

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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Morning Maxims

Jumping out of a silver's way without looking for a truck is just another way of jumping to a conclusion.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1933.

LIGHTS ON VEHICLES

During the past year practically every Grand Jury, as well as the Motor League at its last annual meeting, recommended the passing of legislation in this Province making compulsory the use of lights on horse drawn vehicles. Since our Grand Juries are largely representative of the agricultural sections of the Province, these recommendations may be taken as indicative of the growing sentiment in favor of a measure which, a few years ago, met with considerable opposition when it was suggested in the Legislature. At the present time Prince Edward Island and Alberta are the only two provinces having no legislation on this subject. The question is purely non-political and as it may come up for further discussion at the next legislative session the following information from the current news letter of the Royal Automobile Club of Canada will be of general interest:

Over three years ago the Quebec Legislature adopted a measure purporting to bring this desirable reform into effect but the statute in question possessed several weaknesses which have served to nullify it. One was that it was permissive only, the initiative being left to the various municipalities, instead of being obligatory throughout the province. A second was that any measure passed by a municipality was effective only as regarded citizens thereof, no control being given over vehicles from other places passing through or using the streets of the municipality. A third was that the vehicle owner was given the option of carrying a lighted lamp or a reflector, the objection to the latter being that it is not so easily distinguishable as a light, especially if its surface becomes dirty or if it is not directly in the line of rays from a motor headlight. The Royal Automobile Club of Canada has, therefore, never regarded the legislation in question as meeting the dangerous conditions created by the circulation of unlighted vehicles upon the public highways, which has already claimed many lives and been the cause of numberless accidents attended by heavy damages to property and serious injury to individuals.

Hereunder is a summary of the situation in the other provinces of Canada as regards legislation upon the subject.

Ontario: "Every vehicle other than a motor vehicle or bicycle or tricycle, when on a highway after dusk and before dawn, shall carry in a conspicuous place on the left side thereof a lighted lamp showing white to the front and red to the rear, clearly visible at a distance of at least 200 feet."

Manitoba: "Every vehicle not otherwise provided for shall carry at the back thereof a lamp casting or reflecting a red light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of at least 200 feet in the rear, or a reflector of a design approved by the department and so placed as to be illuminated by the lights of any approaching vehicle."

Nova Scotia: "All vehicles not otherwise provided for shall carry one or more lighted lamps or lanterns displaying a white light visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the front and rear, or displaying white lights to the front and a red light to the rear." The department may by regulation permit the substitution of a reflector, especially for vehicles carrying loads of an inflammable or explosive character.

New Brunswick: "A vehicle on wheels or runners, other than a motor vehicle, shall have attached to it a light or double reflector displayed on the left side of the vehicle,

visible from the front and rear thereof." The provision does not apply to hand propelled vehicles, or to vehicles parked where there is ample artificial lighting. The reflector must be approved by and sold by the department.

British Columbia: "Every vehicle other than a motor vehicle, trailer or bicycle shall be equipped with one lamp mounted on a conspicuous position on the left hand side of the vehicle, approximately over a line joining the front and rear wheels of the vehicle and showing a white light readily visible from the front and rear."

Saskatchewan: A proposed amendment to the present legislation provides that "every vehicle other than a motor vehicle, while in operation on a provincial highway, shall carry on the front a lamp displaying a white light plainly visible at a distance of 300 feet to a driver approaching in the opposite direction and also carry on the rear a red light or a red reflecting device." On any public road other than a provincial highway, such a vehicle must carry on the rear a red light or a red reflecting device.

EXCHANGE HANSARDS

As a step towards better understanding between Great Britain and United States on the war debts question, the settlement of which is so necessary to the economic rehabilitation of the world, the London Times advances a striking suggestion. It may be assumed, says The Times, that members of Parliament and of Congress will both be placed in possession of the formal Notes exchanged in the diplomatic correspondence between the two countries. But there are other pronouncements—Mr. Chamberlain's speech in the House of Commons, for instance, is the most notable example so far—which are just as essential to the formation of a sound opinion on the arguments and forces involved. And there will be many more when the discussions in Congress begin. It should be a comparatively simple matter, if there were the will on both sides to do it, to arrange that members of Parliament at Westminster should be supplied with the Congressional records on the War debts question, and that members of Congress in Washington should be supplied in return with copies of the relevant British Hansard. The issue containing the debate might well be made a beginning. No doubt such an arrangement would involve the risk that mischievous as well as helpful speeches would receive a wider publicity; but the greater risk is ignorance, and the greatest risk of all is that half-knowledge that comes from summarized (and sometimes distorted) cable messages.

