

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1933.

BALBO'S AIR ARMADA

General Balbo's Italian air armada reached Cartwright on Wednesday and last evening arrived at Shediac, N. B. The squadron passing over the western section of this Province about 3.15 p. m. Montreal will be the last stop of the fliers before their final take-off for Chicago.

The most thorough-going preparations were made for this great flight over the northern passage from Italy to Chicago. That fact and the prudence with which the flight is proceeding has given an early opportunity to welcome General Balbo and his companions in Canada and reasonable assurance as well that the armmen will reach their more western goal. If and when they do this, substantial proof will have been given that this route of "short hops" is perhaps the most suitable for the range of present-day airplanes when bent on transatlantic service; and it will further help to establish the reliability of the passage between Europe and North America by way of Greenland, Iceland and Labrador.

Flying experts have studied for some time the possibility of the great route northward over Greenland, and Charles Lindbergh is making a further survey of part of it from the air this month. Success of the Italians' crossing with twenty-four planes and Colonel Lindbergh's report on his investigation may bring nearer establishment by this route of the regular transatlantic air service that has been widely discussed in recent years. Every landing in that region of storms and cold of course adds to liability to delay. Nevertheless, the hazards are considered to be less than such as inevitably are incurred in a trans-ocean crossing from Newfoundland to Ireland or to England.

It is a very old line of communication between the two hemispheres to which the adventure of General Balbo's 24-plane squadron has directed the attention of the world. The Vikings' westward passage to the New World was by this northern circle. Reminders have been given, too, that nearly 400 years ago the hardy fishermen of Brittany and Devon were hovering about the banks of the coasts of Labrador and Newfoundland. Subsequently, explorers sought the northwest passage to India by way of Davis Straits and Baffin Land; and almost a decade ago Lowell Smith and Eric Nelson, with United States army fliers, pioneered the route westward by air. Von Gronau the world-famed German airman, successfully followed this trail twice—making a detour to New York on his flight to Chicago in 1930; another time he went to Chicago direct. The British have had their survey parties in Greenland; so have the Danes, all seeking to find the best landing places, and especially, what may be expected in the way of weather.

WORLD PARLEYS

There is evidence on all sides that nations are raising themselves out of the trough of the economic depression. Because of this fact the negative turn that the World Economic Conference has taken in London, has had little if any disturbing effect on the general outlook. Popular confidence, therefore, would seem to be that general economic recovery will come not through the World Conference so much as in the virtue of the development of the domestic programmes of the individual countries that are represented at that conference.

Prior to this great economic congress, and since the close of the war, twelve important international conferences are noted by the Mon-

real Gazette as having been held. Three of the twelve are looked upon as successes, one as a partial success, and eight as failures. In addition, six highly important post-war international problems have been handled through negotiations other than conferences. These include the Dawes and Young plans relating to payments of German reparations; debts and readjustments between the United States and debtor nations; the Kellogg treaty outlawing war; and the Hoover one-year moratorium on inter-governmental debts. The conference body actually assembled in London is the nearest approach to a supreme and plenipotentiary world assembly that can be called into existence. It represents the limit of effective political power at the moment, and if it should prove that it is not sufficiently united in outlook and not sufficiently strong to reach and implement agreements which will go beyond the pious expression of mere formula or platitude, the public will find it difficult to retain any faith in the competence of such international action should the attempt be renewed to settle the problems which led to the calling of the delegates to London in the present instance.

IN NEWFOUNDLAND

Prince Edward Island's 60th anniversary as a Province of Canada passed without anyone complaining that we would have been better off had we remained outside the Dominion. Perhaps it is just as well, if the financial situation in Newfoundland is to be taken as an example. This is the record for last year, as recorded by the St. John's Daily News:

The year that has closed has been extremely disappointing from a financial point of view. When Sir Richard Squires delivered the Budget Speech last year he estimated for a surplus of \$28,000, instead there was a deficit of \$3,381,000, and this in spite of rigid economies practised by the new Government. In his estimate, however, Sir Richard made no provision for the railway deficit, and only provided \$50,000 for able-bodied relief, whereas nearly \$1,000,000 must have been spent on this account. On the other hand, while he budgeted for a revenue of \$10,180,000, the receipts were nearly \$2,000,000 less. This fall in revenue was most disappointing. While in quantity imports were not very much less than they were the previous year, their value was appreciably lower, and the revenue suffered accordingly, and unfortunately the situation was not helped by local conditions. The returns from the fishery and other industries were much lower than anticipated and the people were unable to increase their purchases because of reduced income.

