

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1934

THE CANAL COMMISSION

The comprehensive information supplied to the Chignecto Canal Commission yesterday by members of the Charlottetown Board of Trade was highly commended by the chairman, Dr. Surveyor. In matters of this kind it is facts and figures that count. The Commission hearing was concluded in less than two hours—a remarkably short time, considering the details covered. All the evidence submitted was in favor of the canal project.

The opposition taken in Halifax to the proposed canal is that the money would be better expended in implementing the full terms of the Duncan Commission report, especially in the matter of cheaper freight rates. The Commission will be justified in believing that so far as the Boards of Trade of Charlottetown, Summerside, and Alberton are concerned, the Chignecto canal scheme meets with unanimous approval.

The Commission hopes to have its report completed in time for submission to the Federal Government at the next meeting of Parliament. This, however, will depend on the extent of further inquiries which have yet to be made, by correspondence and otherwise.

Apart from the specific object of the investigation, a useful purpose will be served by securing so much first hand information as to the shipping conditions in the various parts of the Maritimes, and the disadvantages under which Maritime trade has been conducted.

A TIMELY PARLEY

Free Trade is dead in England. But its chief mourner, the Manchester Guardian, still clings to the hope that there is life in the corpse. Its post-election criticism of Premier Bennett for being "in too much of a hurry" in his desire to re-assemble the Imperial Economic Conference is a case in point. The Guardian's contention is that the difficulties which have prevailed hitherto have not been removed from the situation; but this is a statement which can scarcely be corroborated by facts. Premier Bennett's proposal for Empire tariff preference at the Imperial Conference was turned down by a Labor Government in which a Free Trade element predominated.

What is the situation today? The mandate given to the National Government in Great Britain is sufficiently comprehensive, and sufficiently emphatic, to enable that Government to enter into a trade arrangement with the Dominions upon any basis which may command itself as mutually advantageous. The platform upon which the Government appealed so successfully to the British electorate included the provision of whatever safeguards might be deemed necessary in the interests of British industry and British labor, and the adoption of a protective tariff as a possible and even probable safeguarding measure, was clearly indicated. It is not to be supposed for a moment, says the Montreal Gazette in this connection, that the British Government in executing this mandate will have recourse to any system of tariff protection which does not afford preferences for the British Dominions and dependencies.

As regards Canada, for example, the preference so long enjoyed by British exporters to this market could scarcely be overlooked. Establishment of a system of Empire preferences has been a conspicuous plank in the British Conservative platform, and although the National Government is not Conservative in name, a Conservative element predominates, as it does in the new House of Commons at large. Even if this were not the case, the policy upon which the Ministry went to the country, and which has been so splendidly endorsed, is binding

upon all the members of the Government, Conservative, Liberal and Labor alike, and it only remained for some one of the interested governments, whether in Britain or in the Dominion, to take a first step in applying that policy in furtherance of the Empire trade movement. Canada took the initiative with a preference on British imports in 1897. It took the initiative at the last Imperial Conference in Mr. Bennett's presentation of a definite proposal to the then British Government, "a preference in the Canadian market in exchange for a like preference in theirs." The other Dominions promptly subscribed to this offer. It is fitting and right that the initiative should be taken again by Canada, and this has been done by Premier Bennett in suggesting that the adjourned conference at Ottawa should take place without further loss of time.

AUTUMN LEAVES

Real literature is where one finds it. With undeviating frequency one finds it in the editorial columns of Canada's oldest daily newspaper, the Montreal Gazette. Here, for example, is the concluding passage of an autumn elegy, sandwiched between political articles in its issue of Oct. 29:

"Autumn has a strange affinity with spring. It seems as if, in memory of earlier days, this season turns back wistfully towards the color scheme which was the firstling essay of April. The leaves still on the bough droop as it were broodingly, and spread their lightest gold to the sun-gleam. The sky above them, and above the bleached stalks, is one vast tremulous blue crystal, and sets up the russet and saffron semi-tones of the leaves with a glorious distinctiveness that reminds us that 'October brown' is beautiful alike for what it gives and for what it takes away. There are vagrant leaves assailing upon the air. Every breath of the breeze shakes down more of these exiles who join the ragged and crinkled heap of roots and leavings upon the lawn grass, or huddle together at the edge of the sidewalk. Shuffle the foot into this torn mob of remnants and the sound is like that of a wave smashing itself upon the rocks. One wonders wherefore so much artistry is expended upon transient things. And again, the spread of thin boughs at the treetops, with their tracery set over against the sunset light, is part of a picture that haunts the heart as the shades gather around the first evening star which peeps like some pale primrose out of the vast arch of the firmament. The spread of color throughout the whole realm of nature is a subject which deserves close attention and of which too little is heard. And never is there better opportunity for studying this gentle excess of beauty encompassing all things than during the days of October when nature teaches us that what seems a world going to decay is a world hiding its treasure for better days yet to come."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Speaking at Toronto on the currency situation, the other day, Hon. H. H. Stevens stated that France and the United States, though holding nearly 70 per cent. of the world's gold, did only about 26 per cent. of the world's trade. The British Empire, according to League of Nations statistics, did 30 per cent. of the world's trade in 1928, 29.1 per cent. in 1927 and 28.6 per cent. in 1928. About 40 per cent. of the Empire's trade in inter-empire, but a larger percentage than this of the trade of the United Kingdom is with Empire countries. In 1930, almost 74 per cent. of Britain's imports came from British countries, while nearly 60 per cent. of her exports went to the Dominions or colonies of the Empire.

