

The Charlottetown Guardian

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 5 1937

U. S. Potato Production

Over-production of potatoes in the United States this year has occasioned concern across the boundary line. The estimate to date is 404,500,000 bushels, a greater total than ever was calculated at this time in the season previously.

A programme of research, permanent organization and diversion are some of the proposals. Unfortunately none of them will produce results in 1937 when they will be urgently needed.

The problem, suggests the Fredericton (N.B.) Gleaner, is of concern to Canadian producers also. There may be the possibility of United States potato prices being low enough to permit exportation to Canada.

The Sydney Shaker

Maritimers are a long-suffering race where transportation grievances are concerned. We were under the impression that Prince Edward Islanders had the most to endure in this regard.

"On Wednesday night, July 7, the Honourable Board of which I am a member started from Halifax at 6:30 p.m. (A.S.T.) for the steel city. It was too early to eat in town, there is nothing to eat on the train, so most needs wait for Truro, 64 miles off, before satisfying the inner man.

"Coming back Friday night we were 45 minutes late at Grand Narrows running out of Sydney. The lobstermen we picked up at the Sydneys were of more importance than the passengers. The driver was still the same or his blood relation.

The Tourist's Dollar

The question of where the tourist's dollar goes is answered in "Motor Magazine" which reports the result of a careful analysis of tourists expenditures as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Category and Percentage. Includes Miscellaneous purchases at stores (26 per cent), Transportation (20 per cent), Hotels and other lodgings (20 per cent), Restaurants and other eating houses (21 per cent), Amusements (8 per cent), Confectionery (6 per cent).

In other words, 66 per cent of the expenditure goes into the tills of local merchants and suppliers from which it is spread throughout the town.

From these figures it can be seen that the tourist's dollar is worth going after. The tourist industry is one that must be nurtured until finally established, and this latter condition can only be obtained by giving visitors full value for the money they spend.

The Church And War

What should the attitude of Christian people be to war? A clearcut answer to this question was too much for the Protestant church leaders and laymen at the World Conference on Church, Community and State, which recently met at Oxford.

It was felt that in order to remove these differences everything possible should be done to promote a study of the problem by people of different views. Christians, it was held, should labor in every way against war and for peace.

This report was prepared by a special sub-committee headed by Dr. Visser 't Hooft, Netherlands scholar, who is also world secretary of the Student Christian Volunteer movement. The report was also considered by the section of the conference headed by Dr. John Mackay, president of Princeton Seminary, and which included Viscount Cecil and other prominent laymen.

The problems created by the war and left unsolved, said the framers of the report, have found expression in resurgent nationalism, in selfish isolation or in antagonistic national groupings. It was recognized that grave difficulties stand in the way of international order principally because "law and force never have been brought into effective working partnership."

The heart of the present evil was to be found "in the claim of each national state to be the judge of its own cause."

Finsler's Comet

A new comet has made its appearance, but in a region of the sky which is devoid of bright stars, and therefore difficult at present to locate. This condition, scientists tell us, will be remedied soon, for the celestial visitor is moving at the rate of about three degrees a day in the direction of the Big Dipper. On the night of August 10, according to the prediction of Dr. Allan D. Maxwell of the University of Michigan, it will pass between the two middle stars of the Dipper's handle.

Editorial Notes

Another good half holiday for the storekeepers.

Scattered thunder storms leave some districts out in the drought.

Montague Races passed off successfully without the customary rain.

Queens County Conservatives are to meet in Charlottetown on Thursday 12th inst.

Canada signified her intention of entering the Great War with the Mother Country, this date 1914.

King's County Liberal patronage is now in the hands of a committee owing to the continued illness of the member, Dr. Grant.

In Fitchburg, Mass., a State motor vehicle inspector was testing an applicant for a driver's license in practical driving. Passing a church bulletin board he asked applicant what was on it. "Safety zone; go slow," was the nonchalant reply. The board merely gave the subject of the Sunday sermon. Investigation revealed that a friend had taken the reading test for the applicant.

Writing to the Montreal Gazette, Mr. J. C. McGuffey, Ottawa, says: "Both the late J. S. Ewart, noted author of the Kindom Papers, and the late Sir Joseph Pope, secretary to Sir John Macdonald, Premier of Canada, branded as fictional the story that the 'Dominion' was named because of Tilley's reading of the Seventy-Second Psalm, as quoted in your issue of today from the Manchester Guardian. The story is about twenty-five years old and has been contradicted fully a hundred times. 'Dominion' emanated from the brain of Sir John A., and the Tilley story was evidently the pious notion of some scriptural student whose zeal for religious propaganda was greater than his regard for the truth."