The Daily News, however, points out that Newfoundland was almost the last country to feel the depression, and it may be slow to profit by improvement in world conditions. It adds that so far as the industrial outlook is concerned, things are certainly more hopeful than they were. Six months ago, when the colony was unable to meet interest payments on her national debt, Great Britain and Canada came to her rescue. Another payment fell due at the end of the half year, and again Newfoundland was unable to meet the bill. The Canadian Government announced that it was unable to help on this occasion, but the British Parliament voted \$2,000,000. Meanwhile a financial commission, with British, Canadian and Newfoundland representatives on it, is investigating Newfoundland's finances with a view to their rehabilitation.

PALE GHOSTS

Says the Sherbrooke Record: "When Viscount Snowden and Lloyd George speak nowadays we are listening to voices from the politically dead. We have politicians in Canada who bob up like that." Out west, for example, where Mr. Mackenzie King is revisiting the slumps of the moon

NOTES BY THE WAY

While the sea is the main source of the fisheries wealth of Canada, the inland lakes and rivers play a substantial part in the supply of fish for the home market, and contribute considerably to the export trade of the Dominion. Lake Winnipeg, Lake Winnipegosis, Lake Manitoba, and smaller lakes to the north and east furnish most of the fish products of Manitoba. Whitefish and pickerel are the chief products, but pike, tullibee, goldeye and many other varieties abound. In 1931 the total marketed value of whitefish taken by commercial fishermen in the different provinces was \$1,425,311. In 1929, when marketing conditions were more favorable, the catch amounted to more than 19,600,000 pounds, with a market value of over \$2,453,000. A large part of the annual catch is sold in the United States.

There will be great satisfaction in Canada over the fact that Great Britain seems to be brigading as a rule with the United States. While it would seem to us most unlikely that she would tie up with Europe in opposition to the American Republic, it has been impossible to free our minds from the knowledge that the pull of Europe on Great Britain is tremendous. France and the gold bloc exercise a power in London that we in Canada can hardly appreciate. But undoubtedly if there must be a wide division in fiscal policy, the British Empire and its "lost brother" to the South of us had better be found on the same side of the Great Divide.

Seldom, says the Hong Kong Press, has such enthusiasm been displayed by the public of Hong Kong as that evoked by the British Empire Exhibition and Fair, which was officially opened by H.E. the Governor at Kowloon. Throughout the day, from noon until night, thousands of people of every age and class swarmed across the harbor to visit the Peninsula Hotel, which has been converted for the occasion into an enormous store of the Empire's produce. The majority of the visitors expressed surprise that so many goods with which they were familiar came from various parts of the Empire, for in the past it has been the general habit to buy in a haphazard way without troubling to enquire the country of origin. One of the principal results of the exhibition, it is hoped, will be to impress on the purchasing public the superior qualities of British produce and manufactures, so that in future they will stipulate when buying goods that they must be British.

The co-operation of the United States is essential to the restoration of an international peace of mind. Whatever Republican Congressmen may say, it is impossible to maintain longer. Mr. Norman Davis, the ancient policy of isolation any president's envoy, may not have been instructed to declare at Geneva that America had decided to abandon the policy of keeping aloof from European affairs, but he correctly interpreted the inevitable tendency. That policy was a possible one in the era of Washington and Jefferson, a century and a half ago, when the United States had very little foreign trade, and could be reached only in sailing ships traversing the stormy Atlantic. But America cannot keep out of world politics any longer.—The Australian.

The British Empire campaign against leprosy was started less than ten years ago and the big strides which it has made in India are a tribute to the value which this country derives from her British connection. The aspects of the problem are thoroughly cheering. In the first place, the Indian Council are most actively prosecuting research work in regard to the treatment of the disease and carrying on propaganda to induce people of all classes to take precautions against it, and in particular to avail themselves of the means now provided of undergoing a curative course. The wonderful method of cure by the injection of specially prepared vegetable oil is now fully proved and widely known.—The Times of India.

One of the most encouraging signs that depression has passed its nadir and that prosperity is dawning on the horizon is to be found in the steady improvement of conditions in the Australian Commonwealth. Australia was hit considerably harder than Canada by depression, and for a time it seemed as though Australian credit would be severely damaged. But firm action by the Federal Government, loyal co-operation by the various States, and the indomitable spirit of the Australian people themselves have enabled that country not only to weather the storm but to rehabilitate itself in a manner that is little short of amazing

Mr. Housman On Poetry

(By J. B. M. in the Winnipeg Free Press)

At Cambridge University recently Mr. A. E. Housman gave a lecture on "The Name and Nature of Poetry." The text has been published and is being read, marked and dissected with loving care in all the reviews. For this is Mr. Housman's first appearance as a literary critic though he is 74 years old and has been a famous poet since 1896. Many poets now living are less modest. Having seen their baccalaureate stanzas safely into print they are only too eager to explain to the public how it is done. Mr. Housman practised his mystery in remote seclusion until, grey with years and full of honors, he came out of his ivory tower last month and exposed his opinions to the Cambridge students.

