THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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PEACE PROSPECTS

As the year 1934 draws to its close the spotlight of world interest still centres on the danger of war arising out of racial animosities in Europe, and the possibility, during the coming months, of establishing enduring peace relations. All other questions, humanly speaking, are subordinate to this, because on the maintenance of peace depends the world's economic recovery and indeed the continuance of civilization as we know it today.

This subject is dealt with editorially in the London Spectator from a standpoint which is decidedly reassuring. The Spectator sees convincing signs that Europe's "nerve-crisis is passing: for a nerve-crisis it undoubtedly has been." Foolish, windy and irresponsible talk of war, it says, has been prevalent everywhere; and in this kind of talk, more than in any concrete cause, has lain whatever serious danger of actual war there has been. Now the tide has begun to turn; sanity is showing evidence of reasserting itself. An example is cited in the case of the Marseilles assassinations, which in another period might well have led to immediate war. France, Italy and Jugoslavia all showed laudable constraint during that crisis. It is true that since then Jugoslavia has lodged a serious indictment at Geneva against Hungary as a conscious harbourer of terrorists, that Hungary has both repudiated and resented the charge, and that the subject is under discussion by the League of Nations. But that does no more than emphasize the value of an international tribunal without whose existence the danger to peace would be far greater than it is.

The danger in Europe, as the Spectator sees it, narrows down, broadly, to the two questions of German disarmament and the future of the Saar. Russia, by common consent, has anxieties enough in the Far East to keep her occupied. Poland and Germany have composed their differences. The nations of the Balkan peninsula, historic gathering place of storms, are making their new-forged Balkan Pact a reality, and maintaining better relations with one another than at any times since 1914. The Little Entente States are still, as they have always been, a stabilising factor. The differences between France and Italy, never capable of leading to war, are losing rather than gaining in acuteness. Austria inspires ultimate but not immediate anxiety. There remains only, to justify alarm, the unknown factor, Germany. Even there the sky has sensibly lightened, for the Saar settlement achieved at Rome by a committee of the League of Nations Council is an event of the first moment. That Germany and France should agree on the terms to be paid to France for the mines which since 1920 were her exclusive property was an omen of great significance. As the Spectator expresses it, without goodwill no accord could have been reached; and with goodwill there is no accord that cannot be reached. Profound differences between these two countries remain. France is still seriously concerned with the effect of German rearmament. It is suggested, however, that with the Saar question peacefully settled, as it is hoped it will be settled next month by plebiscite, the approach might be paved by Great Britain to an agreement on the strength of which Germany would return to the League under securities satisfactory both to France and the Nazi authorities. The achievement of such an agreement in 1935 would be a great forward step in establishing permanent peace relations, and it is certainly not impossible of fulfillment.

There remains, of course, the question of Japan and her naval ambitions, with which the Spectator article does not deal. If Japan abrogates, as she threatens to do, the Washington Treaty of limitation, it is almost inevitable that the United States will launch a huge naval building programme, which in turn will react on the armament policies of other powers.

BANK DIRECTORATE

Shareholders of the new Bank of Canada, numbering over 10,000, will vote at Ottawa on January 23, personally or through the Minister of Finance, for the seven directors whom they are empowered to choose, the federal Government having already appointed the Governor and Deputy Governor. The shareholders' directors will be in three categories: Class A, which must include two representatives of primary industries—agriculture, fisheries, lumbering, mining, etc.; Class B, composed of two representatives of commerce and manufacturing; Class C, consisting of three representatives picked from fields other than those in Class A and Class B.

The creation of a central bank will open a new chapter in the history of Canadian finance. The new institution through its influence on monetary policy will profoundly affect the economic life of the country. In order that the Bank shall not be controlled by any single interest or combination of interests, no person may own more than 50 shares, thus insuring a widespread distribution of the capital stock. It is provided also that no stock-holder in a chartered bank shall hold Bank of Canada shares. The shareholders of the latter have, therefore, a serious responsibility in making their choice of the seven directors, who should, as far as possible, be thoroughly representative.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow is the last Sunday of the year.

It takes something extraordinary to postpone a Sunday School Christmas Tree celebration; it occurred on Thursday.

Looking-back and reviewing our progress or otherwise during "the year that's awa" will be in order during the next few days.

Thinking he was where he was not caused an engine brakesman to throw a switch open which resulted in 15 deaths and 50 injured in the train disaster near Hamilton, Ont.

