

The Charlottetown Guardian

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Viscount Halifax's Visit

Great Britain having evidently decided to explore once again the possibilities of an agreement with Germany that might be made the basis for general European appeasement, it is for this undertaking the Cabinet has significantly chosen Lord Halifax, who has a reputation for friendliness toward the Reich—not Mr. Eden, who is believed to have opposed such an approach to Hitler at this time. Today is fixed for the fateful interview with Hitler, the preliminaries already having been taken in interviews with lesser dignitaries.

Presumably, says the New York Times, Lord Halifax's conversations with Hitler and other German officials will center on, but not be limited to, the relations of the two countries. Yet however circumscribed the agenda, any discussion of Anglo-German questions is bound to affect Europe as a whole. Such problems, for example, as those created by Germany's demand for colonies and by its rapid naval and aerial rearmament program, though they concern Britain more directly, perhaps, than any other power, cannot be considered apart from the interests of France. The more fundamental issues—the attitude of the Reich toward German peoples across its frontiers, in Czechoslovakia, in Poland, in Austria; and a possible pledge by Hitler of non-aggression in the Middle East corresponding to that which he offered in the West—are clearly continental in scope.

British public opinion is said to be almost unanimous in approving Lord Halifax's mission. Nearly all groups, irrespective of their inclination to trust or distrust the Reich, feel that another attempt must be made to counteract the present dangerous tendency to divide Europe into two hostile camps. Twenty-five years ago Lord Halifax vainly sought in Berlin for a way to check a similar tendency. Though Lord Halifax's task is not easier, at least one new factor increases his chances of success; today there is a more widespread understanding than in 1912 of the price of failure.

Apples Of Discord

Speaking in Charlottetown at the Conservative convention recently, Mr. Bennett recalled that the only Liberal member who supported the Empire agreements in 1933 was Mr. Hsley, who did so because he represented an apple-growing constituency in Nova Scotia. There was just as much reason for Mr. A. E. MacLean, who represented a Prince Edward Island bacon-producing constituency, supporting those agreements; but he not only didn't do so—he talked and voted against them. So did most of his colleagues.

This is old history now. We have lived, as Mr. Bennett drily remarked, long enough to see all those Liberal opponents of the Empire agreements get up and vote for their extension, and even eulogize Finance Minister Dunning on his statesmanship in negotiating them without losing the valuable preferences obtained by the Bennett Government in the British market. But the United States also is anxious to come to trade terms with Great Britain, and it is reported to be particularly anxious to get into the British apple and lumber markets on even terms with Canada. This means loss of our preferences on these commodities and Mr. Dunning, who realizes what a splendid bargain Mr. Bennett made in the first place, is said to be standing pat. Prime Minister King, on the other hand, who prides himself on being a "Gladstonian Liberal" and abhors Imperial preferences as "a Tory conspiracy," is known to be favorable to a U. S.—Great Britain agreement, even at the expense of our Canadian farmers.

That was the situation existing when the Nova Scotia general provincial elections were held, shortly after the last Imperial Conference in London. The electors, concerned about the danger of losing their apple preference, were solemnly assured by Liberal spokesmen that no such danger existed, that the continuance of this preference was guaranteed under the new agreement with Great Britain, and they need have no fear about the United States cutting in on them. Rumors to the contrary were dismissed by the same Liberal spokesman as just another "Tory conspiracy"; and the election returns showed that the Nova Scotia voters accepted this explanation implicitly.

Time marches on, and now we come to an interesting news item in the Halifax Chronicle (Liberal) which is dated Toronto, Nov. 16 and is headed "Apple Tariff is Important." It quotes Hon. John A. MacDonald, Nova Scotia Minister of Agriculture, at the Royal Winter Fair as stating that the British preference on Nova Scotia apples (the "Bennett preference" he might have said) was "a great help, and important not only to the East, but to all Canadian fruit growers." "Just now," continued Mr. MacDonald, "our fruit growers are especially worried because of the rumor that the United States government, in arranging a trade pact with the United Kingdom, is pressing for a reduction in the tariff on apples entering Great Britain's markets. This would adversely affect our Nova Scotia fruit growers much more than any others in Canada, as we have not the large centres of population and are very largely dependent on the British market."

