

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink."

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1938

Our Little Hitler

Since the financial year 1935 Germany has presented no budget to the people and has provided no record of its public finances. The Nazi dictators give orders, they spend money, they impose taxes, and they commandeer the people's savings but they do not bother to account for their stewardship.

Sounds terrible, doesn't it? But isn't this precisely what our liquor law administrator has been doing since 1935 in this democratic Province of Prince Edward Island?

Approved Hospitals

Included again this year in the list of hospitals fully approved by the American College of Surgeons are the Prince Edward Island and Charlottetown Hospitals, the Provincial Sanatorium and the Prince County Hospital. This approved list, because of the care with which it is constantly revised, and the comprehensive nature of the minimum standard upon which it is based, is reassurance which a community is glad to get every year that its institutions for the care of the sick and injured are maintaining high efficiency according to constantly enlarging conceptions of what constitutes adequate hospital care.

This is the twenty-first year in which the American College of Surgeons has announced the list of hospitals, chiefly in the United States and Canada, which it has fully and provisionally approved following systematic personal surveys. The current list contains the names of 1664 institutions, representing 74.1 per cent of the total 3,506 surveyed.

An Educational Test

Writing in the Queen's Quarterly, Prof. R. B. Liddy, of the University of Western Ontario cites some surprising results of a test given pupils at the end of the high school course. The test consisted of 25 questions prepared and given to 319 of the students who were entering for the first time one or other of two Ontario universities, the purpose being to discover how much of the factual material learned in public schools is forgotten by students when they are ready to enter university.

"One hundred and twenty-one of the students," says Prof. Liddy, "did not know the plural of the word basis. Some thought it to be 'basises,' several 'basi,' and many believed the word to be the same in the plural as in the singular. Eighty-nine of the students thought that the sentence 'I think it best for you and I to seek divorce' is grammatically sound. Approximately one out of every five was unable to find three places of decimals the average mark made by seven students whose total score was 350. Seventy-four per cent failed to find the number of square yards in eight square rods. The answers ranged from 22 to 810,200. Twenty-one per cent of the students were unable to find what percentage 21 is of 84; some said 400, some 1-4. Forty-three per cent were unable to express the Roman numeral MCMX XVII in the usual way. Attempts varied from 1,127 to 1,000,027."

Other "howlers" declared that the leading shipbuilding centre in Scotland was either Liverpool, Manchester, Londonderry, Leeds, Sheffield or Aberdeen, and 69 did not know that the first of July was Canada's national birthday; and so on. Yet these young persons were entering upon their university courses. They had passed through the public and high schools, and, on the average, rated high in intelligence. Mr. Liddy asks: "Were they poorly taught? Or were they taught things for which later they had no practical use, and which, therefore, they have forgotten?"

It would be interesting to get the results of such a check-up in this Province. Are we wrong in assuming that our public school system—backward as it is alleged to be in some respects—would show better results than were obtained in Ontario on the basis of the questions cited above?

When Disaster Threatened

The appalling ignorance of the German people about the true facts of the recent crisis is revealed by Mr. Floyd S. Chalmers, editor of the Financial Post, who obtained his information at first hand in Berlin.

For example, writes Mr. Chalmers, on the fateful Saturday after the Czech mobilization, a British business leader attended a dinner of 160 Berlin businessmen. Not one man at the dinner had any idea that Europe was in the midst of the most critical storm since 1918. All they knew was that Hitler was demanding justice for the Sudeten Germans; had massed troops and was preparing to use force if necessary. But all assumed that France and Britain were sitting idly by, disinterested spectators of a purely German-Czech controversy.

On the fateful Tuesday, when war seemed inevitable, another London businessman received a call from his German agent, who started talking in matter-of-fact tones about sending salesmen into Czechoslovakia to offer a new line of merchandise. The British businessman was agast.

He said: "Man alive, don't you know that tomorrow Britain may be at war with Germany; that we are mobilizing our fleet, that we have

dug trenches in Hyde Park and that the peace of Europe hangs by a thread? And you call me up about trying to sell goods in Czechoslovakia."

The German could not speak for half a minute. He knew nothing of Britain's preparations, of France's preparations, of Roosevelt's messages.