MUSKRATS IN ENGLAND

Writing in the London Spectator, Mr. W. Beach Thomas says that alarm at the activity of the Canadian muskrat continues to grow in the north-west of England. Within twenty years—between 1905, when some escaped from a fur farm near Prague, and 1925 when the damage began to be a cause of alarm—the animal established itself along almost every river bank between Prague, Vienna and Munich, and much beyond. Its spread in England has been at least as quick and thorough. The island, Mr. Thomas notes, is congenial to the muskrat. Already the animal's holes are a common object on the Severn. The trappers are catching large quantities every week in Shropshire, but there are wide districts where none are being caught. The question of whether the pest can be eradicated is causing as much concern as is the existence of the skunk nuisance in this Province.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Mr. G. Frank Beer, in a recent communication in a Toronto paper dealing with the unemployment situation said: The working forces of any community should be its chief concern, and the provision which municipalities make for the distribution of labor should be a matter of civic pride. In large cities those in charge of labor bureaus should have the highest civic rank, as they direct one of the most important of all municipal enterprises. The distribution of man power, the location of 'idle men and women, in remunerative jobs is surely a task equal to that imposed on the members of the Liquor Control Board or the Hydro-Electric Commission.

Rather a significant thought about the present conditions is expressed by Professor John Morgan of Northwestern University. He prophesies: "Once general prosperity returns, it probably will spurt along faster than the facts justify, for our behavior has a tendency to be guided by other people's behavior. When we see others placing orders, stepping up production—acting as if they were prosperous—the rest of us will be inclined to do likewise."

Early reports of joint action by the British and Canadian governments to assist the Dominion of Newfoundland in meeting interest payments due January 1 were confirmed by Premier Alderdice. The amount involves approximately \$2,000,000 a year of this sum the Newfoundland Government will provide \$750,000, the remaining \$1,250,000 to be loaned by Great Britain and Canada in equal amounts. This will enable Newfoundland to weather a threatened financial crisis, and as a means of preventing a recurrence of this year's trouble the financial affairs of the Dominion are to be thoroughly investigated by a commission of three experts, one from Great Britain, one from Canada, and the third to be appointed by the Newfoundland Government.

"The Ladies and Literature" was the subject of an address recently delivered by Sir James Barrie at the Authors Club in London. In his opening sentences Sir James declared that he was not going to talk about ladies or literature, or love, as his audience had no doubt expected. Instead of that, he was going to make a will, and those present were to be his sole beneficiaries. He left to the Authors Club the most precious possession that was ever his—his joy in hard work. He continued: "I was an idler at school, and read all the wrong books at college but I fell in love with hard work one fine May morning, and I continued to woo her through a big chunk of half a century. She is not at all heavy and jowled and weary. She is young and gay and lively. I found her waiting for me at a London station. She marched with me all the way to Bloomsbury, and on the way we bought a penny bottle of ink to sling at the metropolis, and a silk hat with which to impress editors. Hard work, more than any woman in the world, is the one who stands up best; for her man. I have lost her now, but younger people who want to look for her will find that she is willing to be theirs. She is the prettiest thing in literature, and when you and she think that you have been working pretty well, and you spend an evening having a blow out, you will think how splendid she looks in her crepe de chine. But she looked even prettier in her rags."

Walter Duranty, who is a keen observer of conditions in Russia, states that the U. S. S. R. has had to pay from 15 to 25 per cent. more for some \$3,000,000,000 worth of foreign equipment and brains in the last ten years than if capitalistic nations had done the buying on a normal international basis. Making due allowance for the emergency, it is evident that government management must be costly even under the most rigid Communist state control. The U. S. S. R. system has its limitations.

It is reported that in the fiscal year ending March 31 last, a total of 32,517 alien residents of Canada were naturalized, and the present year may see an even greater number. In some instances, especially in the West, elaborate ceremonies marked the naturalization, mayors and other high officials being in attendance. The tendency is promising, for it indicates that the new citizens are taking their duties seriously and the authorities, likewise, fully realize the significance of the development.



By James W. Barton, M.D.