That, in view of all that has gone before, is an illuminating speech for a Liberal cabinet minister to make. Mr. Bennett is presently in Halifax, and we hope he will not lose the opportunity of commenting on it. The latest development is the announcement that agreement has been reached between the United States and Great Britain to negotiate for a reciprocal trade pact, with the likelihood that the British Government may consent to consider

granting to some American products treatment equal to that which it now accords to goods from the British Dominions under Empire preference. Questioned as to the possible surrender of some of Canada's preference in the British market to facilitate these negotiations, Premier King "would not comment in any detail." This is not calculated to allay the suspicion of our Nova Scotia neighbors that their valuable apple preference—notwithstanding Liberal assurances to the contrary—is in danger of being wiped out.

Editorial Notes

Bargain Day No 2,
Schubert died this date 1828.

The fact that the British Government are making preparations for evacuation in the event of air raids is merely a price they are paying for the maintenance of peace.

The British Government in pursuance of their policy of preparedness have placed an order for 20,000,000 sand-bags with Dundee jute manufacturers for March delivery.

Isn't it a most convenient coincidence that just when Hitler is demanding a return of German Colonies, discovery should be made that it was a German and Icelandic who first set foot on American soil thus exploding the "Columbus Myth"!

A fortune of about 200,000 pounds (\$1,000,000) was left by Sir-Johnston Forbes-Robertson. It is one of the largest ever left by a famous actor. The bulk of Sir Johnston's estate goes to his wife, the former Gertrude Elliott. His greatest money-making production was "The Passing of the Third Floor Back," of which he was part owner.

It is unsafe to prophesy unless you know. On the eve of the recent drop in stocks, Mr. Oliver Stanley, President of the Board of Trade declared in the House of Commons, "From all the information I have at my disposal, I do not believe in the imminence of a disastrous slump." At the same time he warned the House that there was a real danger that "slump talk," would lead toward a slump. Next day's newspapers contained reports that "the unexpected" had actually happened.

The Live Stock Branch, Dominion Department of Agriculture state there is a good demand for Canadian-bred horses of the saddle and hunter types not only in Canada but in the United States and the British Isles at encouraging prices. Canadian draft horses are also finding a ready market both at home and abroad. On September 27 last, a shipment of 50 Clydesdales and Percherons left Montreal consigned to a buyer in London, England. Most of them were raised in the West and were personally selected in Montreal by the English buyer, who paid a good price for his selections, which he considered were excellent in every way.

Dr. Keeping's explanation of our unenviable reputation for death-rate per 1000 is quite all right though regrettable. Until 1928 the U. S. A. and the west drained us of our young and virile population, leaving us with, as the Hon. Mr. Fielding once declared in Parliament, the extremes in age as the bulk of our population. It is natural under such circumstances that our death-rate should be higher than provinces more fortunately situated. Our problem now, how is greater than ever. It is now hard to find a living for the young and virile for whom there is no outlet to U. S. A. and the West.

The Government organ has the temerity to assert that the roads are in good condition, and advises the Guardian to go to Prince County and Kings County to prove it. Alas, that is unnecessary. Yesterday a correspondent at Alberton telephoned us that the roads were in a horrible condition and his car had got stuck four times. Last week a good Liberal called upon the Minister of Public Works and complained bitterly about conditions in Kings County where he himself had got stuck, besides having had to help out another in a similar predicament. The trouble is, and nobody with an ounce of sense will deny it, the time for making the roads is the Spring, whereas the Campbell Government, neglecting to do this, started out in the late Summer and Fall. The logical consequences are now being endured.

Higher prices for foods, fuel and clothing, together with increased rentals were responsible for an upward movement in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost of living index from 83.6 in September to 84.1 in October. The comparative figure for September, 1936, was 81.3. The food index rose from 78.3 to 78.9, influenced by higher quotations for eggs, milk, tea, dairy butter, bacon and salt pork. Beans, onions, potatoes and most meats recorded declines for the same period. Seasonal advances for coal and coke resulted in an increase in the fuel index from 84.5 to 85.3. Rentals were somewhat firmer, being 89.0 as compared with 87.3 in the month of May. Moderate increases in woollen goods and women's shoes caused a slight advance in the general index for clothing.