The Germans by and large knew little throughout the crisis. But after Hitler's speech on that Monday night they sensed that something was up. The few Germans who get English and French newspapers began to whisper the news around and a sense of impending disaster began to spread.

The effect has been to make the German people suspicious of their Nazi leaders. The point of a wedge has been driven between the German people and their rulers. It is only the point as yet. But for the first time, unquestioning faith of the German people in their leaders has given way to what are the beginnings of doubts.

The cheers of German crowds for Chamberlain were heartfelt cheers. Many Germans believe that he saved them from the suicidal destruction of war and more of them will believe it later, as whispers of the better-informed get past the dark censorship of the controlled press and radio.

What finally effected the peace was the fact that, at the eleventh hour, it penetrated to the mind of Adolf Hitler that Britain meant business. "I am told on authority I respect," writes Mr. Chalmers, "that Der Fuehrer was shocked when he was told—not by the stupid Ribbentrop or the sinister Goebbels—that the British had dug trenches in Hyde Park. That particular manifestation of British preparedness may have brought home to the people of England that London would be the first line of attack in the next war, but it brought home to Hitler the fact that the British were finally prepared to fight to the limit to stop him from aggression in Central Europe. The mobilization of the British fleet and the powerful personal appeal from President Roosevelt prepared the way for the telephone message from Mussolini. Hitler's mood changed and the settlement then was easy."

Editorial Notes

Palmerston died this date, 1865. The next big event is Hallowe'en. A full week without rain has made us tolerant now of a warm shower or two. A year ago we had two inches of snow this time in the City, and five inches east of the City. A better crop of potatoes than first anticipated, and much better prices than in the last two years should make business boom to some tune this Fall. Everyone is pleased to learn that the Senior Member for Queen's is able to be back in Ottawa, and hopes that before long he is again at his desk in the Finance Ministry.

Alphonso de Jesse declared that he said "Aska Wanna Jinka Hoo" night and day for a week or more as prescribed by a woman "doctor" in Philadelphia—of all places—but it didn't cure his stomach ulcers. He testified at a hearing at which Mrs. Josephine Sadita was held in \$2,500 bail for the grand jury on charges of practicing medicine without a license.

Germany intends shortly to begin negotiations in America similar to the Anglo-German financial agreement, according to Dr. Walther Funk, Reich Economics Minister. "I have reason to believe that British and American economists are beginning to realize that the German system is the only practicable one in the circumstances," Dr. Funk said, adding a reminder that he had negotiated the Anglo-German agreement which is "proving so beneficial to trade exchanges between the two countries."

Down in Detroit they imprison debtors but the creditors must pay the jail \$17.50 for the service. It seems the debtors enjoy their incarceration immensely, passing the time in cards, song and story. This came to light when a lawyer appeared before the Common Council to complain that the rate was too high, board and lodging in jail being worth not more than \$5. But the Council declined to curtail the jail revenue on that account.

The value of the raw fur production of Canada last year, was the highest in eight years. For the second year in succession about forty per cent of the total value came from fur farms, the balance being the takings of trappers. The fur trade year ends with June, and the latest returns are those for the period ending with June, 1937. For this period the total value of pelts sold from fur farms and taken by trappers was \$16,666,000. In the year ended June, 1936, the value of the raw furs was \$15,464,000 and in the year ended in 1935 it was \$12,843,000. The value of the fur production last year has not been exceeded since 1928-29, when the furs taken and sold were valued at \$18,745,000.

London papers delight to feature boners gleaned in the police courts. Following are some of them: Solicitor at Tottenham Court: When the language was used did you retaliate? Man: Yes, I jumped into the air and came down on my back. Solicitor in same court: Your husband brought you home several presents? Woman: Yes, and he still owes for them. Witness: The motorist nearly killed me. If he had have done I would have let him know all about it, mark my words. Woman: I had suspected for some time that my husband was going to leave me; he was so cheerful and considerate. Clerk: Have you ever been involved in an accident? Woman: Yes, I once saw a horse trip head over heels.

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menagerie-keeping, involving the use of artificial sunlight and the various discoveries in medicine, nearly all zoos have been successful in breeding these animals. As a result they are of very little value, and most zoological gardens would, in fact, be quite willing to present a pair of lions to anyone prepared to pay the cost of their transportation, which has been kept for nearly 30 years in captivity.—London Observer.

