

The Charlottetown Guardian

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The Bennett Policy Stands

If Premier Mackenzie King played any leading role in the Empire Conference just closed in London, it does not appear in the published reports of the somewhat barren proceedings. On the most important question of Empire defense, Mr. King made no public statement. He was supposed, however, to have been particularly desirous of smoothing the way for an Anglo-American trade treaty, involving a radical modification of the policy of Empire preference which is the basis of Canada's agreement with the Mother Country.

The British Government, as well as the representatives of other British dominions, took a different view from that credited to Mr. Mackenzie King. Despite all suggestions to the contrary Empire preference remains a basic principle of our Empire trade policy. "This," notes Canada's Weekly, "is clear from the speech of Mr. Runciman in the British House of Commons. Answering the small and diminishing band of doctrinaire Free Traders, the British Minister dismissed the idea that the Ottawa Agreement should be abandoned or wobbled down into insignificance. They had given a great mutual stimulus to Empire business and had shown other nations a way to greater freedom of trade by harmonious arrangement. The agreements made both by Britain and Canada with foreign countries prove that without impairing the Empire preference system the great boon of an extension of world trade can be secured if pursued with patience and perseverance. The madness of tariff exclusiveness can and should cease and in no sphere with better results than in our relations with the United States. But Empire Preference must stand."

Here is another impression of British parliamentary opinion on the subject: "The discussion of Anglo-American treaty prospects," says the London correspondent of the New York Times, "lasted more than six hours, during which a score of members bandied arguments and comments back and forth and government spokesmen strove to satisfy the pro-treaty members without making definite commitments. At the end of the debate the treaty situation remained as unattractive as before with neither gains nor losses registered in the impassable discussions."

The Dominion viewpoint was thus summed up by Mr. L. S. Amery, a former Dominions secretary, in a letter to the London Times. "The Dominions are invited to be reasonable and help the United Kingdom to make concessions to the United States and world competition at their expense. Why should they do so? Americans have no more right to complain if Empire tariff preference divert Empire buying from foreign countries to the Empire than we have had to complain of building up of United States industry by tariffs against our own. There is still room for growing trade between the United States and the British Empire, but it should be only on clear understanding that we are entitled to develop the Empire preference to the fullest."

So far as the discussions on Empire preference were concerned, the Conference now closed achieved one concrete result. It has thrown into greater prominence the enduring value of the achievement of the Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett in calling the Ottawa Conference of 1932 and negotiating the agreements based on this policy, which two years before had been denounced in England as "humbug". Recalling Mr. Bennett's speeches at that time, in the light of what has transpired, one can only be astonished at the clearness of the then Canadian Prime Minister's vision, the soundness of his judgment and the accuracy with which he foretold the results.

A Much Abused Word

Compton Mackenzie, noted British author and music critic, recently arraigned "that cursed word 'highbrow'" as being one of the greatest enemies to musical taste. "When I first heard it in America in the autumn of 1912," he says, "it was used to denote a slightly self-conscious intellectual. It was in fact an American synonym for the old English word 'prig'. As such it delighted me, and as far as I can make out I was the first to circulate the word on this side of the Atlantic, having brought it back from my first visit to America like any other traveler's souvenir of some place he had visited. Unfortunately, 'highbrow' has lost its synonymy with 'prig' and is now applied to any piece of literature or music which cannot be read as easily as a headline in a newspaper or hummed by a nursemaid while she is powdering the baby. Highbrows appear to the man in the street like a lot of Mount Everests which he fancies he is so far from ever being able to climb that the notion of attempting even their foothills strikes him as ridiculous. If some bomb could blow up every writer of social light music, every cinema organ, every cinema organist, every crooner, every lachrymose tenor, very writer of so-called lyrics (God save the mark!) and all those world's sweethearts who indulge in sentimental balderdash with their audiences, and do not stick closely to their job, and if after such a destructive explosion the public were compelled to listen for the whole of the year to good

music or go without music altogether, the public might be converted and all these Mount Everests would shrink to Primrose Hills."

The point here, of course, is exaggerated for the sake of emphasis. No dictatorial method of holding people's noses and making them swallow what is good for them would be successful in concert programmes any more than in politics, at least under our British democracy. But it is surely time that the epithet "highbrow" were given a rest. The real value of good music, as of good literature, is that it gives one a greater zest for life—it broadens our sympathies and deepens our understandings. It has nothing to do with the height of people's brows, but it has a great deal to do with the enjoyment they get out of living.

Editorial Notes

The great Duke of Marlborough died this date 1722.

