

The Charlottetown Herald.

NEW SERIES.

CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 1899.

Vol. XXVIII, No. 18

Calendar for April, 1899.

MOON'S CHANGES.

Third Quarter, 8d. 7h. 43.2m. a. m.
New Moon, 10th, 2h. 5.2m. a. m.
First Quarter, 17th, 6h. 30.6m. p. m.
Full Moon, 25th, 3h. 9.3m. p. m.

D	Day of Week.	Sun rises	Sun sets	Moon rises	High Water, C.H.'s
1	Saturday	5 40	6 27	11 58	2 30
2	Sunday	5 40	6 27	11 58	2 30
3	Monday	5 39	6 26	11 54	2 27
4	Tuesday	5 38	6 25	11 50	2 24
5	Wednesday	5 37	6 24	11 46	2 21
6	Thursday	5 36	6 23	11 42	2 18
7	Friday	5 35	6 22	11 38	2 15
8	Saturday	5 34	6 21	11 34	2 12
9	Sunday	5 33	6 20	11 30	2 9
10	Monday	5 32	6 19	11 26	2 6
11	Tuesday	5 31	6 18	11 22	2 3
12	Wednesday	5 30	6 17	11 18	2 0
13	Thursday	5 29	6 16	11 14	1 57
14	Friday	5 28	6 15	11 10	1 54
15	Saturday	5 27	6 14	11 6	1 51
16	Sunday	5 26	6 13	11 2	1 48
17	Monday	5 25	6 12	11 0	1 45
18	Tuesday	5 24	6 11	10 56	1 42
19	Wednesday	5 23	6 10	10 52	1 39
20	Thursday	5 22	6 9	10 48	1 36
21	Friday	5 21	6 8	10 44	1 33
22	Saturday	5 20	6 7	10 40	1 30
23	Sunday	5 19	6 6	10 36	1 27
24	Monday	5 18	6 5	10 32	1 24
25	Tuesday	5 17	6 4	10 28	1 21
26	Wednesday	5 16	6 3	10 24	1 18
27	Thursday	5 15	6 2	10 20	1 15
28	Friday	5 14	6 1	10 16	1 12
29	Saturday	5 13	6 0	10 12	1 9
30	Sunday	5 12	5 59	10 8	1 6

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Charlottetown, April 18th, 1899.—2m

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SPEECH

Delivered by A. C. McDonald, M. P., in the House of Commons on the 11th inst., during the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

(From Hansard)

(Continued from last week.)

However, when the Government came to sum up the whole thing, they found that the majority was in favour of prohibition. It will be worth our while to pause a moment to ask ourselves what constitutes a majority. My contention is that the majority is that portion of any body of men which rules; and we find in every public gathering from a country school-house meeting to a meeting on the floor of Parliament, that it is the majority that rules. Whether it be a Government or a small country meeting, the majority carries the day. Why, then, should this case of prohibition be made an exception of by the Government for its own purpose? Although there was a very large majority in my own county in favour of prohibition, what did the Government tell us? They said: "Oh, it is the minority that rules, the majority does not rule at all, and the majority must submit." That is about where the matter stands just now. While referring to the methods that were used to carry the election in the province of Quebec, it is only fair that I should say a word with respect to the position of that province on the temperance question. What is its position? The general impression is that the province of Quebec is not temperate. This, however, is a common fallacy and an error, because we find that the 932 rural municipalities, outside the cities and large towns in the province of Quebec, have a local option law. We find that all these municipalities have the power to prevent the issuing of licenses, and out of the 932, there are 603 in which the sale of liquor is entirely prohibited. I am indebted to my hon. friend from Westmoreland (Mr. Powell) for these figures, and I think they are well worth submitting to the House so as to place the province of Quebec in its proper light before the country on this question. In my opinion, that is one more reason why the Government should have granted prohibition, after the result of the plebiscite, knowing as they did, that the province of Quebec is largely temperate, although not strictly in favour of prohibition. But Sir, the Government said to their friends in that province and elsewhere: "If you assist to carry through prohibition you will destroy the Government. You can see what an immense motive power that was to induce people to vote against prohibition; but nevertheless in the face of such a powerful appeal, there was a large majority in its favour. The people seemed to have forgotten that the right hon. leader of the Government had said that the Government would go into Opposition rather than defeat the will of the majority, as expressed by the plebiscite, and further in my opinion, the Government is today holding office by reason of the promise of its leader that prohibition would be carried out, "even if it cost the Liberal party power forever." Were it not for the temperance vote thus obtained, these hon. gentlemen would not now be sitting on the Treasury benches. Sir, the temperance people in my province are sincere, earnest men, and their opinion may be summed up by the expression of a leading temperance man, when asked: "What do you think the Government will do, now that a majority has voted in favour of prohibition?" Oh, he said, they are honorable men and will give us prohibition. And what will you do if they do not? Oh, he replied, I will change my politics and vote against it. I believe that the expression of that gentleman was sincere and that a very large number—not all because some will swallow their principles and stick to their party—of the earnest and respectable advocates of temperance in the Liberal party will poll their votes against the Government which made such promises and failed to fulfil them. Now, in the face of all the direct promises of the Government, and of the right hon. leader of the Liberal party, in the face of the prohibition plank in the Liberal platform, on the strength of which the Government obtained the temperance vote, in the face of the pledge of the whole Liberal party that even if it cost them power forever they would give us prohibition, we find an apostle of temperance in the person of the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. McClure) having the temerity to assert that prohibition was never promised. What does this all mean? It amounts to just about this, that we are told by the right hon. leader of the Government: "Oh, I did not mean what I said; I was only playing with you;