Mr. J. J. Johnston, K.C., told the Montreal court in the "conspiracy" case that "we have a prohibition law, so that it seems that we should have a few bootleggers among our local characters." But 54 others similarly accused come from provinces or countries where there is no prohibition.

A seventy-five year old Island lady is the mother of Flon-flon, one of the most northerly towns in Canada. She was the fourth white woman to settle there, and has practically mothered every man, bride and child there since then. An enviable crown to wear.

Rank-and-file Liberals are feeling very sore over the heart-breaking leadership in the House of Commons which has put them in wrong over the Ottawa Agreements and the Marketing Act—measures both necessary and desirable in the rational progress and prosperity of the Dominion.

Interviewed by the Toronto Globe, Senator Meighen declared, on his return from Australia that the most characteristic thing he had to report of his visit to the Antipodes was the indication of economic improvement and of a strongly pro-Ottawa agreement attitude apparent throughout Australia and New Zealand. Thus all parts of the Empire, north, south, east, west and centre being pro-Ottawa agreements is it any wonder Mr. Mackenzie King makes a volte-face?

London is one of the unique places in the world in the best sense of the word, and especially round Christmas. At this season, all business, including even the publication of newspapers, closes down for two days—Christmas day and the day following, Boxing Day. Even the police have a couple of days off. A "gentleman's agreement" between Scotland Yard and the underworld enables Scotland Yard to release from duty all but 26 of its staff on these two days. Crooks traditionaly keep an unwritten truce over Christmas in London and nearly all of Scotland Yard's 500 officers are enabled to enjoy the holidays—though it is true that 300 men can be recalled within 10 minutes.

Social service agencies in Montreal and Toronto have petitioned Parliament for amendment of the criminal law so far as youths from 16 to 21 are concerned, the suggestion being that these, on conviction, be placed on probation under supervision of a probation officer, or sent to a Borstal Institution to learn a trade, as in England. The petitioners, however, leave it to Parliament to suggest the improved system, concluding the prayer of their petition in the following terms: "That Parliament may enact the necessary legislation to authorize and set up some system of dealing separately with youths charged with crime between the ages of 16 and 21."

Notes By The Way

The Sunday Times has, on several occasions during the past ten years, called attention to the inadequacy of many of the teachers in South Africa for their posts, and, judging from the recently published reports of Cape Province school inspectors, the position has not improved to any great extent. There are too many teachers, wrote one inspector, who have no aptitude for their calling and show no interest in their work. There is little or no systematic teaching of composition. The dictation of endless notes (a well-worn device of the incompetent) is responsible for some atrocious hand-writing. Teachers of this kind, he suggests, should seek other vocations while they are still young. But that is just what they will not do. Teaching of that sort is an easy life. It also brings in a larger income than such teachers would probably be able to obtain from any other occupation. And the profession of teaching is felt to confer a superior sort of social status upon the practitioner, and to demand the homage that brawn is supposed to pay to brains.—Johannesburg Times.

Books bespeak their friendliness. Here there are peace and solace. I have just finished reading that matchless little piece by Charles Lamb, "Dream Children: a Reverie," which is tucked into his "Essays of Elia." To me this brief piece of writing is one of the loveliest in all literature that I know about. At this time, when the world is so beset with problems, and so scant in faith, what peace and solace there are to be found in the great books of the world—books that once were men! The essence of life lives in books. Thoreau, Whitman, Miller, Emerson, Hudson, Burroughs, Jeffries—just to name a few—what a record of their gentle thoughts, their love of natural beauty, their loyalty to nature! Peace and solitude are something which we choose, like a friend—and sit down to!—Ex.

No other three human maladies cause as much discomfort and economic loss as influenza, grippe and colds. Through them millions of production days are lost between November and June, virtually every employed man and woman losing at least one day's work a year because of one or the other of them. Could medical science exterminate the germs responsible for these human disorders, it would thereby bestow upon mankind the greatest of all benefactions.—Inverness Review.

A general survey of opium addiction in India shows that the habit is restricted to certain classes and, what is a distinctly hopeful feature, it has steadily decreased year by year. But the drug is still used extensively, and is mainly put into circulation by shopkeepers and itinerant quacks as a household remedy and for the doping of infants. . . . Certainly the worst feature of opium addiction is the doping of infants, which is responsible for some of the high infant mortality in the country, and for a large proportion of physical and mental deficiency in our adult population. —Lucknow Pioneer.

