towards the ornamentation, in this manner, of our streets and squares. Tens of thousands of people leave the heated centres of continental trade during the summer season to seek health and recreation in the cooler and more invigorating atmosphere of the mountain and seaside resorts, and if the artificial advantages of Charlottetown were only equal to the natural thousands would annually find their way either to our beautiful coast or to the interior of the island, and in a few minutes we would be a city of some 100,000 inhabitants. But the fact is that the present Government, however you may name them, Conservatives or Liberals, the principles of Gritism, as enunciated by the *Patriot*, find no sympathy among the people of Prince Edward Island. They have been tried and found wanting. Grit rule in the Dominion killed the industries, starved the people, and depreciated the credit. Grit rule in Prince Edward Island extorted taxes, encouraged extravagance, wasted the people's money and threw away their rights. Experience is the best teacher, and the people profited to good advantage by the lesson they received.

We should be glad, however, that the policy of our Local Government afforded comfort to the *Patriot* when considering that which he appeared to be suffering last week, but next week if the symptoms are not improved, we shall endeavor to satisfy his anxiety, and at the same time administer a dose which shall have the effect of eradicating the unpleasant element from his political system.

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Government have been running into debt? Is it possible that a Liberal Conservative Government could have existed anywhere, particularly in this Island, where the material of the party is so inferior, for three whole years without making debts and drains of the finances? And the Tories seem to like it—four people what a lot of them there must be on the island and what a hot bed of Toryism the Belfast District must be! How different the Toryism of to-day must be from that of twenty years ago when the editor of the *Patriot* was one of the chief exponents of its principles. There is one thing certain, however, that all the present Government, whether you may name them, Conservatives or Liberals, the principles of Gritism, as enunciated by the *Patriot*, find no sympathy among the people of Prince Edward Island. They have been tried and found wanting. Grit rule in the Dominion killed the industries, starved the people, and depreciated the credit. Grit rule in Prince Edward Island extorted taxes, encouraged extravagance, wasted the people's money and threw away their rights. Experience is the best teacher, and the people profited to good advantage by the lesson they received.

We are perfectly aware that we have not informed the editor of the *Patriot* what provision the Local Government have made to meet their liabilities, but we have told him something of the way in which his political friends departed themselves while in office. We fancy that the history we have related will be sufficient to allay the "alarm" from which he appeared to be suffering last week, but next week if the symptoms are not improved, we shall endeavor to satisfy his anxiety, and at the same time administer a dose which shall have the effect of eradicating the unpleasant element from his political system.

MISSIONARIES TO THE NORTHWEST. MANITOBA has been built up, and is being built up, by Liberal Conservative statesmanship. Its people are for the most part Liberal Conservatives in politics. As a matter of course, our statements have been opposing ourselves to it, misrepresenting its climate, belittling its vast resources, and in every way endeavoring to rob it of its good name, keep immigrants and capitalists out of it, and in every way to lessen its prosperity, and retard its progress. Upon the first rumor of disaffection in the prairie Province in reference to certain details of the tariff, its people ceased for the moment to figure in our newspapers or speeches, as the spirit, pampered children of a wicked Goliath. They suddenly became oppressed, and worthy martyrs, west, but in the east here, their character and that of their Province did not much improve. Now, Messrs. Blake, Mills and M. C. Cameron are shortly to go as missionaries to the Northwest. They are to address a series of public meetings, and bring about the disaffection, but still maintain the action. Will they tell how long and bravely the Northwest has been disparaged by Grit pens and tongues, how the shameful scenes enacted last year at Portage-la-Prairie were caused by Mr. Mowat, and how gigantic is the loan—the "swindle" by which the C. P. R. Syndicate has been enabled to complete the national highway long before the time specified in the contract? What ever rule those gentlemen of the mission adopt, the result of their labors will be much the same as the influence of Blake and Laurier's campaign speeches in Nova Scotia the year before last, general election—IMPERCEPTIBLE!

A LABORER'S STRIKE commenced in Halifax over a week ago. At first the employers of labor stated they would not accede to the demands made upon them, but within the last few days they have been paying the advanced wages required by the workmen.

Active preparations are being made for the semi-annual celebration of the incorporation of the city of Toronto, to be held for one week, from the 30th of June to the 5th of July. An excellent programme of the celebration has been arranged, which will afford visitors much pleasure.

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