

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER, 16, 1931

THE FIRST PROBLEM

The trustees of Falconwood Hospital, working in co-operation with a representative committee of citizens appointed to deal with the emergency arising out of Monday night's fire, have quite properly decided to concentrate upon the most pressing problem of all, namely, the immediate provision of accommodation for the helpless patients.

It is in time of disaster that one realizes and appreciates the goodwill of others. The prompt action of the New Brunswick Government in offering immediate accommodation for 100 Falconwood patients is a case in point.

In addition to the two known deaths, six male patients are missing. Of these it is possible that some, at least, may have escaped. If any of these men are seen, the authorities should of course be notified at once.

"PEACE ON EARTH"

A strong appeal on behalf of limitation of armaments is made by Viscount Cecil in an article in the London Spectator. The article, entitled "Peace on Earth" is particularly appropriate to the Christmas season. The writer points out that the competition in armaments is a wholly modern phenomenon. To be precise, it is some sixty years old.

In 1867 Lord Randolph Churchill resigned the Chancellorship of the Exchequer in protest against the rising military expenditure. That year's budget contained not much more than a third of the provision for the fighting services in the current estimates for 1931-22; thirteen years after the winning of a sweeping victory, twelve after the establishment of a League of Nations to consolidate peace.

tion, Europe accounts for some five hundred and thirty million pounds. But the quantity and cost of armaments are their least terrible aspects; it is their quality which we have to fear. If scientific invention transformed Europe into an armed camp in the forty years before 1914, it entirely altered the character of war during the great struggle, and gathering speed after it has made of the fighting forces of the principal states something which those who retired from military service in 1918 could now hardly recognize.

Such a state of affairs cannot continue. History has seen vast and deep-rooted social abuses abolished; and we have in our own day seen a popular hatred of war greater, more lasting and more articulate than has ever been recorded before.

"A merry Christmas of a kind they may perhaps have forgotten these things; but certainly not a happy New Year. For the New Year is to see the first World Conference at which the general limitation and reduction of armaments is attempted; and it will need the vigilant attention and undivided efforts of all good men; if it is to succeed in cracking the foundations of the Great Idol. Of that critical adventure of our civilization, Christmas, with all its traditions, its prayers and its aspirations, is this year the prelude and the vigil."

THE REAL REASON

Despite the non-partisan attitude of the Board of Trade in pressing, with the assistance of the Provincial Government, for a restoration of the late train service before the Board of Railway Commissioners, the local Liberal organ again endeavors to inject politics into this matter. It sneeringly asks why the federal Conservative representatives were "ignored" when this service was cancelled by the Railway management on the ground of economy.

"We further recommend that, so far as the ferry boat service is concerned, it should not be run as part of the railway operations but should be run by the railway administration under separate account for the department. We feel that by reason of its association with railway accounts this service does not get the attention it should receive."

Perhaps it was because of their pointed reference to this matter that the text of the brief presented by Messrs. Mutch and Tweedy at Truro has not yet found its way into our local contemporary's columns!

NOTES BY THE WAY

Sir Wilfrid Laurier bitterly referred to the defeat of his Government on the reciprocity pact in 1911, as being due to "an electoral brainstorm," says the Sydney Post. The most disastrous electoral brainstorm that ever swept this country was that which returned the Laurier Government to power on its crazy railway programme of 1904.

Good times now seem to be returning and that means that more people will be able to save. And save they will, for they have had a bitter lesson. To most of these forehanded folks, this will appear to be quite a new condition. But the memory of the middle aged or older will remind them that more than once this thing has happened before.

In an address to the Board of Trade Club in Toronto the other night, Mr. Floyd Chalmers, editor of the Financial Post declared that this Dominion is grossly over-governed, that its four thousand governments, federal, provincial and municipal, are spending too much money; that every seventh man one meets on the streets works for some government or government institution, and that every fifty dollar anybody earns goes to the support of governmental institutions and governmental undertakings.

The Government of the United Kingdom is placing its own house in order. It has adopted the principle of protection; it has brought down an emergency tariff policy, and it will proceed in the elaboration of a permanent tariff policy. The next step is the Imperial Economic Conference to be held at Ottawa next June or July.

Canadian Dairy Production

Revised figures now available regarding Canadian dairying for 1930 reveal a number of satisfactory features. Production of milk in the year was higher than in 1929, as was also the production of butter and cheese. During the present year there has come about a change in the international trade situation as affecting dairying products.

Undoubtedly the closing of the British market will constitute a severe blow to the export trade of many nations. That is the very idea behind the action. The British people can only absorb a certain quota of goods, and, obviously, if this quota is supplied by home producers, the foreign producers who have been supplying it must suffer. This is very serious, because the British market has been the best in the world. Now it will be trimmed to the vanishing point. But it is supremely silly for any one to resent this action or to "make representations" in London about it.

If you accept duties on foreign foodstuffs you open up two immense paths to prosperity, says the London Sunday Express. You make an enormous increase in production at home, and you lay the foundation of real unity in the Empire. For until the question of agricultural protection is settled, you cannot have Empire Free Trade or, as Mr. Baldwin calls it, Imperial Economic Unity, which is a different phrase but it means the same thing.

That Body of Yours By James W. Barton, M.D. ANOTHER METHOD OF CONTROLLING HICCUP

I often wonder how many cures have been discovered for hiccup, as there is no doubt that every one of them has been effective at one or more times in actually stopping an attack.

Another method that seems to be based on chemical or physiological lines is described by Dr. L. A. Golden, Boston. The method is "simple, inexpensive, and has been very effective in his experience with hiccup."

