

The Charlottetown Guardian

President, Lieut. Col. W. Chester B. McLure... Secretary, Lieut. Col. D. A. MacKinnon, D. S. O.

BURNS Unadulterated

Of value to all students and admirers of BURNS' poetry is the publication "BURNS' Chronicle and Club Director", issued annually in attractive book form by the BURNS Federation, Kilmarnock.

"The poem which makes the widest appeal outside of Scotland," says the writer, "is that which he entitled 'The Cotter's Saturday Night'.

"More annoying, however, is the fact that scarcely any Scottish gathering sings the immortal 'Auld Lang Syne' correctly.

"For Auld Lang Syne— Well, meet again some other night For the days of Auld Lang Syne."

The "cup o' kindness" and the "richt guid-willie waught" are obliterated. "This," comments Dr. WATT, "probably arose from the thought of these being whiskey. But I should risk a wider interpretation, which should cover the changes of the times. I am an abstainer; but I can drink to Memory from an overflowing cup of kindness other than that which is to my Cup of Fear.

"This rebuke, we are glad to note, does not apply to our local Caledonian Club, at whose gatherings the unadulterated version is sung invariably.

Another song, Dr. WATT complains, which is rarely sung save in a garbled form, is that usually rendered—

"O' a' the airts the wind can blaw I dearly lo'e the west."

BURNS wrote: "O' a' the airts the wind can blaw I dearly lo'e the west."

"One can easily see," writes Dr. WATT, "that his natural instinct of style would never have put the repetition of 'lo'e' into two of the four lines. In successive editions, later, a whole handful of variations is given. His text has only two double stanzas, and these, of course, exhaust the whole melody. But there were incorporated into the song—or rather tagged on to it without apology—other four double stanzas, with some lines passably good for a minor writer, but, in the main, sickly sentimentalism, the fathering of which on BURNS is unwarrantable."

Again, the writer quotes BURNS' "Go, fetch to me a pint o' wine—"

which he describes as one of the world's best soldier songs, with an upstanding Cavalier tone, now currently rendered

"Gae bring me me..."

"The first four lines," Dr. WATT says, "are from a song written by LESLIE of Eden, on Devon-side, in the North. Its district of origin explains the stately English form in which it is cast, for that is still the language of the North, when it steps out of its rich native doric. That is where BURNS got his own English, through his father, whose Northern dialect would sound quite alien to his neighbors in Ayrshire, as theirs would be to him. His book-English was the medium of communication between them."

The concluding plea is one in which all BURNS' enthusiasts will surely agree: "The poet is entitled to be protected against having tags pinned on to him, his staidness brought down to vulgar levels, his treasures cheapened into jingling small change of feeble folk frightened for what people might say about them were they to sing the songs as he sang them, who never feared the face of man."

A Scathing Indictment

Scathing was the exposure of the KING Government's taxation policy which Mr. BENNETT made in the course of his speech in Parliament on Tuesday. Opening with a survey of the load of taxes which the Canadian people are being forced to bear, the Conservative leader warned that an effort to raise any sum beyond \$400,000,000 annually from the people would constitute a load which the country could not long endure.

His own Government, Mr. BENNETT recalled, had been bitterly criticized for raising the sales tax to six per cent., for imposing an excise tax of three per cent., and for putting a tax on sugar. Now, the sales tax had been raised to eight per cent., and none of the other taxes had been reduced.

"It is rather amazing," he said, "to find a Government which in Opposition so loudly denounced the tax on sugar, so loudly declaimed against an increase in the sales tax and imposition of an excise tax of three per cent., now in its second budget making the declaration that they do not propose to make any changes with

respect to ways and means for raising the revenue of the country."

Harking back to the DUNNING budget of 1930, he recalled that the sales tax was reduced from two to one per cent. This was done in the face of a drop of \$24,000,000 in revenue and a dwindling world trade.

"Why was it done?" he demanded. "Does anyone suggest it was done to balance the budget, when a deficit was known to be inevitable? Was it for any purpose other than political purposes, knowing that an election was not far off? When I hear the declaration made that we will make no concession to the taxpayer, I wonder if the same idea is in the mind of the Minister and the Government which pervaded their minds in 1930, and that in due season, when an occasion offers, they will make a great gesture to the people with respect to a reduction in taxation, as they did in 1930.

