

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1933.

EEL-GRASS PROBLEM

As a consequence of the shortage of eel-grass there is reported to have been a marked reduction in the number of northward flying Canadian brant and geese this year in the Maritime Provinces. It was believed during the past winter that the eel-grass was "coming back" in certain sections but recent investigation by officials of the Department of the Interior show that such reports furnish no valid ground for optimism. The United States as well as the Canadian section of the Atlantic coast is affected. There is now practically no eel-grass left in the Magdalen Islands, while the destruction of the plant along the mainland coast is known to extend north at least as far as Gaspe.

A WAR JOURNAL

It is now nineteen years since the outbreak of the Great War and fifteen since its termination. As it recedes into history, the momentous experiences of those who participated actively in the conflict stand out in bolder relief. Records of those experiences and of the emotions and reactions which accompanied them have appeared from time to time, and are of value in direct proportion to the truth which they convey. Truth about war, as about other phenomena, is many sided. War is not an evil to be draped in romantic apparel and lauded as something fine and noble. Neither should it be permissible to decry the ideals of those who fought in the late war under the specious pretext of discouraging a revival of militarism. Peace can best be served by remembering both the suffering and the sacrifice, the tragedies and the heroisms, which the years 1914-18 entailed.

Belgium a threat to world peace which left no room for an attitude of pacifism. His subsequent experiences in training and at the Front are told without rancour, but with a keen appreciation of the issues involved and with an unwavering conviction that as a citizen his plain duty was to fight. In this connection we may cite, among many quotable passages, the following, descriptive of that depressing period in a soldier's life when he is returning from leave for another interminable sojourn in the trenches: "Men asked to act as a screen for their country should be allowed to form a judgment on the wisdom of fighting. There is an amount of horror, of cruelty, of strain on all that is finest in human nature. There is a terrible intensity of suffering. The men going back up the line had an intimate knowledge of what they were facing. They were not to be fooled by propaganda. They were near the breaking point and if they could find someone definitely to blame they would shoot at sight. The immensity of the law of war where millions shoot at millions and none can definitely blame the man or men he was sure to kill almost annihilated these boys' personality. They rebelled at being a party to such a mess. I could feel their view but was sure in my own mind our first thought must be to win the war. After trying to lead me, as the only Canadian, into the discussion, they asked me directly for my opinion. I finally told them my thorough conviction. Many little rebellions and riots and refusals to fight would be a blank thing for the Allies, as the Germans and Austrians were yet a unit in their faith in winning and their will to fight. I believed that German labour would not in 1914, nor any time while the war was on, fight against their rulers, because it had been for years a part of their training and they believed their philosophy. We just had to, as the old Greeks did, we just had to throw our will into the universal will of the Allies and allow ourselves individually to be annihilated and continue smashing in this Armageddon. Any weak measures of riots were not to be thought of. It was bitter, bitter, but in my mind the only solution." A vein of sober philosophy runs through the book. "When in France," writes the author, "I found that the men who kept the best perspective and who had the best fibre, did not make their line of progress depend on wine and the estaminets. In locating and getting one's bearings one must try to pick up a distant point as a landmark, keeping this in view, trudge onward over the mass of broken trench, scattered barb wire, remembering where the bridges were or the ditches and learn to distinguish the different rows of Lombardy poplar, which, to the uninitiated, all look the same. So in books one must keep his perspective. All the knowledge in the world was not expressed in the last few years. Nor can you pick it up off the street or in the confectionery stores. One must look out for some of the old landmarks. Poor Woodsworth (a comrade in arms) would stumble along and slip into every mud hole. He always thought we were turned around. There are many Woodsworths. They stumble through sex and such trash, slipping off the trench into the slime. Would those boarded walks, trench mats, be put in at such terrible suffering and hardship if they were not to be walked on?" Mr. Bagnall's story is "a round, unvarnished tale" which by reason of its accurateness and detail should appeal particularly to returned men.

To the general public also it should prove of value for the very clear impression it conveys of the hardships which our soldiers went through, and the spirit which permeated their actions and conduct at the Front.