The policy of Mussolini and of Hitler is sometimes defended as an effort to stiffen the fibre of national character. There is nothing wrong with that aim, but unhappily it is coupled with the delusion that manly virtues can be fostered best by war. There is ample scope for energy and for the finest aspirations in the constructive occupation of peace. In contrast, the wholesale slaughter or mutilation of the young in time of war must lower the average of energy.

A witness in a London, England, court, was asked what his occupation was and replied, "I am a trick questioner at meetings." Heckling as a means of arriving at truth is of doubtful advantage. The crowd is influenced by the superior smartness of the speaker or his tormentor. A wise and thoughtful speaker may make a very bad showing under fire, while the crowd may be won over by mere sharpness in repartee.

The doctrine that Fascism is a result of capitalism is not only wrong as a theory, but leads to practical conclusions which are both wrong and dangerous. If capitalism is really the cause of Fascism, it follows that the world would be saved only by destroying the capitalist class. However, there is reason to believe that the opposite would be the result, that an uprising which sought the ruin of any important element of the population would be the surest prelude to a Fascist government. In the first place under no circumstances is it possible to destroy a whole class. Its wealthier members could at the first sign of danger transfer their bank deposits to safer countries. Not a few of the Russian nobility and industrialists succeeded in saving part of their fortunes by various means. In the second place, with the exception of the Russian, every attempt to destroy capitalism has lead to Fascism or other forms of reaction—Italy, Hungary, China and Bavaria being the best examples.—The Cape Argus, Capetown.

Since its formation 15 years ago, the League of Nations proper has spent about seven and a half million gold pounds, including expenditure not only on the staff, but also on buildings and the many technical and special organizations of the League. The International Labour Office has spent four million pounds in the same period and the Permanent Court of International Justice 874,000 pounds. Adding these up, we get a total of under 12,500,000. The share that each of the 57 nation-members is called upon to pay is determined by a somewhat complicated mathematical formula, in which the factors are population, territorial area, industrial wealth, etc. Great Britain's total contributions under the arrangement have amounted to one and a quarter million gold pounds over the 15 years. To put this sum in its proper proportion, it is sufficient, perhaps, to remark that it does not amount to 1 per cent of the expenditure on British armaments for a single year.—The North American Review.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

THE COMPLETE TREATMENT OF RHEUMATISM

So much has been said about infected teeth and tonsils causing rheumatism that it may be thought that once the teeth or tonsils are removed there is nothing more to be said or done about rheumatism, or arthritis as it is more correctly called.

The trouble has been going on in the system for months and years before the painful or inflamed joint occurs and naturally considerable damage or change has taken place in the joint. Thus although the infected teeth or tonsils are removed a "chronic" arthritis remains and this must be treated.

The American Committee for the Control of Rheumatism considers that chronic arthritis is, perhaps, the most important of social and industrial handicaps and looks upon it as a generalized disease; that is existing in the whole body not in the joints only.

In Great Britain more time is lost from work due to rheumatism than from any other single ailment. Great Britain also has a society organized to fight rheumatism and bring patients to a condition where they can do at least some work.

The American Committee has prepared a chart which shows that there are many ways to apply treatment and strange as it may seem drugs occupy but a small part in the treatment.

The first thought is to get rid of any infection in the body—teeth, tonsils, intestine.

The second important point is rest—mental and physical; no emotional disturbances.

The third is the diet; cutting down on starchy foods and getting regular intestinal movements.

The fourth is preventing deformities by care, or by surgery when necessary.

The fifth is the use of physical therapy—exercise, fresh air, massage, and heat; this also improves the general circulation of the body.

The sixth is the use of body mechanics—improving the posture and in some cases reducing the weight.

The drug treatment to a large extent is the use of salicylates.

You can thus see that rheumatism is a big problem but the above treatment is logical as it aims to remove the cause, improve the circulation, tone up the whole system, encourage the individual to use his limbs after the acute stage is past, and get him back to work, thus keeping up his morale.