"It must be the opinion of most members that the eight per cent. sales tax has worked a great hardship upon many people in Canada and that applied as it is by wholesalers and utilized as it is by the retailer, in the sum total of the price on which he makes his mark-up, it amounts to more nearly 12 per cent. when it reaches the consumer than the eight per cent. as enacted by Parliament.

"This is a stupendous tax. It is a strain which I do not believe the people can long endure. When I recall Mr. RALSTON's vigorous denunciation of the raising of the sales tax to six per cent., I can readily understand why so many complaints are heard from various parts of the country concerning the increase to eight per cent."

MR. BENNETT was equally effective in dealing with the United Kingdom trade agreement (the same in principle as the 1932 agreement so bitterly attacked by Liberals) and with the extravagant set up of the Unemployment Commission.

Editorial Notes

Britain's air policy requires immediately 15,000 commercial aeroplanes, and 25,000 fighting planes.

This is the anniversary of an artist and tomorrow that of a scientist—Michel Angelo was born March 6, 1474 and Sir J. Hirschel on March 7, 1702.

It is not financial bankruptcy that crushes a country but the rise in the cost of living and that is what we are now experiencing under the Mackenzie King Government.

Russian Communism may be effective as a dominating force, but even the most dissatisfied democrat here must admit it has its drawbacks, so far as individual freedom and safety are concerned.

The B.I.S. is one of our most successful organizations at home, and is to be congratulated on the splendid reports submitted at its 112th annual meeting. Not many institutions here can lay claim to such venerable age and youthful activity.

Even Homer nods. We regret to disappoint the judiciary but we now learn that the \$20,000 in the supplementary estimates is not for the repair of the Law Courts. It is understood the estimates sent in for that work, \$40,000, did not meet with the approval of the powers-that-be and hence appeared on neither the ordinary estimates nor supplementaries.

Lord Baden-Powell, of Gilwell, founder of the Boy Scout movement and Chief Scout of the World, in his birthday message sent to the 2,592,832 Scouts in seventy-three lands told them that they could make a success of their lives by always carrying out the Scout oath. The oath or promise of the Boy Scouts is: "On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the Scout law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."

The City of Brandon defaulted its interest payments on civic debentures and sinking funds for 1937, due Monday. Financial difficulties of the city were discussed at a meeting of the Manitoba Municipal and Public Utility Board, at which city council and school board members were present. The Municipal Board approved Mr. McPherson's estimates minus interest charges after a review of civic conditions by the supervisor, who saw in default the only way toward the eventual solution. Mr. McPherson, K.C., is city supervisor, appointed with a view to straightening out Brandon's financial difficulties.

Hamilton Jefferson, lineal descendant of the third President of the U.S.A. laments the dictatorial policy being pursued by President Roosevelt, showing that it parallels that of Mussolini and Hitler. The opportunity, he says, is the chaotic social and economic conditions, the excuse—the need to save the country from revolution, and the establishment of a strong national government. The system—huge popular majority accepted as a mandate to substitute a new deal for the old system of government. The procedure—making Congress a rubber stamp of the Administration. The result he expresses thus: "?????"

At a rally of the "Quebec League Against Alcoholism" Rev. Dr. John Coburn declared the United Church of Canada was firmly against alcoholism and considered the only solution to the problem lay in an intensive educational campaign teaching people, and particularly youth, the real facts. Alcohol, contrary to general belief a few years ago, was definitely not a stimulant and lowered instead of raised efficiency. Education should be the basis for any legislative programme, Dr. Coburn told the gathering. Government control of liquor sales had definitely not solved the problem, since people would continue to drink whether the government stamp was on the bottle or not.

notes by the Way

Plymouth has been awarded the distinction of being the soccer town in Britain this year with only 66 cases of influenza reported during the last year of the population. It only takes one New Year's Eve celebration here to knock Peperbor out of the running so far as this record is concerned.—Peterboro Examiner.

What might be called the aerial elixir between this country and the Pacific coast is being forged link by link. Experiments in trans-Atlantic flying are to be undertaken in the New Year. Meanwhile, Canada is pushing ahead with the air traffic along the Atlantic coast to the Pacific. Airports on the route are being improved, direction-finding stations and beacons established and the dramatic leap over the Rockies is being brought to the standard of arm-chair comfort. The initial service will be opened in July. The route across the Continent runs from Vancouver to Lethbridge, across the Crow's Nest Pass, thence to Winnipeg, and Elm-dale, where it divides into two, one branch going to Toronto, the other to Montreal, from which city the route continues to the Maritime Provinces.—Empire Review (London.)