I was poking fun at you; the vote was an implied agreement. With whom? It was not with the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Finlay) as far as we know. It was not with the Minister of Agriculture, so far as we know. It would seem that it must have been with a ghost; but if so, that ghost will arise in the person of the independent and unswayed electorate of this country in the next election and call the Government to account. Where is the hon. Minister of Agriculture now?

An hon. MEMBER. In old storage.

Mr. MACDONALD (King's P. E. I.). One gentleman suggests that he has been put in gold storage to keep until this blows over. I hardly think that. Where are the temperance supporters of the Government? We used to find them very pugnacious when a question of this kind came up in the House. We do not hear a word from their lips now, except when they make excuses for the failure of the Government to carry out their pledges with respect to prohibition. Surely they do not expect an outraged electorate to overlook such political depravity as this. At the risk of wearying the House, I must read an extract from the newspaper organ of my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), in which is contained a report of the Dominion Alliance meeting. The following resolutions were carried:—

"Whereas the Alliance has learned with regret that the privilege of a private bonded warehouse has been granted to—

I leave out the name—

—a violator of the Canada Temperance Act;

Therefore resolved that we hereby express our strongest disapprobation of such action on the part of the Government, and urge the Government to immediately rescind its action in this matter; and that we further disapprove of the principle of allowing private bonded warehouses for the exclusive storage of intoxicants in places where the Canada Temperance Act is in force."

Now, I just wish to say with respect to this that within a few days after the plebiscite on prohibition was taken, it was rumored that the first reply of the Government to the vote of the people in my county was that it was so strongly in favour of temperance was to grant a bonded warehouse to this gentleman. I can remember that many years ago it was the practice of almost every business establishment in the country to sell liquor as well as other articles of trade, and during all that time it was never necessary to have a bonded warehouse to enable the people to store liquor. But now that we have the Canada Temperance Act in force, now that we are shown by the plebiscite that the people were 37 per cent against the sale of liquor to 44 per cent for it, the first act of the Government was to grant a bonded warehouse. This was adding insult to injury, to say the least of it.

"That the Prince Edward Island Branch of the Dominion Temperance Alliance view with profound regret the attitude of the Federal Government upon the question of prohibition, taking, as they now do, a stand diametrically opposed to the will of the people expressed in the plebiscite of September last.

I would just say here that I think that it is the plain duty of the Government to follow up the vote that was polled in favour of prohibition with a prohibitory law. Now, I quote further from the "Guardian" of 13th April, respecting this bonded warehouse:—

"It is impossible that aroused public indignation can be quieted while the nuisance remains unabated. We have proceeded so far on the assumption that the Minister of Customs and the Government of which he is a member were misled by the local adviser in King's County, and were not aware of the nature of what had been done. But that excuse no longer remains valid. The public interest could not possibly be subserved by placing a bonded warehouse in a country village owned by a notorious violator of the law of the land."

We have made it clear that the transaction as it stands is a public scandal which no decent section of public opinion in this Island will defend or apologise for. It stands condemned by the press, by the general public and by the Temperance Alliance."

Well, Sir, this is the reply that the Government has given to the temperance people after the vote on the plebiscite. The Guardian further says: "The friends of temperance and social order are just now in no mood to be trifled with. They are sore over the refusal of prohibition, and will resent in the strongest way special and unusual privileges granted by the central Government to notorious violators of the Temperance Act."