Gardens Of The MacKenzie

(Montreal Gazette)

World champion wheat grown in the Peace River country in recent years has attracted universal attention to the possibilities of Canada's great north land, but not many people are aware that flowers, berries, and vegetables grow in profusion right up to the Arctic Circle. Priests and nuns long ago proved the fertility of these outposts of civilization. Some of these missionaries went from Montreal and industriously cultivated gardens. These proved a success from the start, and year after year, ever since, they have given satisfactory crops to their owners, and the good example has been followed by the settlers, the trappers and fur traders. In 1930 Mr. W. D. Albright was commissioned by Dr. E. S. Archibald, Director of Experimental Farms, Dominion Department of Agriculture, to proceed down the Mackenzie River to its mouth, to visit the several experimental substations conducted by the Roman Catholic missions, and to report upon the advisability of extending experimental work in that vast field. This he did, his journey taking him 1,480 miles by train, 4,015 by air and 100 by automobile, the latter in the vicinity of the Slave River. It was a wonderful experience and he sets forth his observations in an illustrated booklet, entitled "Garden of the Mackenzie" (The American Geographical Society, Broadway at 156th Street, New York.) What he reports is calculated to astonish the dweller in more southerly parts of the Dominion. At Fort McMurray, 220 miles north of Edmonton, William Gordon and his sister, Christina, have been established since the Yukon gold rush, and in their garden on July 2, 1930, Mr. Albright saw marrowfat peas averaging 36 inches in height; three weeks later these peas were five feet high. Potatoes stood thigh-high in the Gordon and dozens of other luxuriant gardens. Cabbages, turnips, and all the usual range of hardy vegetables were incredibly strong. Strawberries were clustered on vines in backyards. But McMurray's show place was the flower garden of Cecil Potts. A 12-year-old spruce tree had attained a height of 21 feet and birch trees were growing well. Scarlet runners were 18 feet tall in August and the sweet peas were a sensation.

At Chipewyan, on the north shore of Lake Athabaska, there is a mission which was established in 1847, and there were to be found fine celery, beans and tomatoes, while at the end of September 700 sacks of potatoes were harvested from 70 planted. In one beautiful garden, vines, flowers, lawns, shrubbery and birch trees embellished a home, the verandah of which was shaded by cucumber vines 24 feet in height. At the farthest north town in Alberta, Fort Fitzgerald, on the Slave River, within a few miles of the sixtieth parallel, there were flourishing plots of wheat and oats, while there were remarkable gardens. Roses bloom there the year of planting and winter successfully. Lilacs, cherries, and all sorts of berries grow in profusion and potatoes have been grown in the neighbourhood for forty years. Beyond the Hay River is Providence, to which came in 1867 Sisters of Charity from Montreal, and they have been gardening ever since. Domestic livestock is kept as far north as Simpson, and at the Oblate Mission the visitor dined on home-produced eggs, butter, milk, onions and other local produce. Father Robin explained that some gardening and farming had been carried on since 1858. Rev. C. F. Clarke, the Anglican missionary, testified that in ten years he had never seen a failure of the potato crop. The minister had delphiniums standing seven feet five inches high on July 17. Within twelve miles of the Arctic Circle, at Fort Good Hope, potatoes have been grown on the same land, without fertilizer, for 66 years. Most extraordinary of all, some eighty miles north of the Arctic Circle, at Thunder River, one Mr. Clark, of "Clark's Place," has a flourishing vegetable, berry and flower garden. He grows oats and barley, turnips, potatoes, carrots, lettuce, and such things. At a distance of 1,277 miles north of the international boundary, in fact, there are flourishing gardens. These are but a few of the facts in Albright's report on the far northern country, and they serve to prove that Canada is a land richly endowed by nature, even in sections which are generally regarded as the solitudes.

Heroes Of The Atlantic

(Winnipeg Free Press)

The heroic work of life-boat crews on the Atlantic within the last few days has won the unbounded admiration of millions of people on both sides of the ocean There were two notable instances when sinking vessels called for aid.

The sailors are not ordered to undertake perilous work of this kind. Volunteers are called for, and the boats are quickly manned by men of great courage who feel the call of the brotherhood of the sea. The sailors are bound together by the perils of the deep which they all must face, and they all know that sometimes they themselves may be in need of aid.

In these two instances, the life-boat crews assuredly took their lives in their hands as they fought through the hurricane and as their boats were tossed like chips by the mountainous waves. In one case they rescued all the men from the fated vessel; in the other they could save only part of the crew. But they did the utmost with their strength and their skill in seamanship.