Mr. Housman has been a parsimonious poet. His fame rests on two small books, "A Shropshire Lad," which came out in 1896, and "Last Poems," dated 1922. But he has not led a lazy intellectual life, waiting for rare visitations by the muse. He is professor of Latin at Cambridge and a tremendous scholar. His poems often have the brevity, tact and form of the classical epigrams. This, for example, called "Eight O'Clock."

He stood, and heard the steepie Sprinkle the quarters on the morning town. One, two, three, four, to market place and people It tossed them down.

Strapped, noosed, nighing his hour, He stood and counted them and cursed his luck; And then the clock collected in the tower Its strength, and struck.

Mr. Housman's poetry, the whole of which could be printed on this page, nearly always comes off as neatly and produces the same authentic shiver of the spine as "Eight O'Clock." Therefore, he writes about poetry as one having authority.

"Poetry," he says, "is not the thing said but a way of saying it," and this is the thesis of his lecture. There are no such things, he believes, as poetical ideas. "No truth," he says, "is too precious, no observation too profound, and no sentiment too exalted to be expressed in prose." Thus, Mr. Housman, proving himself a true classicist, attaches more significance to form than to content in poetry. What a poet may have to say, he thinks, is incidental. The poetical art has nothing to do with meaning. It is deftness in the arrangement of words. "Meaning is of the intellect, poetry is not."

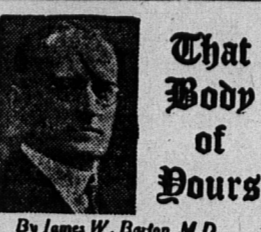
Mr. Housman says he could no more define poetry than a terrier could define a rat, but he recognizes the symptoms it produces. Experience has taught him, when shaving of a morning, to keep watch over his thoughts because, if a line of poetry strays into his memory, his skin bristles and the razor ceases to act. A spinal shiver, water in the eyes, constriction of the throat and a stabbing pain at the pit of the stomach are the other signs whereby Mr. Housman knows that he is under the enchantment. How poetry is made he does not know, but he describes his own mode of composition. The afternoon being the least intellectual part of his day, he would take a walk after a luncheon, and while walking he would think of nothing in particular. As he went along there would flow into his mind "with sudden and unaccountable emotion," a line or a stanza, accompanied by the vague notion of a poem. The later process of putting down the lines Mr. Housman describes as a "bubbling up," and he rejects altogether the notion of poetry as an intellectual contrivance. He has a low opinion of the poetry of the 18th century, but thinks that four of its writers sounded the genuine poetical note. Cowper, Blake, Collins and Christopher Smart. All were mad, two of them mad enough to be locked up.

It follows from this theory, as Mr. Housman says, that a reader who thinks he is being moved by poetry is often mistaken. He is really being moved by some other ingredient in the verse, something with which the poetical element is mixed or adulterated. It is interesting to look into this. We will mention two or three passages which produce in us the symptoms described by Mr. Housman (all except the pain in the pit of the stomach, unknown to us as a by-product of poetry) Mr. Edwin Markham's lines in "The Man With the Hoe."

"Who made him dead to rapture and despair, A thing that grieves not and that never hopes? no doubt cause pity and terror as much as they cause the specific poetic emotion. Keat's "Ode to the Nightingale," besides being music, also belongs to the "literature of escape" and excites by suggesting a flight from "the weariness, the fever and the fret." And Masefield's lines,

Only stay quiet while my mind remembers The beauty of fire from the beauty of embers, not only sing but stab with the sharp pang of recollection. All of that is quite clear enough but the most interesting and difficult question arising from Mr. Housman's teaching is whether there is such a thing as neat poetry. As he asks it, is there any "pure unmingled poetry, poetry independent

—George Herbert.



By James W. Barton, M.D.

ADVICE FOR THE MIDDLE AGED

"People must be made to understand that in order to protect the heart and other vital organs every infection whether from acute diseases—influenza, pneumonia—or from a focus in the body—teeth, tonsils, gall bladder, large intestine—must be guarded against." "It must be realized that an infected tooth is a reflection on the intelligence of its owner or the skill of his dentist; that diseased tonsils must be removed, infected sinuses must be drained; that making sure that there is an intestinal movement is far more important than a shave or a morning bath; and, above all, that we may not throw upon the heart, already tired and scarred with the wear and tear of life, the extra burden of handling more food than the body needs. Elderly people should eat to live. They must no longer live to eat. When these lessons are learned the death rate at the later ages in life will be less."

The above are the words of Dr. O. H. Rogers, Medical Director of one of the large insurance companies in the United States.