NOTES BY THE WAY

At the citizens research institute meeting at Hamilton recently the president said: There are few governments who do not yield to political pressure, the public which demands the increase service often forgetting the cost. It is a subject to which public attention may be very profitably devoted.

The net effect of the visit to Washington of Premier Laval of France says an exchange is now to be formally pronounced dead, and decently interred. There will be few mourners. The fact that France has won her point, in that the emergency provisions of the Young Plan are to be invoked for the purpose of ending formally the debt-exaction system, does not affect the essential truth. The world economic system has come perilously close to breaking down completely. Some of the causes of the near-breakdown are imperfectly understood. But there is no doubt as to one factor. The attempt of the United States to extract from Europe vast quantities of gold in payment for munitions and other goods sold in wartime was a chief cause of the depression. It is idle for politicians in the United States to pretend to their people that war-debt payments may be resumed at some future date. Europe is not going to go through the agony of making ends meet to correct depression—for the mere purpose of starting in again on the same vicious process that created the present distress. The Laval-Hoover conversations mean, in brief, good-bye to war debts.

Chicago owes her teachers the tidy sum of \$17,705,000. They haven't received a penny of it since last April. Some of them would like their salaries reduced to a point at which the city might feel justified in resuming payment—say five or ten dollars a week. Though teachers seem to be fourth-dimensional creatures, with few of the ordinary human qualities, they have been known to eat, and eating costs money.

"Debunkers" are now attacking a long-established law of health. Dr. Hill, former chief of the bureau of ventilation and sanitation of the Chicago health department, declares that "fresh air isn't fit to breathe. There is an erroneous impression," he states "that air conditioning simply means the cooling of air. That is not so, for the term implies the control not only of temperature, but of humidity and the cleanliness of air as well. Later, perhaps, the control of air pressure, too, will be widespread. The day is coming predicts an exchange when houses will be built without windows and all ventilating will be done through a plant in the home."

Most careers are made or marred in the hours after supper. It may seem to some that the few hours between supper and bedtime afford small opportunity for education. But these were sufficient for millions of men who by turning these hours to advantage through special studies, advanced themselves above their fellows. "Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of." Benjamin Franklin, who said this, not only understood the value of time, but he put a price on it that made others appreciate its worth.

Some of the British election laws might well serve as a model for Canada in several respects. Campaign expenditures per candidate are limited to 12 cents per voter in city ridings and 10 cents per voter in the rural constituencies. There are drastic penalties for violation. But the British practice does permit each candidate to send post-free to every voter one piece of campaign literature—pamphlet, newspaper, or whatever else is desired. The great weakness of the British law, as of the Canadian, is that there is no enforced publicity of the finances of party headquarters. In recent contests, however, some of the parties have voluntarily published their headquarters' balance sheets. Publicity is the safeguard of public decency.

If Canada can maintain the gold standard, as the Bennett Government now intends, she will strengthen her position and restore her dollar. She has no such difficulties as those encountered by the British Government. Ottawa is not necessarily moved by what happens in London. Mr. Bennett appears to be taking the wise course in refusing to listen to the arguments offered by stock market interests in Montreal and Toronto who think that Canada would be better off if she followed the



By James W. Barton, M.D.

YOUNG FOLKS AND GOLF

You are reading frequently about fifteen and sixteen year old boys who are making real reputations as golfers. It is not unusual to find boys still in their teens in the first ten for a championship prize.

Now there is nothing wrong with this. A boy can't make himself a golfer without training himself to do as he was instructed, to remain calm and self controlled, and to learn to take the disappointments that come when he is the least bit 'off' his game.

However I'm just wondering if these boys are playing enough of the other games of youth, games like football or soccer where they must measure strength, speed, and skill against opponents; where they must learn to get thrown to the ground, must take hard knocks, must learn to play on the line when they'd like to play half or full back, must learn to control the temper when they receive hard knocks. In other words, at a time when they are enthused, excited, worked up to the feverish point, they must behave themselves as real men should behave.

What is the result of playing such games? The boy becomes an all round common sense average man in the community. He has learned that he has certain rights and he sees to it that he gets them. He has learned that the other fellow, his neighbor, likewise has certain rights and is entitled to them, and his sense of fairness, developed by play, keeps him from interfering with the rights of his neighbor.

He learns to take his knocks, the disappointments of life, not perhaps with a smile always, but with the knowledge that he has received knocks before, and that they come to everybody. During these knocks or reverses he steadies himself because he knows that steadiness, not flights of temper or emotion, is what he needs at this time.

My thought is that golf is a splendid game and it is rather a good idea to learn to play when opportunity is possible, so as to get the natural swing or rhythm. Golf will then be a joy when one becomes middle aged or elderly.