"Death ends all" is the party slogan in Communist Russia.

Road hogs and Road hogs are ever present dangers here at present.

The new city bonds at 4% should prove attractive investments these days of low bank interest.

General O'Duffy's overseas legion got home from Spain in time for the Free State election on Dominion Day.

About the best that can be said of the Spanish War, as indeed, of any war, is that it spreads geographical knowledge.

City street and footpath improvements outlined at the City Council will make better and more commodious thoroughfares that should be appreciated by all.

When Sir James Barric, now reported seriously ill, first entered the world of letters it was under the pen name of Gavin O'Gilvie. His sponsor and fidus Achates was Sir William Robertson Nichol, Editor of the British Weekly in which most of his earlier stories and articles appeared.

It will be recalled a country called Ethiopia once before complained of flagrant violations of international law on the part of Italy but nothing came of it, which is a bad precedent in the case of Spain in a similar situation.

Complaint is made that autos are invading the prohibited parts of Victoria Park to the annoyance and disturbance of pedestrians, men, women and children. The by-laws affecting vehicular and other traffic in this play ground and rest centre of the people should be strictly enforced.

According to Mr. A. J. Anderson, M.P., Toronto, a Federal election is not expected this year, although it may follow soon after the Ontario Provincial election. Mr. Anderson, a Conservative, believes his party need not worry about Premier Hepburn "because we are going to lick him anyway."

Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, a chancellor of Cambridge University, has formally conferred the degree of doctor of laws, honoris causa, on Rt. Hon. Ernest Lapointe, Canadian minister of justice, also upon Sir Donald Charles Cameron, a native of British Guiana, former Governor of Nigeria, and prior to that Private Secretary to the Governor of Newfoundland.

Logic is seldom as good as horse sense, says that philosopher, Prof. Stephen B. Leacock. Therefore, he says, we need to do away with ultra vires and intra vires decisions in regard to Dominion economic legislation. We should indicate what field the Dominion should cover and then let every Dominion act be a good act, as is now every British act.

Declaring himself to be "absolutely sold on the idea," Premier Hepburn has committed the Province of Ontario to assuming 37 1-2 per cent. of the cost of the long-proposed Grand River Conservation project. The commitment is contingent, however, upon the willingness of the Federal Government at Ottawa to shoulder a similar responsibility in connection with the scheme, leaving the municipalities concerned to pay the remaining 25 per cent.

Apparently the U.S.A. is in for a "blood purge" with a view to the lessening of serious crime. The House of Representatives at Washington has just passed and sent to the Senate a bill by Rep. Martin Dies (D, Texas), compelling deportation of aliens who, within the last five years have been convicted of various crimes. Chairman Samuel L. Dickstein (D, New York), of the House Immigration Committee, said the measure would result in deportation of "23,000 alien racketeers, who have been a menace to the country."

The reports of business during May have been of the same general character as in April. The industries have well-filled order books to work on, and production in most lines is holding at peak levels, past the time when a seasonal tapering off is usually expected. In factory operations percentage gains over last year compare favorably with previous months, the indexes of production averaging 18 to 20 per cent. higher, and June is certain to be another good month. Employment and payrolls are at the peak of the recovery. The continued large increase in farm income, 24 per cent. in April as compared with a year ago, is another item on the optimists' side. The crop start is fairly favorable, and in the Northwest is inspiring hopes of better business conditions than in any recent year. The railroads are doing well, with loadings running about 15 per cent. over a year ago, and earnings and purchases up by a greater margin

Notes By The Way

It is amazing to contemplate that Uncle Sam is still paying a pension to a widow of a war veteran of 1812. At nineteen, as related in The Financial Post this week, she married a veteran of 71. He has long since passed to his reward, but he passed it along to her in the form of \$50 per month, and today she is 85.—St. Catherine's Standard.

One chief question that faces dictators is, "Who's next?" Since nearly all dictators through history have taken power on an illegal basis, it is rather difficult to arrange a legal order of succession. If it is legal, it is generally ineffective. Richard Cromwell was a weak follow-up to the great Oliver. Poland has been foundering since the death of Pilsudski. The followers of Stalin and Trotsky have been at the odds ever since the end of the mighty Lenin, in 1924. Mussolini has never had a clearly defined successor.—Review of Reviews.