If as many people got killed in a week as get killed on our streets, we would be getting new cenotaphs and memorials in the shape of a car, not the bullet, takes them out, and we look on these as a lie without the horror with which we regard the battlefield.—Hamilton Spectator.

Our legislators in Ottawa may well be noted on the plain fact that the British Government is "fighting like the devil" against fighting like the seeking peace pacts—not war alliances. There is a big difference. It was an alliance that carried us into the last war. Then it was justified because it was a matter of life or death to the Empire. It was a deterrent. The hungry Powers may drive us into one again; but the Baldwin Government is striving to make us so strong that we cannot again be frightened.—Montreal Star.

A woman had a ticket to Hamilton one cent a mile, as advertised at Toronto on Saturday last. The train stopped at Penelon Falls, all got out except the woman. She insisted on the railway taking her to destination, a trip of 80 miles there and back. The railway carried out its contract, cheaper to have done so than to have faced a suit in court for failure. Getting a private train at one cent a mile does not happen every day.—St. Catharines Standard.

In brief, though Mr. Chamberlain lacks many of the gifts of Mr. Baldwin—his superb electioneering skill, his reputation as a man of good-will with Left Wing thought, his capacity to rise to the height of his crisis—he will bring to the task many qualities that Mr. Baldwin does not possess. He has immense powers of industry, an ability to infuse into the whole of his administration his own high standards of efficiency, and, above all, a courage that expresses itself in plain language followed by firm action.—The Fortnightly (London.)

The old Prince of Wales Theatre, said to be the first London theatre to have a telephone for seat booking, has passed from the entertainment world. A "farewell" performance recently, the same safety curtain was used, which was installed for the opening performance. This was claimed to be the first fire curtain to be installed in the West End, and had been in constant use for 52 years. A new theatre twice as large as the old building is to be erected on the site.—Christian Science Monitor.

Fifty years ago it would have seemed a perfectly natural thing to speak of "The Christian West" as opposed to the "Pagan East." Today there is hardly anyone who would not feel the incongruity of the distinction. The Great War had something to do with that. The things that had happened since have destroyed the smug complacency of calling this western civilization Christian. Looking at what is going on in Spain and Ethiopia, viewing the Maginot Line between France and Germany, considering the vast expenditures for bombers, battleships, tanks, poison gas and other infernal contrivances by which one nation hopes to impose its will upon another, the word Christian does not seem to fit. With nationalism being exalted into a religion, and communism taking on moody religious fervor, religions of hate and intolerance, "The Jungle West" seems a more fitting description of western civilization than "The Christian West."—Ex.

How can we make the British public conscious of their colonies? It must be done. What are our official defenders doing? Are they telling the story of British imperial achievement? They are not, effectively. We should use the press, the radio, the film. Go and see the picture "The Great Barrier," showing some of the Canadian Pacific Railway, a story repeated in hundred times in the epic of empire. It expresses the imagination and the unconquerable courage of this race in fighting and defeating Nature. It dwarfs the puny struggle, also shown, of one man against another.—London Daily Express.

One must not be surprised if those who amuse the public figure in the first rank of those with the largest incomes in the United States. It is a sign of the times that the intellectual, the savants, the cultivated people, make less money than the boxer, the dancer, the screen star, and the show girls. It is often repeated that never has a period been as highly civilized as ours. Never, not even that of the Later Empire, when actors and circus charlatans held such prominent place. Long live the Byzantine civilization of the twentieth century!—Le Devoir, Montreal.

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.

CORRECTION

Sir,—In my letter of yesterday, under by my own or compositor's error, 25 cents was inserted as price of the rooster purchased by Mr. J. V. Mitchell.

As this unintentional mistake would appear as an unintentional oversight on a respected correspondent, which if made knowingly would command an apology, I hasten to correct it. It was intended and should have read,—"paying \$25.00 for a rooster, which is commendable in my opinion it was a wise investment."

I am, Sir, etc., OBSERVER

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

Sir,—There is a vast waste of big headline and heavy print ado over the supplementary estimates grants to the Island.

In the main they are little more than the ordinary repair and upkeep allowances voted annually for maintenance of public buildings and public works.

The Wood Islands grant, is no doubt a substitute relief help, and very small in proportion to that paid other provinces. And it is infinitesimally small compared with the millions of dollars secured for us when McLure and Myers were at Ottawa. It is still small enough to pass through the needles eye when we count it as a small refund of the half million dollars or more of extra taxes fleeced from the pockets of our people since the King party came into power.