The Bishop of Bradford, (Dr. A. W. F. Blunt), who intends visiting here, will be recalled as the one who took the first step in making the people of England aware that some trouble was likely to develop over the association of former King Edward VIII and the present Duchess of Windsor, after the British press had kept scrupulously silent on the affair. Apart from his official ecclesiastical appointments, the Bishop is vitally interested in a number of religious and secular enterprises. A keen theatre-goer, he is president of the Actors' Church Union. He is also president of the Church of England Women's Help Society. His lively interest in social questions has brought him to speak on several occasions before the Industrial Christian Fellowship.

They have, on occasions, a rather unique way of settling differences in England. Here is the story of how Lord Morris, 34-year-old solicitor, at his words with a relish. Attacking inquisit procedure in the House of Lords he referred to the jury investigating the disappearance of Frank Vosper, the actor, from an ocean liner, as "a band of Sussex yokels." Then he accepted an invitation from the "yokels" to dine with them and was received by the seven jurors in dinner jackets in a room which had for decorations pitchforks, turnips, straw and a wheelbarrow. On a big marrow was inscribed "Functus Officio" (having performed his duty). Said the jury foreman: "We appreciate very much the sportsmanship of Lord Morris in coming among us. We do not blame him for speaking his mind. I have a great respect for any man—particularly a member of the House of Lords—who has the courage of his convictions." Said Lord Morris: "No one has greater admiration for Sussex than I have. But I reserve the right to say what I like in the House of Lords. I am not paid for going there. By blackguarding coroners I am cutting my own throat—it cannot do me any good in my business. It was a piece of bad luck—which has turned out to be good luck—that the Eastbourne coroner was so right in having selected the best men. Nine times out of ten I should have been right. In this case I am wrong."

NOTES BY THE WAY

If any doubt remained in the minds of some people regarding the magnitude of the tourist trade it should have been dissipated over the July 4 week-end by the cold figures of the customs men at the border. The tourist trade is important. When it is known that 170,000 cars passed the border at Niagara, Fort Erie and Windsor, it is realized what an enormous sum is involved. Even with an average of but three to a car and that is considering a million Americans came to Canada in a holiday and spending mood.—Kitchener Record.

It is not intended here to establish any logical connection between a decline in the consumption of alcoholic spirits and an increase in general wild spirits. But when one reads about all the acetates and purtans and anchorites now running amuck in the world, a person begins to wonder. Hitler does not drink, smoke or eat meat. Stalin is a teetotal abstemious man. We believe and puff at his abstemiousness. The latest devotee of vegetarianism and teetotalism, if we recall rightly, is General Franco. Consequently the temptation is strong to send out for great quantities of cigarettes and whisky, and at Havana cigars, and some there down the throats of these abstemious autocrats. It might wear them from much more sanguinary appetites. The world would be easily reconciled to the loss of Hitler's dicta if only his totalitarianism went with it.—New York Times.

After all the property owner is the most defenseless person in this country. Each year, regardless whether he derives any income from the property he must pay a stipulated amount in taxes. Those who own no property on which to pay taxes may as often as they choose, vote additional taxes against his property. If he protests or improves his property and adds to the appearance of the town his taxes are correspondingly increased. A tax on property is a tax on thrift. The tax should be on the spendthrift.—S. D. Times.

The Insull napkins went at 50 cents each, dollies sold at a twelfth of the original value, and a \$5.00 dinner set for the sides to the top bidder at a mere \$390. To the conscientious auctioneer, these deep-cut rates were nothing less than "sacrilege." The thing that might have been most enlightening to the harassed auctioneer is the fact that the bargain hunter, like some great financial czars, never let sentiment interfere when money is involved.—Vancouver Sun.

Surely there is a lesson for the world in this. If the Balkans, and the Middle East, which have long been regarded as backward and barbaric can transform themselves from plague spots to pillars of peace, surely the most advanced regions of Europe can shake off their devotion to the law of the jungle.—London Free Press.

There is a good chuckle in the story of the Chattanooga storekeeper who put up an empty cigar box in his store under a sign reading: "Police got my slot machine; please put your money in here." The chuckle comes from the fact that his patrons took him at his word, so that in a few days the box was nearly full of coins. The average customer likes a joke, and isn't tossing away a nickel if it appears to have some sense. The point, however, is that the customer who "played" this cigar box got just about as much for their money as they would have got if the slot machine had never been removed.—Winnipeg Tribune.