De Bono's book is a straight-forward amply documented account of the destruction of a nation and the murder of hundreds of thousands of persons by cold-blooded calculation. It is rather nothing left for argument, nothing left to say in extenuation. De Bono went to Abyssinia to report in 1932 and asked for the honor of planning and conducting the war. Mussolini said he would arrange no quarrel with Abyssinia; de Bono makes it clear that the Abyssinians were always willing to settle any difficulties and give satisfaction, when "incidents" occurred.—New Statesman and Nation.

One of my memories of Dwight Moody is of his telling about a woman who came to him, saying, "Moody, how may I overcome my habit of exaggerating? Call it lying, madam; call it lying," was the instant reply.—EX.

The action (dropping the excess profits tax) redeems Neville Chamberlain from the obtuseness which has clung to his reputation, a better word for his leading trait might be traditionalism. Traditions came to Neville Chamberlain as family demons. He and his brother Austen were Dr. E. G. Billings in Colorado Medicine who states that one out of every twenty-one of the new adult admissions to the Colorado General Hospital and Dispensary was referred to the psychiatrist (nervous specialist) for diagnosis (trying to discover the trouble) and treatment. Of this number many were sent in as thyroid cases, whereas "anxiety" was really the cause of the symptoms. "The anxiety syndrome (combination of symptoms—rapid heart and nervousness) occurs in an individual who is tense and uneasy and is characterized by rather suddenly occurring attacks lasting from a few seconds to an hour, during which the patient feels some difficulty in breathing, rapid heart beat, cold sweats, dizziness, stomach or abdominal uneasiness and a feeling of weakness. With these attacks there is always an underlying emotional disturbance which is best described as 'anxiety.' The patient has difficulty in sleeping, some loss of appetite, tired easily, has a 'tight' pain in the head, feels confused in his thinking, is irritable, is restless, has lost weight, feels worried but doesn't know why."

A prominent Bangor, Me., physician making a call just outside the city, swerved his car to avoid hitting the body of a skunk lying in the middle of the road. Returning an hour later and being in a hurry, undisturbed, the doctor stopped his car and started to walk back to remove the offensive object from the road. "Better leave that feller be," he shouted at a nearby workman. "He's been there some time, and I've been here an hour and a car's touched him." A well-aimed pebble quickly convinced the doctor that there was life in "the body" still, as without any disturbance the skunk got up and walked away.—Boston G. Obe.

In free countries, where people govern themselves, there are many things about which there is no unity. There is no unity of view about political programs, economic creeds or foreign policy or religion. On all these things there are wide differences of opinion. These differences we do not regard as bad or weak, as is the custom of dictators. Rather, we regard the flourishing of variety as a good thing and indispensable if all men and women are to have an equal chance of living the kind of life that seems to them most worthwhile. And we regard the free discussion which such differences provoke not as a disease to be eradicated but as the foundation of a healthy society and of wise progress. What is it, in that case, which holds a free people together in such solidarity? What makes possible in a community of such differences, so moving a unity and so harmonious a comradeship as was manifest recently? It is democracy itself. It is the underlying unity of a community in agreement, not about everything, but about the political method by which everything shall be decided.—London Daily Herald.

After thirty years of production, there is just a trifle over one percent of radium in the world according to a statement made to the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. Hence its enormous value, based not upon utility and not partly on sentiment, as with gold.—Winnipeg Free Press.

The chief thing wrong with the inferiority complex is that it doesn't affect the right people.—Ezra.

The lottery, by whatever name called, is bad business. It tempts to extravagance those who should be learning thrift. This would be more apparent to its victims if it were possible to publicize the names and prize-winners, the economic status of all from whose pockets the prize money is taken.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

One of the best Snowden sayings of all time was delivered during an attack he was making on Communism. Someone suggested to him that there was plenty of unemployment in England, but no unemployment in Russia. Quick as a flash, the Snowden tongue crackled: "And there is no unemployment in Dartmoor prison."—Windsor Star.

It is true that a Loyalist Spaniard had bombed the Deutschland. The Spaniards assert that the Deutschland attacked first. The Germans say that this is a "lie." Let us assume that the German claim is right. It must still be admitted that the Spaniards at least took on "some one" of their own size.—Montreal Star.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

ANXIETY MAY CAUSE SYMPTOMS SIMILAR TO GOUT

A young man of 25 consulted a physician regarding his inability to concentrate, his lack of appetite and his disturbed sleep. As his heart was beating about 100 to the minute and the temperature was normal, the physician suspected early thyroid trouble and had him undergo a metabolism test. Sure enough, the test showed that the body processes were working at the rate of 117 instead of 100, and as 115 is considered the outside limit to be called normal, the patient was ordered to take a complete rest from his work. After a month's rest the heart rate was down to 90 and at the end of two months it was down to 84. The patient and physician were naturally pleased as the "rest cure" had apparently made operation unnecessary. However, the next month the heart rate was back up to 100 and the physician felt that the rest cure was not likely to affect a cure; operation was now necessary.