Nothing could be more dramatic and there are, in these days ,no greater instances of heroism.

Gifts From The Sea

(Vancouver Province)

There have been in the newspapers this week two wonderful stories of the sea. There have been great storms of wind and water on the Western Ocean, and men and ships have been in peril of the deep. The Cunarder Ascania has docked at Halifax, bringing the nine survivors of the British ship Usworth, and the splendid story of their rescue, and the other story, sad but still splendid, of the death of fourteen seamen, lost in the brave and unavailing effort of the men of the Belgian ship Jean Jadot to save the men of the Usworth. They had brought them off in the Jean Jadot's lifeboat, after such efforts of skill and courage and hard endurance as the landsman can hardly realize, and then, when the rescue seemed almost accomplished, they were swamped within rope's-throw of the rescue ship.

The other story is that of the rescue of sixteen men of the Norwegian freighter Sisto by ten volunteers of the crew of the Hamburg-American liner New York. The captain of the great German liner Europa manoeuvred his vessel so as to make something of a lee from the terrible seas, and the Europa's passengers lined the rails, and cheered as the rescue was accomplished. It took four hours. The Sisto's men jumped into the sea, one man at a time, whenever the New York's lifeboat came near enough, and were pulled aboard. It was in the dark night, lit by the Europa's searchlights, in a world of wind and water gone distracted, with nothing in it steady and unshaken but the courage and the skill and the kindness of men, answering the call of their fellow men.

That is the appeal of these stories, wonderful and splendid and inspiring. These are tales which adorn the human record. We are stirred by them because the recital of what these men dared and endured in their fight with the sea is a reassurance, against all infidelities of the human spirit, that men still keep the immemorial covenant of their humanity. These stories are a Christmas gift, beautiful and splendid, for all the race of men.

The Poets' Corner

A GREAT TIME

Sweet Chance, that led my steps abroad,
Beyond the town, where wild flowers grow—
A rainbow and a cuckoo, Lord!
How rich and great the times are now!
Know, all ye sheep
And cows that keep
On staring that I stand so long
In grass that's wet from heavy rain—
A rainbow and a cuckoo's song
May never come together again;
May never come
This side the tomb.

—W. H. Davies.

A Land Of Reptiles

(Exchange)

Along the stream banks and in the swamp lands of the United States' Southwest, reptiles as big as St. Bernard dogs were plentiful some two hundred million years ago. This is the picture of the distant past which is drawn by Dr. C.L. Camp, director of the museum of paleontology at the University of California, who has recently returned from New Mexico where he and his associates discovered large fossil deposits.

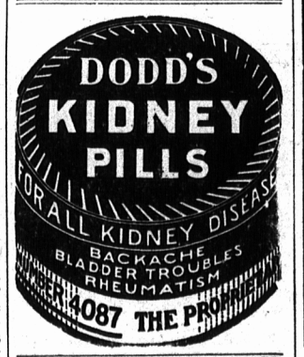
While science never can fill in the details in its picture of the distant past ,there are places in the world which have gone on with little change, thus almost preserving a sample copy of the past for us. The lizards as pictured by Dr. Camp were stockily built, with short legs and broad flat feet, and there were smaller reptiles also, some no bigger than a mouse.

In out-of-the-way corners there are great lizards today, although not so sluggish in their movements as were their ancestors. The Komodo dragons, for instance, from the Dutch East Indies received much publicity when they came to the New York Zoo. A land where reptiles rule much as they did millions of years ago surrounds Lake Rudolf, north of the equator in Africa. Its brackish water covers three thousand square miles and lies thirteen hundred feet above sea level. Its area falls within the territory of Abyssinia, Kenya and the Sudan. Crocodiles abound. Monitors larger than man prowl slowly about digging for the crocodile eggs on which they feed. They resemble dragons as they thrust out their long purple tongues. Monster turtles ignore the crocodiles whose teeth would break against their hard shells. An expedition has recently gone to the lake and is now established on a volcanic island four square miles in area.

For three weeks he had borne all the horrors of the annual house-cleaning without a murmur. Then his patience gave way.

"And you," sobbed his wife; "You used to say I was your queen."

"Yes," he responded, with a wild glaze in his eye, but when a man finds that his queen has used his tobacco jar for pale oak varnish and his meerschaum pipe for a tack hammer he begins to grasp the advantages of a republic."



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