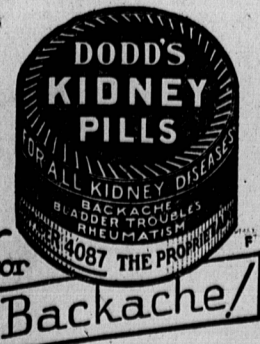
However if golf and golf only is the only game to be played by young boys, I think it is a mistake, as many of the necessary lessons of life will be lost if other games, group games, are not played also.

HARVEST

Now must I be more lovely for your loving, And, winnowing beauty from the chaff of days, Plan richer harvest for your vision's proving, Deeper unfolding for your spirit's praise. In this, the second springtime of my sowing, I shall know beauty and the ripe grain's worth From flailed hours and the keen winds blowing The husk and wastage of the littered earth. And I shall know how few things really matter— Brief moments sifted from the bulk of years, The thoughts I make my own, the dreams-I scatter, Love's proving, and the challenging of fears. From wind and sun and threshing floors of pain I must bring loveliness for love again.

—Marian Brown Shelton in New York Times.

British example and departed from the gold standard as a temporary expedient.



That Body of Ours

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.

KILLING TRADE

Sir:—While the best minds in all sensible communities are doing their best to help out trade and commerce, our City Council are on the periodic game to injure business which does not affect their own pockets.

In these days of severe depression and low prices for farm products to buy goods, consume food, and circulate money, is stressed by the biggest men in Canada, as the best means of lifting the wave of stagnation.

Charlottetown is the one city in America which seeks to limit trade and put the consumption of native grown foods under a red tape restraint. I have been told that laws in "restraint of trade" are beyond the power of any province. Whether a City Council is above the Dominion Parliament in legislative power I am not lawyer enough to say. The licensed eating houses, large users of potatoes, vegetables, eggs, meats and other farm products, are told by civic rulers that they must cease doing business on Sundays from 1 a. m. to 12 p. m.

Druggists, without paying license fees and without limit of hours, are allowed to sell teas, coffee, cocoa's, chocolate, baking soda, cream of tartar, tobacco, cigars, cigarettes, matches, flavorings, hot and cold drinks, pipes, soaps, perfumes, shaving appliances, talcums, confectionery, ice cream and other sundries, not used in medicine, at any hour, day or night, without offence to the tender nostrils of those in power. If a licensed restaurant dares to sell any one of these articles, he is visited by the police or haled to court.

If giving a hungry traveller a meal after a cold days travel and exposure, is wrong on a November Sunday, how does it become virtue and a right on a balmy Sunday in July? If it is sinful to feed our own people on the Sabbath, by what rule of reasoning is it right to keep open house in summer, because of tourist traffic? Is it no harm to propagate sin amongst the strangers within the gates, so long as (in winter) they enforce abstinence and Sabbath observance amongst the people at home?

The closing of eating houses may be law, but I doubt it. That it is a perversion of business judgment and common horse sense no one, claiming to be sane, will undertake to deny.

I am Sir, etc.

THEO. GEORGES Venetian Gardens.

Gold Exploration

(Financial Post) Canada, in attaining the position of the world's second largest gold producer has reached one of the most satisfactory objectives in its history, since gold and its production are subjects that economists are tremendously interested in now. Gold is looked to, to bring the world back.

This coveted position as a producer of the gold that now means so much to the government in settling adverse trade balances in the United States, has great significance. It has demonstrated that gold mining is one of the few great depression. To an important extent gold production is alleviating enterprises which are immune to economic ailments.

It has been estimated that the cost of producing gold is almost equal to its market value of \$20-27 per ounce. That is the expenditure in the prospecting for and the production of one ounce of gold costs nearly \$20. This cost includes the expenditures of those producers which do not reach a profitable basis as well as those profitable ones that become dividend payers. But one dollar of gold has a value in this world greater than its market price and the money is well spent.

The business of winning gold from the ground is a very vital factor in the economic life of Canadian citizens, particularly at the present time, when other industrial activities are at a low ebb.

Important as is the present gold production, of far greater importance is that it be maintained, or better yet increased, to satisfy the needs of a nation increasing in population and in industrial importance.

This requirement urges the further exploration for new gold fields to supply the deficiency caused by the extraction now taking place. Any impetus, therefore, that

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will further this end is of the greatest economic importance. At the present time Canada is gold conscious. Exploration is being carried out on a scale seldom seen before. The premium paid on gold production since the advent of the heavy exchange rates on United States funds has been an added incentive to exploration and while it may be but a coincidence, it is gratifying that since the re-inauguration of this premium payment in the past few weeks, two important gold finds have been recorded in Ontario.

the tariff, and millions read the sport page, or went to the movies, or listened to the radio. Piled together, it makes an extraordinary picture; a picture of a world heedless, haphazard, mostly happy. It is a picture found every

day between 24 pages or less of any newspaper, wedged in between advertisements; these in themselves telling that despite all the babel confusion and the talk about depression, most of us are still doing business at the same old stand.

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