

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1934

CHRISTMAS LEGENDS

Tomorrow, in this Province and throughout Christendom, the Christmas spirit will be reflected in the church services, as it has already been reflected in shopping activities, in household preparations, and in that pleasant universal feeling of closer contact with one's kind which invariably accompanies the approach of Christmas.

The biblical story of the first Christmas needs no retelling here. But it is interesting to review some of the quaint legends which the poets and storytellers of other ages have built lovingly around the grand central theme.

In many parts of Europe, for example, it is still considered "bad luck" to go into the stable on Christmas Eve; for, on that holy night, it is believed that no animal sleeps save the serpent. The cock is said to crow at every hour—"the bird of dawn singeth all night long"—certain humble beasts like the ox and the ass become endowed with the gift of speech and on the stroke of midnight the oxen fell on their knees in memory of the first Nativity.

In the bird world it was the little wren who first learned of the Saviour's Birth. Sensing the unaccounted quiet the wren left her nest and flew out into the waiting world. With amazement she saw the hungry wolf standing quietly by the silent sheep; neither fox nor owl turned crafty eyes towards her—all the animal creation watched "where Saint Joseph's brazier burned."

Suddenly the empty skies were filled with the glad song "Good Will to Men" and the inquisitive little bird darted across to the stable eaves, and, seeing the Holy Babe lying in the hay, she plucked two tiny leaves and dropped them at the infant Saviour's feet. Smiling the Blessed Mother gave a crumb to the little bird who sped joyously back to her nest, and, as she told the story to her own baby brethren, the joy overheard her and flew screaming through the woods with the glad tidings.

Rather similar is the story of the glow-worm. It was bitterly cold on that first Christmas night and even the hay of the manger could not keep the Holy Babe warm. The ox and the ass came and laid themselves close to the crib and the doves fluttered sleepily down from the rafters and spread their soft wings around the Saviour to keep out the cold. In a corner of the stable a tiny insect busily looked about to see what it could do to help warm the Holy Child. At last with great difficulty it managed to drag over a small dried up flower to add to the weight of the hay.

The little Christ Child, as though in thanks, put out a tiny hand, and as he did so a ray of moonlight touched the insect which ever since that night has shone with a soft, quiet glow. Childish—does one say of these legends? Quite so. That is their perennial charm. They could not have been invented by sophisticated adults. They had their origin in ages of simpler faith, when there was nothing incongruous in associating all nature, imaginatively at least, with the glad festival of humanity's redemption. If we have lost our taste for such stories, it does not necessarily mean that we have become wiser. It may mean that we have become more like Peter Bell in Wordsworth's poem, in which the sterile gospel of materialism is depicted in three immortal lines:

"A primrose by the river's brim A yellow primrose was to him And it was nothing more."

RY. AMALGAMATION

Our local contemporary features an assurance given the Toronto Globe by Mr. Meckensie King that he was opposed to amalgamation

on the railway question. It should in all fairness to Hon. W. D. Euler, former Minister of National Revenue in the King Government, have given equal prominence to that gentleman's statement favouring a scheme of joint operation of the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific lines under a holding company. It may be argued that Mr. Euler was only expressing his own view, but, as the Moncton Times points out, it cannot be denied that in the event of Mr. King being returned to power, Mr. Euler would again be one of his chief lieutenants and would be a powerful influence for amalgamation when the question arose, as it is bound to do in the event of a change of Government. And is there any guarantee that Mr. King himself will not shortly be supporting the Euler proposal? Not much, if we're to judge of his record in regard to the Ottawa trade agreements. Two weeks ago Mr. King stood before the people of Canada as an avowed enemy of the Imperial pact, ready to destroy them when given the chance. Today, according to his declaration before the National Liberal powwow at Ottawa, he would retain the agreements. If he is able to justify a change of mind so quickly on a question of such vital importance to Canada as the trade pacts, can anyone say where he will be on the railway question when political exigencies seem to call for a change of mind?

So much for the Liberal attitude toward railway amalgamation. What is the record of the Bennett Government in regard to the question? Hon. Dr. Manion, the able Minister of Railways, in his speech at Smith's Falls, Ontario, Tuesday night, spoke quite frankly on the matter of amalgamation. He declared very emphatically that the Bennett Government had no intention of proposing amalgamation. He advanced reasons for this stand and challenged Meckensie King, the Liberal leader, to make an equally definite declaration of the policy of the Liberal party. The Minister of Railways, deprecating the pessimism of some people in regard to the railway situation, pointed out that revenues were improving and a continued revival of business would soon place both of the big systems in a reasonably good financial position.