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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.

FIGHTING TUBERCULOSIS

Sir—In a recent editorial well named, "The Killers," you mentioned the Montreal Star as stating that according to the report of Vital Statistics of Canada, 1937, seven diseases lead the list of cases was tuberculosis. Heart disease followed with 16,831 deaths during the year; Cancer for 11,981 deaths; Artery malady for 9,603 deaths; Pneumonia for 7,725 deaths; Tuberculosis for 6,527 deaths; kidney diseases for 6,527 deaths; Influenza for 5,264 deaths.

You comment "with one exception they represent increases in the death rate."—In the case of the "White Plague" one head too there are more victims in the death rate, the death rate has dropped 19 per cent in the last ten years, a notable accomplishment. The present rate of progress may be maintained, tuberculosis may conceivably cease to be a serious factor in public health in the course of a few more generations.

I wonder if the people of Prince Edward Island realize how much they have helped toward this disease in deaths from tuberculosis. Yes, the sale of Christmas seals was adopted in Canada in 1927, they have faithfully bought these little messengers of hope and mercy.

There were, on the Island, 116 deaths per 100,000 population, from tuberculosis in 1937 the death rate per 100,000 of the Island population, was 67.7. Who can calculate just how much this reduction is due to the sale of Christmas seals, the paid for diagnostic clinics, X-ray work, nursing care, supervision of families where cases of tuberculosis are suspected, and the prevention and cure of this dread disease? But the people of Prince Edward Island may feel confident that their generous purchase of barred crosses has played an important part, and will play an ever increasing part, in driving from their homes the Arch Enemy—Tuberculosis.

I am, Sir, etc. RUHAMAH SCHEINFELD FRANK

Dr. Johnson's World

(London Times) During the celebrations at Lichfield recently the newly elected president of the Johnsonian Society posed the question what Johnson, were he now living, would think of the present generation and what it in turn would think of him. The shadow of a great anxiety overhangs the present; but in a flight of fancy he depicted Dr. Johnson confronted with a typical specimen of modern man, and fitting on a gas mask. As a contemporary, his wisdom, sayings, and doings have become part of the national inheritance. For there they all are, even for every one to study, in his own works and still more in the "Boswelliana"—both of which, by the way, are admirable holiday reading. One of the first reflections of the modern age will be that few men can have been so good as nothing happened during his lifetime. Johnson himself was probably a year or so older than the old-fashioned in his later years, and he was never, like that supreme man of letters, Cicero, in public life; and there was no Continental, in Germany in particular, intellectual movements of his ignorance in this respect was not singular.

Of both Johnson and Boswell it can be truly said that they wrote and spoke "for our learning." The reader keeps good, sound, healthy company in Boswell's company which may be at times a little too erudite for the common modern. It will be a sad day, nevertheless, when the public ceases to be able to read all the great books, with what loss to practical classes of a nation have a way of hanging together; neglect one or two, and the rest is influenced. In vain are new researches into Johnsoniana, or any other "ana," if it is the main subject "for-te" among pedants to know what Boswell deleted or omitted, which he came to print. More damaging, however, than pedantry is the doctrine that the classics are but instruments of "escape"—that, in fact, it is cowardly to spend time on them. Against this heresy Dr. Johnson would have protested the unscientific eighteenth century. It is a true sense to escape—to escape from an age which has not been able to master or digest the immense accretions of practical knowledge which have come to it and must now apparently always and increasingly be part of the regular apparatus of human life; to have a sign of envy. It is the quality of manners in the society which Johnson knew; but harder to make little of his achievements. All its merits, its style, and a felicity which are now lost along with an assured stability for which this age looks in vain.

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You can depend on the unusual even in showing matches in Algoma. For instance, the Algoma Plowmen's Association has a woman secretary, Mrs. David Gordon, of Dayton, Ohio. She is certainly the only woman secretary of a plowing association in the north country and probably in Ontario. At the St. Joseph Island plowing match Mrs. Thos. Roushau kept Algoma women in the limelight by getting out with a plow and doing plowing good. In the many male farmers look on with envy. Mrs. Roushau is believed to be the only woman ever to have competed at a plow match in Ontario.—Sault Ste. Marie Star.