The Bureau of Fisheries Washington report that its fish restocking experiments proved that "just pouring a few cans of trout into a stream and leaving the rest to anglers isn't enough," adding: A three-year check of anglers and their catches at Furace Brooks, Vt., showed that both fish and angles decreased in number since restocking began. The bureau concluded that unless its fish planting methods were improved anglers would be "more and more dissatisfied." In 1935 in Furnace Brook catches totaled 8,589 trout; in 1936, 6,995 and in 1937, 6,385. The catch per day for each angler was seven in 1935 and about six in 1937 and 1936. The decrease in trout had been confined almost entirely to brook trout which the bureau stocked while rainbow trout, which had not been stocked, "held their own," the report said.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Before the Japanese depredations the Chinese conducted a very useful weather bureau on Pratas Island. Since the Japanese have been in control of that weather bureau on Pratas Island, three short and comparatively uninteresting messages have been received from the representatives of that nation which is, on the surface, so anxious to co-operate with other nations in the useful ways of peace. It is significant that whilst information from Pratas Island concerning the progress of the typhoon which passed Hong Kong recently would have been of the utmost value to the community at large and shipping people in particular, yet not one single message was received from that Chinese station which is being usurped by the Japanese. Whilst other foreign shipping in China waters was denied the information which the Pratas Island station should have disseminated, yet it is known that the Japanese are sending messages in code to their own ships giving typhoon progress particulars.—Hong Kong News.

An epidemic of "German" measles has been reported; but why "German"? It is significant that it was formerly known as "French" measles, just as influenza (which got its name from Italy) has been called "Russian." For centuries the foreign nation responsible for the "measles" was France. In France itself the foreign nation was England. Thus, "to take French leave" was called on the other side of the Channel "taking English leave."—Cape Argus.

The business of keeping a city's water supply sweet and palatable usually requires more thought and effort than keeping it pure; most bad odours in water are caused by harmless microscopic organisms that give off oily, fishy tastes. More than 1,000 in the United States now purify their water supplies by treating them with activated carbon, which is a hundred times more powerful in absorbing tastes and odours than old-fashioned charcoal.—Municipal Review.

Air conditioning, although first approached from the standpoint of achieving personal comfort, has developed rapidly along industrial lines as well, and it now plays an important part in many industries where temperature and humidity affect the product. In the food fields, where already notable results have been reported. The prospects are that the next five years will see rapid advances taking place in the utilization of this "artificial air." It is not unlikely that its general effect on the food conditions and modes of living will be as striking as that resulting from the development of the telephone, the motor car and the radio.—St. John Telegraph Journal.

Sir Harry and Lady Chauvel came back by the Canadian route. Sir Harry saw nothing of the army and air force in Canada, the staff being mostly away on manoeuvres, which were too far afield for him to visit. He did, however, see the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, of which his old friend, Major-General Sir James MacBrien, is commissioner. They are a very fine body of men, and their detachment at the Coronation shared with us here—everywhere in Canada except in the western prairies. He found Canadians much more concerned at the world situation than we are, and everywhere he went he was asked what the people of Australia thought about it.—Australasian (Melbourne).

Reading the infantile paralysis figures for the United States—8,450 reported cases this year up to October 16 and less seasonal decline than usual—we may be thankful in New Brunswick that we got off as lightly as we did. However, it should only put us on our mettle as regards the future.—Telegraph Journal.

Juvenile delinquency appears to be on the increase, and it almost appear to be a new cycle in modern life. It could very well be done without, but, being here, should receive recognition and the most serious consideration from every citizen. Youth needs sympathy and guidance, first at home, then from the other agencies and authorities.—Brockville Recorder and Times.

The remark that those students that do their homework are the ones who don't need to do it, brings to mind Mr. Dooley's famous discovery about life. "Wan ivy the strangest things about life," he said, "is that the poor, who need the money the most, are th' very ones who never have it."—Winnipeg Tribune.