I am, Sir, etc., TAXPAYER

WELLS AND RELIGION

Sir,—Perhaps I am dull of perception but I honestly cannot see that your stance is much clarified by the note appended to my letter re Wells' "Outline of History."

All of the references mentioned are to be found in the index of the 1931 edition and I believe that if such material is to be quoted an up-to-date source should be employed.

Mr. Wells, as I stated, uses one-eighth of the book to trace the origins and growth of the various religions as fully as can be expected in a work of this magnitude. If this is not what is meant by "tracing the great spiritual movements which give meaning to existence" I am sincerely mistaken, and should be glad to have its meaning explained, if any.

I am certainly not aware of any confusion in my mind regarding the meanings of "tabulation of facts" and "revelation of truth." My dictionary gives as the meaning of "fact"—"a thing known to be true," and of "truth"—"in accordance with facts." I know that facts compiled and tabulation of facts inevitably precede the revelation of truth, and any attempt to reverse this order is sufficient evidence, to my mind, of confusion of thought.

I cannot see how much further Wells could have been expected to go without venturing into the fields of romance or prophecy. His book was intended, not as a moral tome, an anthology of poetry, or a must-read textbook, but as a history, and as such, in spite of many defects, I believe it succeeds admirably.

I am, Sir, etc., RATIONALIST.

FRUIT FOR CANNING

Sir,—How satisfactory it would be to your readers if all letters to the Guardian were as accurate, logical and well written as that of Mr. P. S. Reeves upon fruits for canning in your Friday issue. Mr. Reeves knows whereof he speaks and avoids exaggeration. In this matter of the proposed canning enterprise words of caution from all sources should be welcomed, for pitfalls and set-backs must be avoided at all cost. That is why I advised the employment at the outset of the most experienced general manager and factory superintendent procurable in the United States, in which country canning has become a great science and is being assisted in Washington by research men of high repute. There is nothing more costly in time, effort and money than experimental work done in a small way by amateurs. The days of small things are over. To succeed in manufacturing of any kind mass-producing methods must be employed, and they in turn call for buildings especially designed, the latest labour saving machinery and properly instructed workers. The raw materials must also be right in quality, quantity and price, and in canning, this would mean the closest possible cooperation between the management of the cannery and the farmers and fishermen, assisted and encouraged by the Dominion and Provincial governments.

In the Cannery laboratory, where all kinds of analytical work could be carried out, would be a prime essential; also a well equipped kitchen in which a highly educated dietician would do experimental work in tasty and health giving foods.

Mr. Reeves is quite right when he emphasizes the importance of the appearance of the finished product. In canning, next to the flavour and food value of the contents, the label and shape of the

Paying And Controlling

(Vancouver Province)

Every day in every way, Mr. Dunning seems to grow more and more conservative. This is no voicing a criticism. It is merely recording a circumstance. Once Mr. Dunning was a leading prairie radical. And now look at him!

One of Mr. Dunning's latest pronouncements has to do with old age pensions. The Dominion pays 75 per cent. of these, but the provinces, which pay 25 per cent., or divide the payment with their municipalities, exercise exclusive control. Mr. Dunning says he is "giving more and more to believe that when a government disburses public funds it should have control over the manner in which these funds are spent."

That is a reasonable enough principle. A government which has the responsibility of raising money is more likely to spend carefully than a government which receives the money by way of grant or subsidy or donation. All the same, the Dominion's responsibility in Canada makes it difficult to insist upon this principle consistently.

If Mr. Dunning wishes to insist upon it in the case of old age pensions, no doubt ways could be found. The Dominion could pay the whole shot and assume control of the disbursement. It is hardly likely that the provinces, thus relieved of a considerable burden, would raise any serious objections.

Or, if that plan is not satisfactory, Mr. Dunning, as minister of finance, could arrange for the relinquishment to the provinces of sufficient sources of revenue to enable them to meet the whole pensions bill themselves.

But even when the old age pensions difficulty has been removed, there will still remain the question of provincial subsidies—annual grants from the Dominion to the provinces—and these are written into the Constitution itself.

AT NIGHT

I have thrown wide my window And looked upon the night, And see Arcturus burning In chaos, proudly bright.

The powdered stars above me Have lit the heaven's floor— A thousand I remember, I saw a myriad more.

I have forgotten thousands, For deep and deep between, My mind built up the darkness Of space, unheard, unseen.