Shanghai reports Chinese soldiers raided and set on fire a course where the Japanese golf. Is there no limit to these war atrocities?—Toronto Telegram

The surgeon who operated on James Roosevelt at the Mayo Clinic did very well by his patient, but not so well by the peace of the American home. The President's son is making a fine recovery, but Dr. Howard Gray, speaking before a group of professional colleagues in Chicago, implied that it is a disfigurement to have stomach ulcers. The ailment is mainly due to the pace of modern life. Men who are kept up on the go, who are always keyed up, are most susceptible to peptic troubles. Dr. Morris thinks ulcers are "almost a compliment to a man. It is plain what the ailment is when it gets abroad, will do to family peace with just the ordinary dyspepsia across the breakfast table are now told that they must take thought of something to be done. Dr. Morris' daily pollen counts at the Central Park weather observatory confirm the testimony of clinics and of private sneezers. Ragweed pollen comes year by year nearer to driving the title of public enemy No. 1 in how many homes. Nobody knows more about the victims there are in the United States. Estimates range from 2,000,000 to 6,000,000. Even at the lower figure, on the assumption of a thirty-day season and a cost of only 25 cents per person, the cost of this plague to the country must be close to a hundred million dollars. Probably neither grasshoppers nor Japanese beetles were as much.—New York Herald Tribune.

Lion cubs, it is believed, three in number, were born recently to Bessie, a lioness who herself was born in the Regent's Park menagerie. The lions on exhibition in the Zoo now number over 20. It is not so long ago that a pair of lions cost anything from \$100 to \$150. Today, owing to the strides that have been made in

menagerie-keeping, involving the use of artificial sunlight and the various discoveries in medicine, nearly all zoos have been successful in breeding these animals. As a result they are of very little value, and most zoological gardens would, in fact, be quite willing to present a pair of lions to anyone prepared to pay the cost of their transportation, which has been kept for nearly 30 years in captivity.—London Observer.

Notes by the way U. S. corn growers will try to market "corn on the hoof" by feeding low-priced grain to hogs and other livestock. Which is a reminder of the good farmer's advice to his son "Don't sell anything off the land that can't walk off."

Young men look forward to the time when they may become independent. But for several hundred thousand young Canadians independence seems an unattainable state. In this country they have all been to school, have received some training for work, have been imbued with the belief that a worthy life is the useful, independent one. Most of them left school fired with zeal and ambition, so characteristic of youth, went about seeking work, but find, but do not get the opportunity.—Toronto Star.

That there are radical students and radical professors in Canadian universities is beyond dispute. There were not, Canada would be unique among all democratic countries in the British Isles, the universities are comparatively speaking, infested with labor party partisans. Socialists and the like, and perhaps a few genuine Communist tremblers who hear of Britain trembling when this well known and universally admitted fact is brought to public notice?—Ottawa Citizen.

Cranberry Growing In Prince Edward Island

(By H. K. S. Hemming)

THE COST OF ESTABLISHING A WET CULTIVATED CRANBERRY BOG.

In my last letter I endeavoured to stress the point that the only kind of cranberry bog that it would be advisable to establish in Prince Edward Island is one that is supplied with a water reservoir of greater or less capacity. This fact cannot but have an important bearing upon the total establishing cost, depending as it must upon the distance that has to be ditched between the reservoir and the bog. As this latter condition will vary it would not be possible to make within reasonable bounds a general estimate of cost. I shall therefore confine my remarks to the establishing of the bog itself, in which the cranberry vines are to be planted.

The process of preparing a bog consists of five different operations:— 1. Clearing the bog of tree, shrubs, roots, weeds and stones. The cost of this work will of course differ in accordance with the actual surface conditions. While some of the wild bog in Cape Cod are what might be called wild meadows, most of them are swamps in which large and small trees are growing interspersed with shrubs and a variety of weeds. There are also many fallen trees lying on the surface but not many stones. In some cases also the surface is quite uneven, all of which conditions mean that the clearing process calls for a large amount of labour, intelligently supervised. The bogs that I have seen on this Island are not nearly so rough, but the trees and shrubs, the latter to be completely removed. If time of completion is not an important element, an inexpensive clearing method is to burn off the bog with a pile of brush, brush and weeds and then to cover the bog with water for a couple of years in order to rot and kill all the vegetation