These are the expressions, out of a Conservative journal supporting the Government. I do not blame the gentleman for having a bonded warehouse nearly as much as I blame the Government for granting it. Now, just a word with respect to the conference. It seems to me that the Government have allowed the Americans to tie their hands for another year. By adjourning the conference to the 1st of August they have gained time and prevented the Government from passing legislation in the interest of Canada that they might otherwise have passed. The policy of that Government up to this time, it seems to me, has been largely to pass legislation favorable to the United States. They have given them the advantage of supplying us largely with coal oil, binder twine and corn. Should they take any further steps in this direction it would be very hard to say where they can stop. One reason why this conference has been a failure is that the Government party of this country in the past has been in the habit of proclaiming themselves the friends of the Americans. They have declared that if they were placed in power they would get reciprocity without fail, that we had only to elect them and reciprocity would follow forthwith. But after reaching power by means, as I contend, largely of promises made to the temperance people of this country, they turn around at once and abandon reciprocity.

They say, Sir, that they cannot find out that it is necessary for the prosperity of this country. Well, I am not surprised at the Americans not granting them reciprocity of any kind, after getting them to make the concessions that they did with respect to some other principal articles that they put on the free list of this country; for instance binder twine and other things. After the members of this Government had proclaimed themselves so anxious to obtain access to this market of 60,000,000, saying time and again that it was a necessity to Canada, it would be absurd for the Americans, under these circumstances, to grant them reciprocity, or anything else. Now, on the question of the Alaska boundary, we find that the American commissioners said:—

"We will submit to arbitration; but so far as Dyea and Skagway are concerned, as well as the territories now occupied by the Americans, whatever be the result of the arbitration, whether it be found that these towns are within British territory or not, yet, nevertheless, they should be deemed to be a portion of American territory."

It is any wonder, after the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) admitting on the floor of this House last session:—

"Our contention is that Skagway and Dyea are in the United States territory, and they have been in undisputed possession. * * * There is nothing in the record to show that objection has been made to such occupation."

He further stated:—

"From time immemorial Dyea has been in the possession of the Russians. No protest has been made against their occupation. At this moment we cannot dispute it."

Under these circumstances, is it any wonder that the Americans should lay down such rules as they did with respect to the arbitration they were willing to grant under certain circumstances?

Now we come to the question of redistribution. What do the Government want redistribution for? Are they afraid of the people who elected them? It looks very much like it, Mr. Speaker. I think myself that they have good reasons to be afraid of them; so far as broken pledges go, they have every reason to be afraid of the people. Do they want to rearrange the constituencies that they may be in a position to take the electors by the throat and say: Stand and deliver? It seems to me, that the only object they can have in rearranging the constituencies that have given them power, is to make their positions more secure, because they are afraid that they will not be able to retain the votes that they secured at the last election. My hon. friend from East Prince, P. E. I. (Mr. Bell), in the course of his speech, said "there were thousands who hugged the delusion that Canada is dependent on the United States for prosperity." Who are they? The only ones I know are the Minister of Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. These gentlemen have stated that the moment the Liberals attained power, they would obtain reciprocity. The Liberals have also said all along: "The United States is our natural market; we cannot live without it." These were the only gentlemen who pretended that reciprocity was a necessity. Of course, on proper terms,

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every one would favour a reciprocal arrangement between ourselves and the people to the south of us. The Minister of Trade and Commerce said:—

"Hon. gentlemen may say what they like, they may do what they like; the welfare of Canada above all things depends on the market of the people to the south of us."

Wrong again, Mr. Speaker. It seems they have found out now that it was all a mistake and a delusion. They find out now that, owing to the policy of the late Government in building up trade with Great Britain and in catering to that market, we are becoming so independent of our American neighbors that it does not matter very much to the people of this country whether we go into their market or not. We are told in the Speech from the Throne:—

"Much information has been obtained relative to the deposits of gold, &c., in the Yukon."

No doubt, this is very interesting; but, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, it would be much more interesting to know all the particulars respecting the doing of the inner circle in Dawson, and respecting the unlawful exactions of the appointees of the Government. In fact, if rumor is true, there have been a great many immoral practices on the part of the people appointed by the Minister of the Interior and the minor officials out there. It seems that the Government has been trying to exact the last cent out of those poor miners who have gone there to toil late and early in order, perhaps, to obtain the means to procure subsistence for their needy families that they have left behind them. I think I have understood from the Government that a very large sum has been collected from the people who have gone out there. Now, I would venture to offer a little advice to the Government, and that is, that they could not better spend a portion of that money which they have received from the miners in the Yukon, than in establishing an independent tribunal, or a commission, by which there could be a thorough investigation made into the doings of the Government officials in that country. If half the reports we hear are true, it is a duty they owe, not only to themselves, but to the country at large, which has hitherto borne a good character in respect to administration. Now I will quote a short extract from a letter of Miss Shaw to the London Times with respect to the doings out there. I will not inflict the whole of it upon you, because you have heard it before; however, it is necessary for my purpose that I should read a portion of it. She said:—

(Continued on fourth page.)

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