I held my hands to heaven, To hold perfection there, But through my fingers streaming Went time, as thin as air:

And I must close my window And draw a decent blind To screen from outer darkness The chaos of the mind.

—Michael Field.

Prince Edward Island

Some Phases Of Its History

(By H. Ronald Stewart)

(Of interest to all our readers is the following address, delivered recently by Mr. H. R. Stewart before the Ottawa branch of the Canadian Authors Association):

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am indeed grateful for this opportunity of addressing you. It is always a pleasure to make new friends and to keep old friendships a repair.

We all have the hunters' instinct. No group has more of it than those who are interested in history. There is a special joy in seeking out the causes which have led to great events, and also in searching for those which have brought about the lesser happenings in history.

The charm of Canada's smallest province seems to be its history, the fabric of its history. When Cartier discovered it on June 30th, July 1st, 1534, he made record of his impressions in the following words—

"All the said land is low and plain and the fairest that may possibly be seen, full of goodly meadows and trees." In the strenuous days of the French occupation, the Ile St. Jean was a haven of rest, sheltered and apart from the surrounding conflicts.

The fall of Quebec followed that of Louisbourg, and in 1763 Cape Breton, the Island of St. John, and Canada were formally ceded to Great Britain.

In December, 1763, the Earl of Egmont, then first Lord of the Admiralty, presented an elaborate memorial to the King, praying for a grant of the whole Island of Saint John, to hold the same in fee of the Crown forever, according to a tenure described in the said memorial. On the supposition that the island contained two million acres,—for it had not then been surveyed,—he proposed that the whole should be divided into fifty parts of equal extent, to be designated Hundreds, as in England, or Barones, as in Ireland; forty of these to be granted to as many men who should be styled Lords of Hundreds, and each of whom should pay to the Earl, as Lord Paramount, twenty pounds sterling yearly. On the property of the Earl—to whom, with his family of nine children, ten hundreds were to be allotted—a strong castle was to be erected, mounted with ten pieces of canon, each carrying a ball of four pounds, with a circuit round the castle of three miles every way. The forty Hundreds or Barones were to be divided into twenty manors of two thousand acres each, which manors were to be granted to a Court Baron, according to the Common Law of England. The Lord of each Hundred was to set apart five hundred acres for the site of a township, which township was to be divided into one hundred lots, of five acres each, and the happy proprietors of five acres were each to pay a yearly five-farm rent of four shillings sterling to the Lord of the Hundred. Each Hundred was to have a fair four times a year, and a market twice in every week. There were also to be Courts Leets and Courts Baron, under the direction of the Lord Paramount. A note-note referring to these Courts, attached by the farmers of the memorial, indicates the ideas which were entertained at the time in the old country respecting protection of life and property in the North American Colonies. "These Courts—established by Alfred and others of our Saxon Princes, to maintain order, and bring justice to every man's door—are obviously essential for a small people, forming or formed in a small society in the vast, impervious and dangerous forests of America, intersected with seas, bays, lakes, rivers, marshes, and mountains; without roads, without inns or accommodations, locked up for half the year by snow and intense frost, and where the settler can scarce straggle from his habitation five hundred yards, even in times of peace, without risk of being intercepted, scalped, and murdered."

Land Tenures To epitomize the proposal: there was to be a Lord Paramount of

the whole island, forty Capital Lords of forty Hundreds, four hundred Lords of Manors, and eight hundred Frecholders. For assurance of the said tenures, eight hundred thousand acres were to be set apart for establishments for trade and commerce in the most suitable parts of the island, including one county town, forty market towns, and four hundred villages; each Hundred or Barony was to consist of somewhat less than eight square miles, and the Lord of each was bound to erect and maintain forever a seat of his property, and as a place of retreat and rendezvous for the settlers; and thus, on any alarm of sudden danger, every inhabitant might have a place of security within four miles of his habitation. A cannon fired at one of the castles would be heard at the next, and thus the firing would proceed in regular order from castle to castle, and to be the means, adds the noble memorialist, "of putting every inhabitant of the whole island under arms and in motion in the space of one quarter of an hour."

Lord Egmont's prayer was not granted, and in 1767 the Island was, in one day, apportioned among persons having real or imaginary claims against the Crown. The divisions being numbered, a drawing of lots from a hat took place in London, with the result that districts in Prince Edward Island are today referred to as Lot 30, Lot 48, etc.

(Continued on page 10)



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