"An ordinary paper bag of medium size and strength, such as is used by shopkeepers and which is always easy to obtain, is placed over the patient's face and held so that it tightly encloses the mouth and nose. The patient is instructed to breathe into the bag. Gradually the oxygen that was in the bag is replaced by the gradually accumulating carbon dioxide so that in several minutes there is enough of this to stop the hiccup."

Dr. Golden treated six cases by this method one of whom had the hiccup for two whole days and which had prevented him from sleeping and eating and produced a soreness in the abdomen and chest muscles. Rebreathing by this simple method checked the hiccup in four minutes and the patient was relieved of his symptoms without relapse.

THE LITTLE WORLD

Though God in seven days The world and all its ways Once for his own delight did fashion truly, Yet every man alive Must through his senses five Create it newly.

No beauty dwells on earth Till eyes do give it birth; No rock, no stone, till a hand's touch bring concreteness; Fragrance, till breath be near; Music, till listening ear Draw forth its sweetness.

These things your treasure be— Low voices' harmony; The comfortable rhythm of the hours; Kind warmth, surprising light, Food, and the nodding, bright, Blurred shapes of flowers.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

RELIEF REQUESTED

Sir,—Would you kindly allow me through the columns of your paper to call the attention of the United Church of Canada people in this province to the following statement. A wire just received from the National Emergency Relief Committee of the United Church of Canada, in Toronto, states that carloads of fruit and vegetables for the West will be most acceptable from Prince Edward Island. One such carload has recently gone from the pastoral charge of Mount Stewart, I am confident the charges of the United Church would be only too glad to send a number of cars. We all know the stark need of the people of the Prairies this winter. I would suggest that carload lots be assembled in such places along the line of railway as have warehouse facilities available, as Charlottetown, Montague, Hunter River, Kensington, Albany, Summerside and any other points where fruit and vegetables could be assembled and shipped in safety at this season. It is urgent that such car lots be despatched as early as possible, and that the clerk of the Presbytery, Rev. W. E. Aitken of Lot 16, Misouche R. R., or myself be notified from what point a car will be shipped as soon as decision is made, that the Church's Relief Committee in Toronto may be able to make arrangements with the railway for free transportation. Potatoes, turnips, carrots, beets, apples, preserves, and clothing will relieve much suffering and cheer many hopeless homes, and doubtless save lives as well.

I am Sir, etc. (REV.) THOS. A. WILSON, Chairman of the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island, United Church of Canada. The Manse, West Covehead, P. E. I. Dec. 16, 1931.

The Poet's Corner THE LITTLE WORLD

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Here dwells no hurt nor harm, Nor any worse alarm Than the small stupendous sound of your own sneezing; Wise though he be, and great, Could God himself create A world more pleasing? —Jan Struther, in The Spectator.

British Food Tax Bogery Floored

(Mail and Empire) In "Empire and Prosperity," Rt. Hon. L. S. Amery, former Secretary for the Colonies, deals with the question of tariffs and food taxes which now engages the attention of the British Government. In his view, the increase in prosperity which will come to the working classes in Great Britain as a result of protection against foreign dumping will completely overshadow any possible advance in the cost of living that may be experienced in the Mother Land. He feels, however, that there will be little or no increase in the cost of food-stuffs, for the simple reason that the Empire contains within itself ample sources of food supplies, which can be easily tapped. Mr. Amery continues: "But that is only a part, and a lesser part, of the answer that I would give. My main rejoinder would be that the people's food is taxed, gravely taxed, today, and that there is no way of untaxing it, and of securing them cheap and abundant food, as well as the wages with which to buy it, except by the policy of Empire trade. To begin with, all taxes are in fact, food taxes in so far as they leave less of the worker's wage available for the purchase of food. Insurance levies, compounded rates, taxes of every sort and kind, whether paid directly by the worker or indirectly through the increased cost of what he buys, are all, in their actual effect on his daily life, taxes on his food supply."

Mr. Amery continues his argument thus: "Moreover, all the immense burdens of our misguided system of national taxation diffuses itself into the cost, not only of every manufactured article made in this country, but also of every article of food that is sold in our shops. The shopkeeper has to add to the cost of every article he sells not only the rates and taxes he pays himself, but the rates and taxes incorporated in the cost of his shop and of every services that he has to call upon. How comes it, that, with the price of wheat approximately the same as it was over 20 years ago, the price of the loaf is 2 1-2d or 3d dearer? The answer is that every service rendered in connection with the production of the loaf, from the conveyance of the flour to the baker's down to the delivery of the loaf over the counter, has increased in cost enormously, and that a very large part of that increase is represented in taxation. No duty on foreign wheat that has ever been suggested could add much to the cost of the loaf as the taxation of the last fifteen years has added to it. The problem is how we are to untax the loaf. The only answer to that problem lies in the general reduction of taxation, and the only effective way to the reduction of taxation lies in the increase of taxable capacity through more production. The policy of home and Empire safeguarding and preference is the only sure policy for increased production and its consequent, reduced taxation. It is, therefore, the only policy of true cheapness whether of houses, or of clothes, or of food."

As Mr. Amery says, the Empire stands on the eve of the most fateful decision in its history. On the one hand lies the prospect of Imperial disintegration; on the other hand is the vision of an economic development such as the world has never seen, the creation of a material prosperity throughout the Empire which will bring in its train general social welfare hitherto undreamed of—a new strength and leadership amongst the nations of the world.

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