From his observation of the causes of death in thousands and thousands of cases it is only too true that many of us actually determine the length of time we will live by our own everyday habits of health. Thus, neglect of infected teeth or tonsils may lead to rheumatism, rheumatism to heart disease and heart disease to life in bed or death itself.

The neglected attack of influenza or bronchitis may lead to pneumonia, pleurisy or tuberculosis. Neglecting to obtain regular intestinal movements may lead to chronic liver and stomach ailments which finally take their toll.

Finally, as we approach middle or old age, it must be remembered that we are not as active as we were; that the food needs of the body are less, and that although we have more time to eat, and can obtain a greater variety of food than ever before, eating more food than we need throws a burden on the heart, kidneys and blood vessels greater than they can bear. These warnings from such a source, should make those who are at middle age and approaching old age do a little serious thinking.

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—George Herbert.

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.

THE PENSION COMMISSION

Sir,—Very few of us are familiar with the decisions of our present Pension Commission, but those of us who know something about it know that information is required. We all know of the Parents' Maintenance Act, which was passed by our last Legislature. We know that this Act was taken from Ontario and is what we call a Dominion Act. This Act legally makes every son and daughter liable for the support of their parents or parent, who is dependent by reason of age, disease, infirmity or unable to maintain him or herself, providing that such son or daughter has sufficient means to do so. This clause of the Act is taken by the Commission as a guide in granting the Old Age Pension to an applicant who has a son or daughter. We can all readily see there is great room for different interpretation of the part which reads, "providing the son or daughter has sufficient means." Any intelligent person can see that a Commission can vary from putting the responsibility on a son or daughter from an extremely poor to an extremely well off son or daughter. Anywhere between those two would be within the bounds of the Parents' Maintenance Act, so we can readily see it is a little difficult to draw the line in the proper place. We have no hesitation in saying that a pension should be granted to a qualified applicant, whose son is only in moderate means, or who is an ordinary farmer with a wife and family to support. That proviso should not apply to ordinary sons and daughters of this Province, unless they are paying an income tax or are drawing a big salary and also have money laid away, or at least, it should not apply to any son or daughter unless after they meet their yearly obligations and have a reasonable living are able then to show a surplus. They then should be liable for a part maintenance of a parent and a commission would then be justified in refusing a pension to such parent, and, I am willing to go on record in saying that

of meaning?" He believes there is, and gives as an example the song which Mariana's page sings to that unhappy lady in "Measure For Measure."

Take, O take those lips away, That so sweetly were foresworn, And those eyes, the break of day, Lights that do mislead the morn: But my kisses bring again, bring again, Seals of love, but seal'd in vain, seal'd in vain.

"That is nonsense; but it is ravishing poetry," says Mr. Housman, which seems an astonishing judgment. This Shakespearean song surely has something to do with faithfulness in love. It certainly contains no thought, but it does consist simply of words strung out in a pleasant pattern. It has a meaning.

The Shakespeare song and a poem by Blake, which also yields an emotional meaning to this reader at least, are Mr. Housman's only examples of poetry unalloyed, and we have looked through an anthology in vain for a piece which would satisfy his definition. One way of enjoying the pure poetic pleasure sought by Mr. Housman, the only way we can think of, is to listen to the reading of poetry in an unknown foreign language. But somehow the joy of hearing even an expert read Homer (who is incomprehensible to us in Greek) is thin and unsustaining, and we are driven to conclude either that we are insensitive to poetry pure which we would hate to admit; or that Mr. Housman is wrong and that a poem must mean something, however obscure and irrational, in order to be a poem at all.

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any commission who lays the responsibility on the farmer's sons and daughters, of this Province, who have all they can do to live with the times without going behind, are doing something that will cause a great disturbance later on. We all realize that it is a moral obligation on every son and daughter to support their parents according to their circumstances and I firmly believe every son and daughter has been doing so, but since the Old Age Pension Act has come into effect in this Province, the parent who qualifies has a perfect right to the pension, and the sons and daughters have a perfect right to be relieved and not have that responsibility laid on them, and I say that if any commission does so it is high time for the members or those in authority to see that every qualified applicant gets his rights. It was the sons and daughters who were behind the putting into effect of the Pension Act, and it is them who can be the means of changing things, and if the members do not see to this they will get a big surprise when the House meets and a bigger one when election day comes around. I am not writing this with any feeling of destructive criticism or selfish aims, but for the benefit of those in charge and the Province in general. By getting our portion of money from the Dominion, which is so badly needed, in preference to putting a burden and responsibility on the sons and daughters of a qualified pension applicant. I am, Sir, etc. INTERESTEL. Inquisitive Child—Mumme, what was the name of the last station? Mother—I don't know. Don't bother me. I'm reading. Child—Well, I'm sorry you don't know, because Jimmy got out there

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