The blue whale is the largest of all living creatures and almost certain, the largest the world has ever seen. It is reported to reach a length of 100 feet and its weight has been put, by calculation, at between 150 and 200 tons. The greatest length I can find authentically recorded for a blue whale is 95 feet, but specimens over 90 feet are still fairly common. If one considers the length and bulk of a full-grown elephant in relation to these measurements, it will be seen that the volume of a blue whale is equivalent to that of about 20 elephants. The common orca rarely according to current statistics, reaches a length much beyond 70 feet.—New Statesman.

A midwestern practical jokesmith wired a huge and useless iron dog, which stands in his front yard, for sound. As visitors entered his driveway, then shadows actuated an electric eye which caused the dog to emit ferocious growls. Other jokesmiths can now perform similar stunts, because a New York firm has brought out a little metal box 6x8x12 inches, which is fitted with connecting inbuilt. Applied to advertising signs or display windows, the mere wave of a pedestrian's hand will turn on lights, start a washing machine into action, start a radio playing, start anything.—Business Week.

At a recent convention of pianotuners in Chicago it was revealed that the piano is almost as helpless a victim of the corrupting moth as the fur coat and the dress. The piano offers at least five vulnerable points to the insect. Moths like to lay their eggs in the hammer-barrow because it is lined with felt, regarded as a particularly delicate material. The moth-worm, the hammer-head itself is lined with felt, to say nothing of the bushing, head and lever of the damper. So if you find moths flying around your piano, do not imagine it is a taste for music which brings them fluttering.—New York Times.

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 FARMERS' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT

Sir.—The discussion in the Senate which was partly published in the press, and the letters which have appeared in the Charlottetown dailies give, I think, the public a fair idea of the administration of the above mentioned Act in this Province. Everybody must see that "Fair Play" in his letters tries hard to confuse the issue and his letter in the Patriot of the 23rd ultimo is worse in this respect than any of his previous epistles. In that letter he makes a very crude and incorrect attack on the Senate itself which certainly is not under consideration at the moment. Lest any one might be led astray by "Fair Play's" tirade against the Senate I beg to submit some facts, not one of which I feel sure Senator Sinclair, from whom "Fair Play" quotes largely, will dispute.

The large, and most important part of the work done by Parliament, which term includes both the Commons and the Senate, is done by the standing and select committees, and this work is not published in Hansard, and gets but brief mention in the press. The standing committees of the Senate often meet in the forenoons, the afternoons and even sometimes in the evenings, so that the conscientious man who is really trying to do his duty works from eight to twelve hours a day while the House is in session. Many Senators when not engaged in committee, or in the House, are studying in their rooms or at their homes, preparing themselves for committee and House work. Sometimes important bills come from the Commons to the Senate in a very unfinished state; they might almost be called scraps of paper. After days and even weeks spent upon them by committees of the Senate they go back to the Commons finished and ready to become Acts of Parliament. The work of the Senate in such cases has often been commended by men who knew what they were talking about. Occasionally the Senate refuses to pass bills that come to it from the Commons. We all know now that we have too much railway mileage in Canada. Some years ago the Senate killed several railway bills that came from the other House. If it had not done this the mileage would be much greater than it is, and the burden which is now almost unbearable probably would be overwhelming. Of course, I know that many members of Parliament do not even try to earn their indemnities while others more than earn their. Reform of Parliament so that all would at least try to do their duty would be very desirable, but it will never be brought about by the publication of ill-digested letters over fictitious names. Such reform, if it ever comes, will have to begin at the bottom with the electorate. The electors should be far more careful than they generally are in the selection of candidates for public life, and they should regard the franchise as a sacred trust, as a thing above money and above price, also above whiskey and rum.

As I see it, the duties and the responsibilities of citizenship are not taught as they should be in the homes, in the schools, in the press and in the pulpits. We hear a great deal about our rights, but our duties sit lightly upon many of us. A few weeks ago I read a communication in the Patriot over three letters of the alphabet, J. F. W., stating that Archbishop McNally of Halifax had instructed his priests to feel nothing to do with politics. I feel pretty sure no such instruction was given. He might have warned his clergy against the dangers of getting mixed up in party politics, but that would be an entirely different thing. Politics are the science of government and citizenship, and any man, clergyman or layman, who does not try to understand and do his duties as a citizen should not have the privileges of citizenship.

