

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Further evidences of the turning of the tide of economic depression have appeared in the press during the past few days. Here are a few of the outstanding items not mentioned in our editorial comment of Thursday:

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports that for the first time since August, 1929, the index number of wholesale prices shows an advance.

Premier J. T. M. Anderson of Saskatchewan has forecast improved conditions in his province as a direct outcome of the upward trend in wheat prices. He accepts the rise as an indication that "we have turned the corner."

Canada, in the last three months, has cut her unfavorable balance of trade with the United States to \$16,000,000. In the similar period last year the balance was \$66,000,000. For the nine months of 1931 Canada reduced her adverse balance with the United States almost by half, the total being \$111,000,000, as against \$201,000,000.

Increase of 12.5 percent in newspaper production in September over August. Canada's lobster fisheries yielded 6,000,000 pounds more than the average of the last five years.

Exports of apples from the Annapolis Valley to Great Britain nearly 5,000 barrels more than last year. Nova Scotia Textile Company operating on full time; a Windsor, N.S. furniture factory which has been closed, again operating on full time.

Large increase in dairy production and in the exports of butter and cheese from Montreal to the United Kingdom. Chinese Government making extensive purchases of pure bred cattle in the Western Provinces.

Contracts for construction showed a marked gain, and building permits issued by 61 cities, an increase of 25 percent. Mines production increased 10.6 percent.

A LIBERAL FICTION

One of the factors which told decisively against the late King Government in the last federal campaign was its contemptible effort to make political propaganda out of the Veteran's Pension Act. This Act, which was introduced in Parliament as a non partisan measure, and which received the unanimous support of both Houses, was passed on the recommendations of a parliamentary committee composed of nineteen members, of whom eleven had served overseas. Of these eleven, seven were Conservatives, namely, Colonel Arthur, Captain George Black, General Clark, Dr. McGibbon, Dr. McLaren (present Minister of Pensions and National Health), Dr. Manion, (present Minister of Railways and Canals,) and General Ross. The four Liberal overseas veterans on the committee were Major Power, Captain Hepburn, Captain Sanderson, and Captain Thorson. In the exigencies of the campaign, Mr. Mackenzie King and his supporters attempted to capitalize the pensions legislation for political purposes. The Conservative party had agreed to make no political reference to the passing of this Act, and they kept their agreement, until the matter was injected into the campaign by their opponents. They then had no difficulty in showing that the credit was due, not to the King Government, but to the Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett, who first introduced the measure in 1927. At that time it was voted down by Premier King, his Government and party supporters and was only adopted on the eve of the election in 1930 through sheer force of public opinion hammered home by the Conservative Opposition and Sir Arthur Currie on behalf of the Canadian Legion. This ex-

posure of the real facts of the case promptly put an end to the Liberal propaganda on the subject and no further attempt was made by Liberal supporters to exploit the soldier vote on the ground of the Pension Act, at least not openly.

Again, however, this hoary fiction of the King Government's "beneficence" in passing the Veteran's Pension Act is trotted out, this time in the local Liberal press, to do duty—not in a political campaign but on the eve of Remembrance Day, when the whole community is preparing to cooperate with the members of the Canadian Legion in making the day memorable in its hallowed associations and significance. What prompted our contemporary, at this particular time, to claim the Act as "one of the fine contributions of the King Government towards eliminating soldier grievances," we shall not attempt to say. It is sufficient to state that the claim advanced by our contemporary is an entirely fictitious one, based on the absolute misrepresentation of the facts.

SOVIET RUSSIA

A glowing account of Russia was given to the world by Mr. George Bernard Shaw after a short and superficial visit. A significant reply appears in the New York Herald Tribune from Mr. William H. Grady who spent more than fifteen months as an engineer in the so-called "Soviet Republics" under the most favorable circumstances. He says that as Mr. Shaw is densely ignorant or wilfully pervasive it is high time that someone who knows the facts should tell them.

"I say, from personal observation and absolute knowledge, that a vast majority of the Russian men, women and children are underfed and badly clothed, and are forced to live under conditions of privation and filth such as no American with or without a job would endure. Soup and black bread are the fare on which millions of Russians are forced to labor and exist. They are the puppets of the ruling forces, who enjoy all of the creature comforts and impose their will with the rigors of extreme cruelty upon a hopelessly demoralized and subjugated majority. It is high time that America and the world at large awakened to the facts about the Soviets."

Mr. Grady adds that paid propagandists, subsidized publicists, parlor Bolsheviks, Pinks, Reds and amateur observers as well as the Bernard Shaws are doing much to misinform, mislead and misdirect public opinion as to what is actually going on in that country of mystery and controversy.