MR. KING'S TRIBUTE

Recently we quoted from a Quebec newspaper a striking tribute to Premier Bennett. But Mr. MacKenzie King has gone our Quebec contemporary one better in the remarkable compliment which he paid the Prime Minister at Belleville last week. In his speech on that occasion the Liberal leader credited Mr. Bennett with being entirely responsible for the Empire trade agreements reached at the Ottawa Imperial Conference. He said that the Premier, having laid down a tariff policy in 1930, had compelled all the other governments of a world-wide Empire to fall in line. According to Mr. King, Mr. Bennett was the whole conference in himself. He dictated the speeches made by the various delegates and the conclusions at which the Conference arrived. Neither Mr. Stanley Baldwin nor Mr. Stanley M. Bruce of Australia, nor Premier Forbes of New Zealand, nor any of the other ministerial delegates from the ends of the earth had the courage to open his mouth. They allowed the all-powerful Ottawa dictator to have his own way and to walk upon their prostrate bodies to his heart's content. Nor did His Majesty's Ministers from different parts of the world lose their fear and awe of Mr. Bennett after they had left Ottawa. Upon their return to their respective homes they, one and all, made impressive speeches regarding the success of the Ottawa conclave. Nor have they yet ceased to speak in most eulogistic terms of the work done at Ottawa under Mr. Bennett's leadership. Only recently the English press reported speeches by Premier Ramsay MacDonald, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Chamberlain and others, showing how the Ottawa trade agreements lowered the tariff barriers within the Empire, and how the action thus taken set a worthy example to the rest of the world, and even had a great deal to do with bringing about the universal economic conference which assembled in London this week. After this, who will dare suggest that Mr. King is not among Mr. Bennett's sincerest admirers!

EDITORIAL NOTES

A further interesting contribution to the subject of Confederation in Prince Edward Island is made by Professor D. C. Harvey in the current issue of the Canadian Historical Review. Professor Harvey's article is based entirely upon source material read in the Public Archives of Canada and the Public Archives of Nova Scotia; correspondence between the local government and the Colonial Office, between local statesmen and statesmen of the other colonies, journals of the Assembly and Council, debates in the Assembly and Council, and contemporary newspapers. The article is a timely one, inasmuch as July 1st this year will be the 60th anniversary of the Island's entry into Confederation. Great interest has been aroused in scholarly circles by the reported discovery hard by the city of Athens of the site of the academy founded by Plato about the date 387 B.C. and which had exercised a marked influence upon European thought for some 2,300 years. It was in the gymnasium surrounded by a grove of plane-trees that the intellectuals met to discuss the deepest problems of human life alike in its material and spiritual aspects. And the main results of these ancient parleys are embodied in the "Dialogues" of Plato and the "Ethics" of Aristotle, who was himself a disciple of Plato, and both of them very largely influenced by Socrates, the three making up a triad of great thinkers to whom the world in all ages owes an incalculable debt for the contribution they have made to the intellectual progress of mankind.

NOTES BY THE WAY

It may be taken for granted that at the World Economic Conference, where again Premier Bennett will undoubtedly be a dominant figure, he will be one of those who will insist upon action rather than upon oratory. He does not believe that long drawn out palavers often get very far, and he may be depended upon to act with those who wish to stabilize international exchanges, revalue gold upwards and facilitate international trade without destroying home industries. As chairman of the Ottawa Conference, which sets the rest of the world a worthy example of how different nations may co-operate for the common all-round benefit, he is in a position to speak frankly and with authority. If the World Economic Conference follows the lead of the Ottawa Conference, civilization will be that much nearer to a return of normal economic conditions.

At the same time that Mr. King was making an oration in Ottawa on the future of the party government system of Canada an exchange said: "What we need in Canada is a great cause, a cause which will arouse a religious devotion, a cause which will scorn to bargain with schemers for their gifts, a cause for which men and women, boys and girls, will give their best, when need be, without pay, a cause which will disclose to men and women their deepest souls, which will vitalize our anaemic religion, spread everywhere the spirit of comradeship, and clothe our ordinary life with romance."

Even assuming that the chief wheat-producing countries could be got to co-operate in restricting production the problem would still be difficult. In Canada, for example, control of acreage would mean Government supervision of the crops of hundreds of thousands of farmers, a task which, on the face of it, would appear to be well-nigh hopeless. It would require an army of expensive inspectors. When in Washington, recently, Mr. Bennett said that he favored curtailed production, but had yet to be told how it could be accomplished. That, we fancy, is the attitude of most Government leaders, something which makes us suspect that the problem will have to be left to the law of supply and demand.