Beides trying to confuse the issue "Fair Play" in his letters continually harps on the idea that if some members of Parliament and others do wrong everybody else is justified in following their example. No more vicious principle could find lodgment in the human mind. Its general adoption would mean the abolition of the whole moral code. The man who advocates such a principle must be either insane or totally depraved, and as such should receive no consideration. But the fact that a respectable newspaper admits him to its columns over even an assumed name gives him a certain standing, and justifies me in exposing him. I do not pretend to be a judge of journalistic ethics, but it seems to me that freedom of speech and freedom of the press, like every other good thing can be abused. And the man who deliberately tries through misrepresentation to bring the legitimate parliamentary institutions of his country into contempt is at least a potential outlaw. It is the way that nearly all anarchists begin their nefarious work.

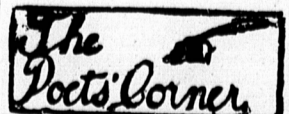
The only comment I shall make upon "Fair Play's" references to myself is that he shows himself to be totally ignorant of parliamentary rules and procedure. He claims that a committee of the Senate is completely whitewash his friends, the administrators of the Act. If he is sure of that why not get his special friend and patron, Senator Sinclair to ask for such a committee. He seems to think it would be sure to destroy me. Then why hesitate? I don't suppose any of the racketeers would weep over such a result.

I feel pretty sure that a large majority of the people of the Province are dissatisfied with the administration of the F. C. A. Act, and would like to see a change. This brings us to the consideration of what should be done. I suggest that the administration of the Act be given to the Judges of the county courts, to be dealt with in their regular circuits. This would eliminate the enormous "extravagances" we have hitherto experienced, and would likely carry out the intention of Parliament in passing the Act. Whether this suggestion meet with public approval or not, something of a public character should be undertaken, I think. Meetings, called by the governing bodies, in the cities and towns might be held to discuss the subject, or letters might be written to the newspapers by responsible persons.

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men over their own signatures which could hardly fail to accomplish some good. My responsibility in the matter is no greater than that of the average public man and citizen, and I am willing to undertake my share of the work.
I am, Sir, etc.
J. J. HUGHES.
Souris, P. E. Island.
August 3, 1937.
Facing Realities
(Globe and Mail)
Prime Minister King's assertion that Canada can scarcely hope for immunity in another war will be all that is necessary to bring the damnations of the "unarmed" isolationists cascading about his head. Blinded by their own prejudices, which in today's world of militant nationalism fall short of "peace idealism," they resolutely refuse to admit realities, or even to face the conditions which force those realities upon us.
There was much the same sort of pacifism abroad in Britain three years ago. It was boasting quite a record as a peace-agency. Its claims included the creation of that state of mind which made British disarmament possible. By "peace ballots" and similar tactics it successfully tied the hands of authority against reversal of the policy. Then, suddenly, it bumped its head against cold, hard reality.
There can be little doubt that the Baldwin Government would have had extreme difficulty in getting its defense loans past the House of Commons before Abyssinia. Collective security was still a theoretical force. Most of the realities of European politics were wound up in the red tape of Geneva treaties. Then came the Anglo-Italian clash in the Mediterranean. Britain was forced to back down. Mussolini's naval and air strength in that sea exposed the real extent of her weakness. Collective security wilted away. Without a strong Britain there could be no such thing.
Today those same pacifists, grudgingly perhaps, admit that only by rapid rearmament has Britain emerged again at the top of the heap. They recognize, too, that it, more than any other factor, is holding Europe out of war. More than fencing off the brink, British rearmament stands against the solidification of those Communist and Fascist blocs which the Spanish war has threatened world security.
To talk neutrality, to plan immunity, is to talk the language of the ambitious militarists. Nothing could suit their purpose better than a world divided into nations pledged to neutrality at any cost. The only course left to pacifism is the offensive one. It does not mean war. It means the alignment of democratic nations against autocracy. It depends upon a strong, unified British Empire, on States and those remnants of the system left in Europe, saving together they will resist aggression.

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"ITS QUALITY NEVER VARIES"
Winnipeg, (CP)—Children of the Point Douglas school, near Winnipeg, wound up their school term by forming a league to outlaw "scraps" among their number.



THE JOURNEY
Because I could not stop for Death, He kindly stopped for me; The carriage held but just ourselves And Immortality.
We slowly drove, he knew no haste, And I had put away My labor, and my leisure too, For his civility.
We passed the school where children played, At wrestling in a ring; We passed the fields of gazing grain, We passed the setting sun.
We passed before a house that seemed A swell of ground; The roof was scarcely visible, The cornice but a mound.
Since then 'tis centuries; but each Feels shorter than the day I first surmised the horses' heads Were toward eternity.
—Emily Dickinson.