AN OPPORTUNITY

There is no local organization more deserving of support than the Canadian Legion, which on Nov. 9 and 10 is presenting a comedy drama, "Heart Cry," in the Prince Edward Theatre. The performance is under the patronage of His Honour Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. Dalton. The director is Mrs. A. H. Roper, and there is a cast of well known local performers. Legion productions are invariably good, and this one promises to be a splendid success. The time is opportune for our citizens to show their interest in the Legion's activities, and they can do so by attending next week's performances in large numbers.

CONTEMPT OF COURT

The Liberal organ in its anxiety to make party capital is guilty of serious contempt of court in discussing yesterday a case before the Magistrate's Court, which has not yet been disposed of.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Not only have enhanced wheat prices brought cheer to the farmers of Western Canada but there is every prospect next year of a bumper Canadian wheat crop. Recently the Hon. Duncan Marshall predicted that Saskatchewan in 1932 will have the biggest crop in its history.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A London cable reports a decrease of 90,000 in the unemployed in the last week which will result in a saving of \$8,775,000 in doles. The decrease, the despatch says, is attributed largely to increase in manufacturing to meet the export demands which have arisen since Great Britain went off the gold standard.

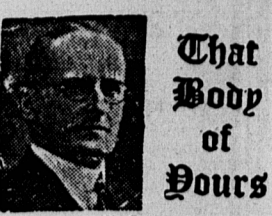
Rebuffed by Labor at the Imperial conference in London last year, the Canadian Government began negotiations with the other parts of the Empire, and the Canadian-Australian trade treaty was the first result. This treaty, which recognizes frankly the principle of Canada-First and Australia-First, aims at diverting to the two dominions much of the trade that they now do with foreign countries. This treaty has shown the way to the rest of the Empire, and Premier Bennett has already renewed his proposal for an Imperial economic conference to be held at Ottawa.

Mr. Thomas W. L'mont, of J. P. Morgan & Co., has issued a statement in which he calls upon Germany to take the initiative for a direct adjustment with France of the reparations problem before America is asked to do her part in any corresponding revision of inter-governmental debts. He expresses the belief that if the European governments perform the task now devolving upon them "the administration at Washington will be prepared to receive with an open mind any fresh debt proposals of a constructive nature that emanate from the governments of Europe."

For the first time in three generations a British Government has a mandate to re-establish the protective system and to develop increased trade throughout the world-wide Empire under the aegis of preferential tariff schedules. Premier Bennett has brought the issue to a head by renewing his proposal for an Imperial economic conference at Ottawa. Mr. Baldwin and his followers in the British Government and Parliament have the clear right of a majority to impose their will upon the House of Commons and we have no doubt that they will do so. It would be a crime against the United Kingdom, the Empire and humanity if the present economic opportunity were lost through weak sentimentalism or political shilly-shallying.

Still another parallel of England's present position is recalled by a correspondent of the London Times. In 1816, from his prison house on St. Helena, Napoleon wrote contemptuously of the course pursued by the British after they had defeated him, thus securing peace for Europe and the world. What kind of a peace, he asked, had England signed after twenty years of war during which she poured out an immense treasure and furnished liberal help in addition to the common cause, and after a triumph far beyond all her hopes? "Castlereagh (Premier) had everything in his hands; what signal advantages, what just indemnities has he demanded for his country? He has made peace like a beaten man. The wretched fellow! If I had been the victor instead of him I would scarcely have imposed harsher terms (on England)." Once more, as often before in history, the British have manifested their steadiness, their loyalty and their strength. And what is more, we may depend upon it that the steadiest race on earth will once more emerge, as often before, into a place of dominant leadership at the head of a united Empire.

It is highly significant that on the immediate morrow of the Nationalist victory in Great Britain the leading Overseas Dominions should at once express a lively expectation that an Imperial Economic Conference would be held in the early future to inaugurate closer trade co-operation between the different members of the Empire. Mr. Bennett announced from Ottawa that his Government would "immediately propose to the Governments of the Empire that the Conference meet in Ottawa at the earliest possible date," and he has followed this up by issuing his formal invitations. From Melbourne come the news that the Federal Ministers of Australia expect such a conference to be summoned early in the new year, while the Premier of New Zealand has already urged this action. Mr. Baldwin, in his pre-election statement, intimated that any such conference would be held in Ottawa on the invitation of the Canadian Government.



By James W. Barlow, M.D.

PREVENTING HEAD COLDS

A recent newspaper item informs us that a considerable sum of money was recently given to the research department of one of our hospitals to investigate the cause of the common cold.

As you know during certain seasons of the year the number of colds seem to be as many in southern as in northern climates. There is really nothing more common than these head colds, and many physicians are now of the opinion that they are due to the most part to the fact that human beings must live indoors during certain seasons of the year.