Forming Union Government

Perhaps the highlight of his address was on the formation of the Union Government. Sir Wilfrid Laurier returned to Canada in 1917 to perhaps the severest trial of his life. He said, "In the Autumn of 1916, I had made a nation-wide appeal for further reinforcements by voluntary service. Before leaving for England in the early part of 1917 I discussed with Sir Edward Keay, Minister of Militia, certain proposals founded on this appeal. Returning from England in the Spring of 1917, I found that the appeal for national service had not brought such reinforcement as we believed were vitally necessary."

"I believed then, and later I am convinced, that no army can be stronger than the spirit it derives from the support of its people. And I felt sure that if the Canadian army were at the front, having gained great distinction, and being one of the most formidable fighting forces in the Allied Armies, I felt I saw that if the corps was not absolutely assured of necessary reinforcements, its fighting power would be seriously diminished. So I came back to a terribly grave question as to the outcome."

"In the first place, Parliament would be dissolved that year by the effluxion of time. We must have a renewal for another year. I made that proposal to Parliament, according to the precedent of the year before. But I accompanied it with the declaration that, if it were not practically unworkable, the resolution, although passed, would not be acted upon. It was not passed with unanimity and I immediately declared, on the following day, that I would not transmit it for adoption by the Senate. A general election was, therefore, impending."

The Poet's Corner

"HE THAT TRULY LOVES"

(From "Blurt, Masler Constable")
He that truly loves
Burns out the day in idle fantasies;
And when the lamb bleating doth
Bid good night,
Unto the closing day, then tears begin
To keep quack-time unto the owl,
Whose voice
Shrieks like the bel man in the love-
Love's eye the jewel of sleep, O, seldom wears!
The early lark is wakened from her bed,
Being only by love's plaints disquieted;
And, singing in the morning's ear, she weeps,
Being deep in love, at lovers' broken sleeps;
But say a golden slumber chance to
With silken strings the cover of love's eye.
Then dreams, magician-like, mocking present
Pleasures, whose fading leaves more discontent.
—Thomas Middleton (1570-1627).

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When Sir Robert Told The Inside Story Of Union Government

(Ottawa Journal)

When Sir Robert Borden formed a Union Government in Canada in 1917 he not only invited Sir Wilfrid Laurier to enter the Ministry but went so far as to offer the Old Liberal Chief the privilege of selecting the entire Cabinet. Sir Wilfrid considered the invitation for three days, then declined, saying he could not enter a Government which would enforce compulsory military service.

This was disclosed in December, 1930, when the late war-time Prime Minister made a notable address before the Professional Institute of the Civil Service of Canada in which he brought to light events that had an important bearing on the Peace Treaty after the Great War. Sir Robert discussed the formation of the Union Government, the meetings of the Imperial War Cabinet, the demand for the hanging of the Kaiser. For three-quarters of an hour he held the large audience tense with interest as he unfolded the story of his own part in these history-making events.

Forming Union Government

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Called Upon Laurier.

"The formation of a union government had frequently been mooted. My colleagues were divided some for, some against. One afternoon I listened to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who was then Minister of Militia, until, tired of the discussion, I finally told them their views had been sufficiently set forth and that the decision was for me. I did make it forthwith."

"From that Council meeting I went to Sir Wilfrid Laurier's residence and asked him for an early appointment. He came to my house next morning. In the meantime, we had introduced a bill for compulsory military service. The situation was fully discussed; this I represented to Sir Wilfrid the conditions as they had developed in Great Britain. I told him as I told you, my views with regard to the future efficiency of the Canadian force, and I invited him to join me in the formation of a Union Government in which both parties would be represented by an equal number of Ministers, with the exception of the Premier, which I would continue to hold, having regard to the insistence in the Conservative party and my colleagues in the Cabinet."

"He told me that he did not think that conscription ought to be adopted without either a general election or a plebiscite, and so far as he was concerned, as he considered it more in consonance with British institutions and traditions. I asked him whether he had proposed, reasonable in its terms if compulsory service was to be enforced; he replied that he had proposed this, I reminded him that conscription had already been provided for in the Statute Book of Canada in a certain form ever since the beginning of Confederation. He left me to consider my proposal and there was a delay of two or three days."