Artificial wool has appeared in Germany as a serious rival to the natural fibre. In a space of four years German wool production in Australia wool have fallen by about 60 per cent. The explanation is that in the interval the German urge for self-sufficiency has kept scientific research workers engaged at high pressure in quest of a substitute for wool. They found it. At first their product was unsatisfactory; now, although not yet perfect, it compares reasonably well with real wool in strength, elasticity, durability and other characteristics. Its cost price is about half that of wool; it is steadily improving in quality and variety; and it is in general use for clothing.—Irish Independent.

That Body of Hours

By James W. Barton, M.D.
WILL POWER WILL REDUCE WEIGHT

A large institution, employing hundreds of men and women office workers, has a lunch room for each department. Hearing a discussion on weight reduction among the women employees, the head of the department broke into the discussion with the remark that anyone could reduce weight if they had enough will power—will power enough to refuse to eat less food, particularly bread, potatoes, sugar, pastry, butter and fat meat.

"Did you ever try it?" he was asked. "No," he replied, "but I know I can take off a pound a day for ten days just to show you that it can be done." He was not over the weight—six feet tall, 190 pounds, age 45. The employees admitted that there was no need for him to reduce from the standpoint of appearance.

There was a set of scales in the department and he was weighed every day. Sure enough, the weight came off at the rate of one pound a day and at the end of the ten days he had taken off exactly ten pounds. He was kind enough or wise enough not to say, "I told you so." When asked how he had been able to accomplish the task he had set for himself—to lose a pound a day for ten days—he said he just sat down and figured out what his daily diet really contained: cream in his cereal in the morning, cream in his coffee (two cups), three slices of bacon, two slices of toast well buttered; lunch—bacon and egg toasted sandwich with coffee, and a piece of pie; dinner—soup, meat and vegetables, custard or other dessert, a glass of whole milk.

Knowing that starch foods, fat foods and all liquids were the foods that stored fat in the body, he used milk on his cereal and in his coffee, one square of butter, one slice of toast, one slice of bacon, and one cup of coffee for breakfast. For lunch he ate the coffee, two slices of toast well buttered, and drank water instead of coffee with cream and sugar. For dinner he left out the soup, the potatoes and the dessert and drank skimmed milk.

About ten days later he was asked to step on the scales and he had put the ten pounds back on his body. All he said was, "I just wanted to prove that will power was all that was needed to reduce weight."

The Poet's Corner

TO THOMAS HARDY

Mingled the moonlight with daylight—the last in the narrow-ling West;
Silence of nightfall lay over the shallows in valleys at rest.
In the Earth's green breast:
Yet a small multitudinous singing,
A lullaby of voices of birds,
Unseen in the vague shelving hollows,
Welled up with my questioning words:
All Dorsetshire's larks for conviviality of sweetness seemed
trusting to greet
Him in whose poems the bodings of
raven and nightingale meet.

Stooping and smiling, he hearkened.
"No bird-notes myself do I hear.
Perhaps 'twas the talk of chance
farers, abroad in the hush
with us here—
In the dusk-light clear?"
And there peered from his eyes, as
I listened, a concourse of
women and men,
Whom his words had made living,
long-suffering—they flocked
to remembrance again;
"O Master," I cried in my heart,
"loam thy tidings, grievous thy
song;
Yet thine, too, this solacing music,
as the earthfolk stumble
along."
—Walter de la Mare in The Spectator.

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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.

"THE CHELTON TURNPIKE"

Sir—A few days ago a yellow tractor and its team, a green road machine, appeared on the Chelton road and it became known to the inhabitants of the district that they were to have a new, modern thoroughfare quite surpassing the Bennett Trans-Canada Highway in motor transport facilities.

These machines were manned by two sturdy Liberals. A number of men were engaged to work upon the road, the majority of whom were (needless to say) Liberals.