The trouble starts in the nose because the air enters the lungs through the nose. The air before it enters the lungs has to be moistened by the lining of the nose, and if the air in the home is too dry then the lining of the nose becomes too dry also and is thus in an unnatural, unhealthy condition. And if it is dry and unhealthy it cannot fight off all the little organisms that are about us that can set up an irritation in nose, then throat, and then bronchial tubes.

I have spoken before about the ability of lining of the nose to fight off organisms even if they are placed in the nose every five or ten minutes. That is if the lining is in a normal healthy condition.

And as you know once trouble starts in the nose it may extend right down to the chest and bronchopneumonia or pneumonia may result. Using antiseptics or salt and water up in the nose when there is no sign of a cold, in an effort to prevent colds, may just serve to irritate the lining of the nose. Using antiseptics or a salt solution may be of some help once a cold is started as they can help to kill off organisms.

However there are two things that can be done to help keep the nose in a healthy condition and thus to a considerable extent prevent colds. First, see that the air in the house is kept moist by the use of plenty of water in vessels, or by the mechanical aids now available. Second, see that the intestine is regular, no constipation, because it had been definitely shown that overeating, creating extra waste in the intestine, is another cause of head colds, as the white corpuscles of the blood are so busy fighting harmful organisms caused by excess wastes, that they are not in sufficient strength and numbers to prevent head colds.

The Poet's Corner

Somewhere is music from the linnets' bills, And through the sunny flowers the bee-wings drone, And white bells of convolvulus on hills. Of quiet may make silent ringing, blown Hither and thither by the wind of showers, And somewhere—all the wandering birds have flown; And the brown breath of Autumn chills the flowers.

But where are all the lovers of long ago? O little twilight ship blown up the tide, Where are the faces laughing in the glow Of morning years, the lost ones scattered wide? Give me your hand, O brother, let us go Crying about the dark for those who died.

—Francis Ledwidge.

Painful Backache Quickly Relieved

"My back was awfully sore," writes Mr. Clifford Whitton, Pasphebian West, P.O. "I took three boxes of Dodd's Kidney Pills and they gave me great relief. If I ever need Kidney Pills again I will certainly use Dodd's. I recommend Dodd's Kidney Pills to all my friends and they now say that they are the best Kidney medicine." Dodd's Kidney Pills have restored health to thousands of troubled men and women. Give them a trial at once. They can be obtained at all dealers.

Ramsay MacDonald

(William Blackwood in the Saturday Evening Post)

You would never take Ramsay MacDonald to be in his 65th year. There is a liveness in his step and carriage which a man 20 years younger might envy. It is true that the once raven-black hair is now thickly streaked with gray and that the heavy mustache of a few years ago has been thinned down considerably perhaps as he once confessed to me with a twinkle in his eyes, because it was getting to be just a little too white. But there is nothing of the elder statesman in Mr. MacDonald's figure yet. He bears himself still as he has done through out a very strenuous life—erect, springy, head well thrown back, chin out, arms swinging.

His career follows more closely the trail of From Log Cabin to White House than any other story I know of, and before going on to give some personal and intimate details of my friendship with Mr. MacDonald, it may be well to trace the salient facts of that career as far as these can be presented within the limits of a column or two.

James Ramsay MacDonald was born in 1866, in a two-room biggin' in the village of Loosemouth, Morayshire. His father was a farm laborer and for upwards of two centuries the clan had won a meager existence from the harsh, bare soil of an exposed sea coast or from the waters that ceaselessly lash it. Never, far from the brink "of salt disaster," as Robert Burns phrases it, they nevertheless brought up many families of boys and girls, and if none of these fared forth into the world and made names for themselves or brought fame to their native village, the omission was to be amply rectified by a "lad of pairts" who was destined to become three times Prime Minister of his country.

After a period of idleness at home he received from a friend the half promise of work in London. But on arriving in the great city—with something less than a pound in his pockets—he discovered that the job he had hoped to get was filled. But he refused to give up. London, he determined, was to be his future home and he would either sink or swim—there was, after all, no apparent reason why he should sink. For weeks he tramped the streets looking for work—any kind of work, congenial or uncongenial. He managed to pick up a few shillings in Fleet Street by writing paragraphs for the papers. For a time he addressed envelopes in the offices of the Cyclists' Touring Club. Subsequently he became invoice clerk in a commercial office at a salary of twelve shillings and sixpence per week—exactly three dollars.

His bride, too, was the ideal wife for a politician such as Ramsay MacDonald—a man who became the centre of so many violent and embittered controversies, and who spent himself so lavishly in the service of the cause he had at heart. She shared his hopes and enthusiasms, encouraged him in the midst of difficulties and rebuffs, helped him at every step in his career. "To turn to her in stress and storm was like going into a sheltered haven where waters were at rest, and smiling up into the face of heaven," he wrote after her death.