"My colleagues and my party knew that I had conferred with Sir Wilfrid and they were rather impatient. Finally I went to him and urged him to let me have a definite reply. In the meantime, he had been in consultation with his followers."

Borden's Proposals. "On this occasion I said to him: 'Sir Wilfrid, you spoke of a general election or a plebiscite. Now I propose this; let us form a Union Government, and pass the Military Service Bill, the terms of which you consider reasonable. Let us—the Union Government

which I propose that we form—insert in the bill a clause declaring that the act not come in force until after a general election. Then let us go to the country and invite the opinion of the people on the proposal. If they support the Government, we will proceed with the measure and carry it out; if they declare against the Government, then we shall have done our duty and the responsibility will be laid upon others."

Laurier Made Notes.

"He took his little notebook out of his pocket and asked me to repeat what I had said. I did so, and he wrote it down carefully. He went away. I again asked him for a reply. Three or four days afterwards he came to me and said: 'Before giving you a definite answer I should like to know this. What is to be the constitution of the Liberal-Conservative wing of the Cabinet in case I agree to come into the Union Government?' I said to him: 'Sir Wilfrid, I have already said that this question, with which you and I are concerned, is infinitely above all party considerations. Obviously therefore it is infinitely above all personal considerations, and I pledge myself to you that if you come in and form a Union Government I will make the Liberal-Conservative section of the Cabinet agreeable to you.'

"It was a fairly large order, because it practically gave him the selection of the Conservative wing of the Cabinet, and, indeed, of the entire Cabinet. However, I thought it as my duty to go to that length, and I did so that I am sure he was sincere in what he was coming in. But he returned the next day and said he could not enter a government which would enforce compulsory military service. He added also—he is a man whose memory I revere, and I am sure he was sincere in what he said to me—that he believed after all that, in the national interest, perhaps he might be of some service outside the Cabinet than in it. I did not then agree, nor do I agree now, with what he said in that regard, but in justice to his memory it is only right that I should tell you this today."

"I was confronted with an extremely difficult situation. What were we to do? No union government could be formed, at least not with Sir Wilfrid Laurier. We knew perfectly well that there was a certain wing of the Liberal party which strongly supported compulsory military service, and the question was, whether the Liberal-Conservative party would unite with the section of the Liberal party—on the basis of equality of representation—on the basis of equality of representation in the Cabinet."

"I decided that if a union government could be formed in that way it was my duty to endeavor to form it and negotiations came to the ears of some ardent Conservatives and there was an outburst against giving equal representation in the Cabinet to merely a wing of the Liberal party. The incident was brief but lively. I gave my party their choice: this or another leader. The official Liberals to whom an appeal was made desired another leader and so far as I was concerned I should have been very grateful to be relieved of responsibilities which were weighing very heavily, almost crushing me at that time."

"I set forth the situation fully

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and frankly to my supporters. But my party in caucus when I shall never forget, and which I am sure Sir George Foster will remember, with an outburst of rage and enthusiasm combined, peremptorily declined any such proposal and everything was in the air once more. "We went on with a very heavy and difficult session which finally came to an end in the meantime. I entered into negotiations with unofficial Liberals. "I went away for a few days rest in the Laurentian Hills, and while I was away there developed an extraordinary situation. The official Liberals, having definitely declared that they would not serve under the then leader of the Liberal-Conservative party suddenly came to the conclusion service. He added also—he is a man whose memory I revere, and I am sure he was sincere in what he said to me—that he believed after all that, in the national interest, perhaps he might be of some service outside the Cabinet than in it. I did not then agree, nor do I agree now, with what he said in that regard, but in justice to his memory it is only right that I should tell you this today."

"It had that appearance at first, but after the most careful consideration I came to a different conclusion. If we should reject the offer these men had made, how would our refusal be received by that wing of the Liberal party who were willing to support our war measures? I fully realized that there was a resentment in my party against these official Liberals because of their proposal to replace me as leader. But I was sure I could control that feeling. The situation was grave, and the decision difficult. I finally came to the conclusion that we must resume negotiations with these gentlemen upon their renewed offer. We did so, the Union Government was formed, and, as you know, it was sustained in December, 1917. The Cabinet thus formed was never, from first to last, divided upon party lines. There were many subjects upon which there was controversial discussion, but always there were some former Liberals and Conservatives on one side and former Liberals and Conservatives on the other, and indeed—I say this in strict confidence, for you must never let it pass beyond your very ears—that the two strongest Tories in the Union Government were men who in the past had been classified as Liberals. That sounds an amazing statement, but it is absolutely true."

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