Now the fact that this road was in need of repair cannot be disputed. There were several very bad holes in it and the rest of the road was at least fit to travel upon. But why, when the road was in no worse condition than it had been all summer, the Liberals should choose at this most unseasonable time to bear to repair it, is slightly beyond the reasoning power of this humble brain. And now as a result of these latest Liberal activities it is quite impossible for any sort of vehicle to travel on the road at all.

One-half foot of fine sand, which sifted over the surface of some nearby farmer's field, would have made an excellent soil for growing potatoes, was left all over the surface of the road. Straight down the middle was left a neat line of green sods, evidently to serve the same purpose as the white line on an asphalt highway, namely to keep wandering motorists on their own side of the road. Now they do not drive on any side of the road, they land in the ditch!

One victim of this latest Liberal outrage is the rural mail courier. This long-suffering servant of His Majesty (himself a staunch Liberal) who will doubtless see the "light," before many more trips over his mail route) has been forced by reason of the severe havoc wrought on the new speedway by the heavy rainfall of the last three days, to abandon the Liberal highway and traverse through lanes and back fields across farms owned by three loyal Conservatives, until he reaches the only decent road hereabouts, which was made by a well known Conservative during that fateful summer two years ago, when this present administration was returned to power.

Yesterday, this same unfortunate mailman, drove up to put mail in a box and found his car caving in in mud revolutions into the ditch. Shortly afterwards three Conservative men were seen hauling him out. Today a prominent local produce buyer came driving around in his 1937 Terraplane, with the intention of asking some of the farmers to sell him some turnips and potatoes to him. Seeing the condition of the road, he immediately decided that any shipping from this region was utterly impossible. When, before he had driven one-eight of a mile, more Conservatives were to be seen, retrieving him from the muddy Liberal ditch, it was readily assumed that this unfortunate buyer has decided to ship his mail to the Liberal side of the road. He had driven one-eight of a mile, more Conservatives were to be seen, retrieving him from the muddy Liberal ditch, it was readily assumed that this unfortunate buyer has decided to ship his mail to the Liberal side of the road.

"ANOTHER VICTIM OF THE CHELTON TURNPIKE"
Chelton, P. E. I., Nov. 16.

REFORMERS AND EDUCATION

Sir—Those reformers who advocate a radical change in our present system of education seem forgetful of the fact that our citizens would have to pay for such a change. The reformers would entirely eliminate Latin, French, Geometry and Algebra from the common public schools. They positively declare however, that they would not eliminate these subjects from the general system of education in Prince Edward Island. It is clear enough then, that in order to retain these subjects they would seek to establish a system of high schools throughout our province. This system of high schools might be a very ideal one, but it is well I repeat for our citizens to remember they would have to pay for it.

Such a sweeping change in our system as would be brought about by a sudden and wholesale elimination of Latin, French, Geometry and Algebra from our common public schools would be nothing short of disastrous to the general system of education on P. E. Island. It would be far wiser to move slowly, allowing the present system to gradually evolve in the direction of more high school centres until such time as every pupil would be within walking distance, or at least riding distance of a high school. Then, and only then, could the advanced subjects be entirely eliminated profitably from the common public schools. I do believe however, that Latin and French could profitably be eliminated, provided the present standard of English and mathematics was retained, without materially affecting the general standard of education on P. E. Island.

DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS
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land. At least the amount of Latin and French now required for entrance to P. E. I. might be reduced to one-half of it, as recently suggested by a member of the Legislature.

In the meantime however, the common public schools of Prince Edward Island afford as good an education for the average boy and girl of this province as any province in Canada; of this I feel quite convinced, having come in contact during the past 25 years with pupils from all grades of practically every province of Canada. Our system is still far from being perfect, but it is far from being as defective as the "new lights" would have our people believe. It would in my opinion be far more profitable to our youth if our reformers spent more of their time and persuasive ability in persuading all parents to send their boys and girls to the public schools of our province until through grades 9 and 10 of these schools, taking at least in these grades the course in English, History, Geography, elementary science, and mathematics. I can assure their children would have no mean foundation for the pursuit in later years of a more special study along the lines of their practical work, or for the requirement of that broad general culture that can only be acquired by reading good literature.

I am, Sir, etc.,
LIBERAL ONLOOKER

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