The young couple spent their honeymoon in Canada. Throughout the war period, Ramsay worked for a peace by negotiation. He made mistakes—nothing, for instance, could excuse the statement, made in the early days of August, 1914, that Britain had entered the war because the Foreign Office was anti-German and the Admiralty was anxious to seize any opportunity of using the navy in battle practice. But on the whole, it is impossible not to admire the intrepid courage that he showed in those dark and difficult days. His meetings in the country were broken up by mobs, at times he was in grave personal danger, but he kept unflinchingly to the course of what he believed to be his duty.

Also, he visualized very early what the political consequences of the war were going to be; that Labor, now divided against itself, was bound to get its chance after the conclusion of peace. At the general election of 1922, Ramsay was triumphantly returned for Aberavon, a South Wales mining and industrial constituency. After this election the Labor Party mustered 142 members in the new House of Commons and, as the second strongest group, they automatically became His Majesty's Opposition. And the man chosen to lead the Parliamentary Labor Party and therefore to be leader of the Opposition, was James Ramsay MacDonald. The political suicide of a few short years ago had not only staged an almost incredible comeback, he had taken his place at a single stride, in the front rank of British statesmen.

Reminders and Reviews

John Ruskin had some idea of being a painter himself when he became the champion of Turner. But he was so eager to sway the opinion of others that the pamphlet started in defense of Turner became the five-volume Modern Painters, and Ruskin found himself, unexpectedly, a literary man, and an art critic. As he had given some time to the study of art, and had always been an ardent lover of beauty in Nature, he was well equipped for the work awaiting him. More than that, he had a degree from Christ Church, Oxford, and a wealthy father; an ideal combination for a literary tyro with pronounced, though variable, views on nearly everything. Not that he was fickle or untrue to his ideals, far from that; his goal was beauty and high standards of living, and though he changed his route many times he never lost sight of that goal.

His earlier works are written in a poetical, decorative prose; later, he simplified his style, but his writings are always smooth and gracious. One does not agree with Mr. Ruskin at all times but his exquisite prose will always be read for its own sake.

In 1853 (when he was thirty-four) Ruskin began to give public lectures, and sixteen years later he accepted the Slade Professorship of Fine Arts at Oxford which he held for thirteen years. He was in great demand as an art lecturer but he turned, in his later years, to economic and social questions, and became, it would seem, a social reformer. Some ideas expressed during the period were impracticable, and fanciful as he realized later, but there are many wholesome truths, and inspiring thoughts to be found in his educational lectures, published under the titles of "Sesame and Lilies," and "The Crown of Wild Olives." Readers of Ruskin will recognize this quotation from the preface of the latter volume.

"Free-heartedness, and graciousness, and undisturbed trust, and required love, and the sight of the peace of others, and the ministry to their pain—these, and the blue sky above you, and the sweet waters and flowers of the earth beneath; and mysteries and presences, innumerable, of living things—these may yet be here your riches; untormenting and divine; serviceable for the life that now is; nor, it may be, without promise of that which is to come."

And others from his lecture on "Traffic" in the same volume: "The entire object of true education is to make people not merely do the right things, but enjoy the right things—not merely industrious, but to love industry—not merely learned, but to love knowledge—not merely pure, but to love purity—not merely just, but to hunger and thirst after justice."

"What we like determines what we are, and is the sign of what we are; and to teach taste is inevitably to form character." From "Sesame and Lilies."

"A well-educated gentleman may not know many languages, may not be able to speak any but his own, may have read very few books. But whatever language he knows, he knows precisely; whatever word he pronounces, he pronounces rightly."

"He only is advancing in life whose heart is getting softer, whose blood warmer, whose brain quicker, whose spirit is entering into living peace."

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quicker, whose spirit is entering into living peace." "And whenever a true wife comes the home is always around her. The stars only may be over her head, the glow-worm in the night-cold grass may be the only fire at her foot, but home is yet wherever she is; and for a noble woman it stretches far around her, better than celled with cedar or painted with vermilion, shedding its quite light far, for those who else were homeless." "Art is neither to be achieved by effort of thinking nor explained by accuracy of speaking. It is the instinctive and necessary result of powers which can only be developed through the mind of successive generations, and which finally burst into life under social conditions as slow of growth as the faculties they regulate." In his lecture, "Of Queen's Gardens," in this same volume, he eulogizes the work of Coventry Patmore, and uses this well-known poem by that author: "Ah, wasteful woman! she who may On her sweet self set her own price, Knowing we cannot choose—but but pay, How has she cheapened Paradise! How given for naught her priceless gift, How spoiled the bread and spilled the wine, Which spent with due respective thrift, Had made brutes men, and men divine."

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