That Body of Yours

PHYSICIANS, DENTISTS, AND SUSPECTED TEETH

I believe that thoughtful physicians and thoughtful dentists are of the opinion that in addition to taking the first two or three years of their college work together, the dentist should put in at least three to six months about a hospital. Every physician spends a considerable portion of the last three years of his course seeing sick people in the hospital. The dentist spends the latter part of his course seeing well people who come to the college dispensary to have teeth filled or removed, or have other work done on the mouth.

The physician in seeing only sick patients learns the reasons why they are sick and the cause in a number of cases is infected teeth.

You can thus see that the physician after finding no other cause for the ailment but infected teeth is almost sure as Dr. T. A. Buckley Mt. Vernon, N. Y., points out, to order the teeth removed at once. The dentist on the other hand seeing so many apparently well patients in his office, despite some infected teeth, is naturally anxious to save the teeth.

It is just here that the dentist should really go into the family and personal history of a case before he does any extensive work about the teeth because it is easily possible for a patient to look well yet have had acute attacks of rheumatism and be actually suffering from heart disease.

One of the present controversies among dentists themselves and between dentists and physicians is whether or not teeth from which the pulp (including the nerve) has been removed, should be left in the mouth.

Dr. Charles Mayo, the surgeon and Dr. Weston Price, the outstanding dental research worker, believe that pulpless teeth are a menace to health, particularly the teeth with more than one root. Although it is admitted that some pulpless teeth may be free of infection, it must be admitted also that perhaps nine out of ten are not, and are a constant menace to health. The thought then when you are about to have any extensive work done in the mouth would be to have your dentist and physician talk the matter over. The physician may be able to give the dentist sufficient information about your own condition or the family tendency toward rheumatism and heart disease, that the dentist readily agrees to have the suspected teeth removed.

Succen righteousness

(Baltmore Su.) Let us not forget that, so far as public values are concerned, this matter which landed one Insull in a Canadian jail and snatched the other Insull in the midst of his coffee from the terrace of a hotel in Athens, was not the worst crime with which they might be charged. And again, let us not forget that, when Mr. Insull was attempting to buy a seat in the United States Senate for a puppet, or to buy the whole Maine Legislature or when he gave his jargons to politicians of any party or all parties, from Big Bill Thompson to George Brennan, and ended the matter by virtually telling a Senate investigating committee that all this was none of the committee's business—when Mr. Insull was engaged in his gigantic and contemptuous effort to control the politics of his city, his State and, to a degree those of the United States as well, there was little out-cry from our constructive leaders. Elaborate constitutional arguments were made in the Senate to show that Illinois had a right to a Senator bought in advance by the Insulls. And when this issue was put before the voters of that State they returned Frank L. Smith by an overwhelming majority, saying, in effect: "Yes, the man we want is the man Mr. Insull gave us."

If a reader become interested in the everyday life and habits of eminent personages he will be the better prepared to comprehend and estimate the outstanding achievements of his career. In this respect the little things are counting for more than they did in earlier days, though even then it was known that "no man is a hero to his valet."

"Beauchesne Says—"

(Francis Oldham in the Vancouver Province)

"Who is the intelligent mouse at the head of the long table?" asked a visitor to the Ottawa Press Gallery.

"That," replied his guide, "is the Clerk of the House of Commons." There is something mouse-like about Arthur Beauchesne, M.A., K.C., LL.D., F.R.S.C. His small, neat body, enshrouded in scholastic gown, seems to glide about the Green Carpet. The movements of his hands are meticulous and dainty. His small face tapers to a point, fringed with a clipped moustache. His eyes are swift and alert behind his horn-rimmed spectacles. From the galleries he is seen to speak to his conferees, but no sound reaches the rest of the House. And, like a mouse, he is seen nibbling at a book.

He has written one book and it is the vade mecum of Mr. Speaker. For years Beauchesne's Parliamentary Procedure has been the guide to conduct in the Canadian House of Commons. When members wangle or raise the point of order all eyes turn to the Chair. Invariably the Speaker reaches for a green book which is small and neat like its author, turns over the pages he knows by heart and rises on the dais. A hush falls on the assembly as the voice of authority begins:

"On page — of Beauchesne we find—"

Within ten feet of the Chair sits Beauchesne, the mute but not inglorious mentor of Commons. Successive Speakers have used that little green book and the voice of Beauchesne has had the last word in parliamentary usage.