It is generally recognized that in times of crisis all countries tend to do a little less with democracy and a little more with leadership or dictation, it amounts to about the same thing. Men of action are the big requirements in public affairs today.

Until a few weeks ago President Roosevelt was kept occupied in making new proposals to Congress and having them accepted in whole or in part. Now it seems likely he will have to fight Congress if his whole plan is not to be wrecked. For it is threatened with wreck by the revived soldiers' bonus lobby, which has induced the Senate to pass a bonus grant of \$170,000,000, and reports are that the House is likely to be even more generous. If this money is voted the President cannot balance his budget, and will be deprived of the sums necessary for expenditure on his great schemes for reconstruction. If it is voted it will also show that the power of the American Government has been taken out of the hands of the President and put into the hands of whatever minority is bold enough to seize it.

Cures or preventives for hay fever are announced periodically and must now be almost as numerous as the victims of this complaint. The latest is set forth in the Journal of the American Medical Association by Dr. Leslie N. Gay, of John Hopkins University. This conjunction of names should inspire hope, but it seems to us we have heard of this remedy some years ago. Briefly it may be described as conditioning the atmosphere. "A cabinet housing a cooling coil, fans and a drip pan, hooked up with an electrically driven compressor, provides in a special room at the university an artificial climate as nearly as possible like the refreshingly cool and pollen-free atmosphere of the Rocky Mountain and Northern Great Lakes states, to which victims of hay fever and asthma flee for relief if they can."

"Life today," said Dr. Mayo, "is too tense. The mind gives out years before the body. We find old people all around us who have been dead for years and don't know it. They don't think any more—their minds have died, although their bodies live on." Then the famous physician explained in detail just what he meant: "Think what has happened to us in 35 years. Our life, once



By James W. Barton, M.D.

PAIN IN THE NECK

That Body of Hours The Session At Ottawa A series of articles dealing with the business of the recently prorogued session of the Dominion Parliament. XVII REDISTRIBUTION The Redistribution Bill will govern the geographical boundaries of each electoral district for the next ten years. Although British Columbia will have two additional members and Alberta one additional, Nova Scotia loses two seats and New Brunswick one, so that the total Membership of the House of Commons remains the same. Under the British North America Act, Provincial representation in the House of Commons is based on the population of Quebec. That Province has a fixed representation of 65, and the quotient resulting from dividing 65 into the population of Quebec is the unit of population on which representation in other provinces is based, except that in the case of Prince Edward Island, it is provided that this Province shall have not fewer Members than it has Senators. By the 1931 Census, the total population of Canada is 10,376,786, and the unit of population is 44,186, which results in the following representation for the Provinces:

The Session At Ottawa A series of articles dealing with the business of the recently prorogued session of the Dominion Parliament.

THE SENATE

The Senate is composed of 96 members, apportioned so that 24 are appointed from the Maritimes; 24 from Quebec; 24 from Ontario; and 24 from the four Western Provinces. Nova Scotia has 10; New Brunswick 10; Prince Edward Island 4; Quebec 24; Ontario 24; and 6 to each of the four Western Provinces. As at present constituted, the Senate has 47 Government supporters, 41 in Opposition and 8 vacancies. Of the latter, 1 is in Nova Scotia, 2 in New Brunswick, 1 in Quebec, 2 in Ontario and 2 in Saskatchewan. LIST OF ACTS PASSED TO SESSION 1932-1933 United Kingdom Trade Agreement South Africa Trade Agreement Irish Free State Trade Agreement Southern Rhodesia Trade Agreement New Zealand Trade Agreement

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French Treaty Excise Act Canada Grain Act (Domestic Grain) Bank Act Dominion Notes Act Exchequer Court Act Relief Measures Salary Deduction Act Criminal code (offensive weapons) Hay and Straw—Inspection Act Penitentiary Act Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act Representation Act (Redistribution) Indian Act Soldier Settlement Act Companies Credit Arrangement Act Pension Act Railway Act Canadian Radio Broadcasting Act Tariff Board Canada Shipping Act. THE END

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