Just before the Great War, Beauchesne ran for both Legislature and Parliament. He was defeated in each election, but they could not keep him off the floor. He went to Ottawa, acted as legal adviser to the department of Justice for a time, then slipped into the House of Commons as assistant clerk. At once he became the prop and mainstay of the late Mr. North up who, at the end of a long and faithful career in the civil service, was somehow floundering through as Clerk of the House.

The little French-Canadian proceeded to make the table of the House the smooth and shining piece of furniture it is today. Documents and motions were registered and despatched with lightning swiftness. He checked everything the Senior Clerk did, especially that functionary's count of votes "on division." A pucker of Beauchesne's eyebrows was enough to warn a member that he was rising out of his turn. Mr. Speaker learned to look to the nimble Quebec barrister for guidance when he was not quite sure of his next move. Beauchesne presided over great times on British parliamentary procedure and read Canadian parliamentary history to equip himself with the information needed when Mr. Speaker was at a loss. Then he condensed it all into the little green book, which soon came to be known as "Beauchesne." While he was still only assistant Clerk of the House, the voice of Beauchesne became the oracle on everything from routine to wrangles.

Beauchesne is the scholar incarnate, the pedant in epitome. He excelled in classics at St. Joseph's (New Brunswick) before he studied law at Laval. He founded a journal for intellectuals, L'Opinion, in Montreal. For years he has lectured on literature and ethics, in English as well as French up and down Eastern Canada. He has long been the moving spirit in the Association Technologique de Langue Francaise and is past-president of a section of Cercle Literaire de l'Institut Canadien and of the Royal Canadian Institute. He has been very active in the Parliamentary Unions, the Canadian Clubs, the Geographical Society and the Little Symphony Society.

For all his fifty-three years, Beauchesne has the enthusiasm for intellectual uplift of a schoolboy. About Ottawa he goes, organizing societies, debating, lecturing, advising. He is fluent in both languages, in French eloquent, in English coldly logical. A son of a French-Canadian parliamentarian, Arthur was



UP FROM THE LONG AGO

A mist, fire clouding A new awakened sky. A sun-mist dimly shrouding In awful portent, high, And in the throes of climbing; There struggled you and I. My dear! we each have pondered, Through Eons' drifting maze, Since side by side we wandered In those first sightless days. The endless, useless climbing Of those tremendous ways.

We have not learned the meaning Of that first, kindred pain. Some sun-mist darkly screening, Sweeps vaguely up again. We strive in sable dreaming To reach that sullen stain, Which cloaks our soul forever; A marking from the sod. Through we may strive, yet never Forget the paths we trod, In struggle and endeavour, To reach our rightful God. —De Hautevilly

born to be a politician. Fate made him a pedagogue instead. He has, however, found his niche and he fills it to admiration. Daily, when the House is in session Clerk Beauchesne takes his place near the head of the Speaker's procession. Austerer in his flowing black cape and tricorn hat, he sweeps down the great corridor and the aisle of the Commons Chamber. He settles himself in his chair at the head of the table and arranges his pens while the sergeant-at-arms puts the Great Mace opposite him.

As long as Beauchesne is in his place, things go smoothly. Pages flit about, smiling, ministers table their documents and no matter how they blunder, the Clerk smooths out all difficulties with a nod. Mr. Speaker may begin the wrong order of the day but he will not quarrel with it. Without apparent effort, Beauchesne will have swung round in his chair and darted to the dais. Mr. Speaker stands humbly while his Clerk finds the right page and points out the paragraph with a well-kept finger. The House does not even titter when Mr. Speaker proceeds to contradict himself, Beauchesne has spoken.

On the rare occasions that the Clerk loses his sang froid, the air at the upper end of the Chamber turns blue. Page boys scuttle frantically to bring books and pamphlets and glasses of water. The assistant Clerk mops his brow and Mr. Speaker looks apprehensively down at the slightly-stooped clerkly shoulders which are, for once, animated as he beckons and directs his underlings.

On these occasions, it is said, Beauchesne swears freely in French and English in that peculiar low expressionless voice of his, but no sound reaches beyond his immediate circle. When order is restored, the Clerk will rise, don his three-cornered hat, immediately lift it again in salute to the Chair and glide with dignity and apparent composure to the little door behind the Chair which gives him swift access to his own office.

Perhaps some day Beauchesne will make another effort to get a seat in Parliament. He would make a very good Speaker. Small as he is, he would fill the Great Chair with éclat. When his rulings were challenged, one can imagine him rising, reaching for the little green book and intoning, with only a hint of irony: "Beauchesne says—"

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