Hon. Dr. Manion took occasion to denounce the scheme of joint operation proposed by Hon. W. D. Euler. He declared that after a few years of joint operation it would be impossible to separate the two systems. So far as the present Government was concerned no member of it had ever advocated amalgamation of the two great railway systems.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Wear roads after all for travelling. Today and Monday our last opportunity to buy that gift.

Even politicians have the "glad hand" these days. The Marketing Board will attain a measure of perfection by evolution, as is the case with all new enterprises.

Senator Meighen has returned from representing Canada at the Victoria Centenary, and may be heard from soon on the political situation.

Tomorrow is Christmas Sunday in the churches when more elaborate music than ordinarily is rendered by the choirs. Christmas and Easter are the two high spots in the Christian year, and it is right and proper they should be fittingly observed by all claiming to be Christians.

Mr. J. Earl Lawson, appointed Federal organizer for the Liberal-Conservatives was prominently mentioned as Ex-Premier Henry's successor in the party leadership of Ontario. It is now rumoured Mayor Stewart of Toronto, may be selected to fill Mr. Henry's shoes after the next sitting of the Ontario legislature.

Trying to regulate the retail price of milk—or anything—is a ticklish job. Everybody knows milk is ridiculously cheap, but most people also know that an average farmer will sell it below the cost of production for cash from the store. How far can the City Council go under the law to prevent the farmer doing as he chooses with his own? That is the rub.

In an admirable pin-point review in the Spectator of "The Englishman's Religion," Rev. Dr. W. B.

Notes By The Way

The crossword puzzle shows no sign of decline in popularity. It interests highbrows as well as ordinary people. It is a feature of such high class journals as the London Times, the Manchester Guardian, the New Statesman and Nation, and the Observer. Some of the puzzles can be solved only by men of wide reading and scholarship. As to the rest of us, it enriches our vocabulary by queer words formerly buried in the dictionary.

Bureaucracy has become so rampant as to be a hindrance and a menace to business. In order to see how he stands a trader, especially if an importer, has to rummage among a sheaf of official documents flung at him by various departments. These may deal with tariffs, quotas, licenses, regulations, prohibitions, and a multitude of other questions. The victuals and the farmer are from today forth the victims of this tantalizing process. Inspectors are empowered to enter upon any farmer's lands for the purpose of branding the cattle considered suitable for slaughter and the animals so marked may not be slaughtered earlier than the date indicated by the inspector. No individual is at liberty these days to conduct his business in his own way. State interference within certain limits may be all right; but when it is adopted in a wholesale way, it tends to make the life of the individual intolerable.—Irish Independent, Dublin.

Looking back on the financial record of our country during the last 14 years we have every reason to congratulate ourselves upon it. We have maintained the reputation of Great Britain for financial probity and borne heavy burdens to meet our obligations. Most striking of all, we have at the same time pursued a steady policy of social amelioration which has brought succour to millions of the poorer part of our population. It is pleasant to look on this side of the picture, for it shows that the hearts of the British people are sound at the core.—Viscount Snowden in the London Spectator.

Italian troops were attacked in Italian Somaliland. The commander that the attackers were Abyssinians, has demanded an apology and an indemnity. Abyssinia requested arbitration. Italy refused because the facts are, she says, clear. It is impossible to blame Italy for taking this stand. Maintenance of her prestige in Northern Africa, and consequently peace and order in her possessions, depend on her exacting an immediate apology and a suitable indemnity. It is not a weak or a cowardly native that she is not weak or afraid. To submit such an affair to arbitration would discredit her in the eyes of those whom she rules. Incidentally Italy showed years ago in the Corfu incident that she has the heart of a lion. She has no intention of leaving her affairs to be settled by others.

Long ago a wise man said "Knowledge is power." But knowledge is not enough. It is not enough to know. Man does not live by knowledge alone, he lives by faith. It is faith that gives him daily strength and unconquerable hopes. It is not an interpretation that gives an explanation. It is a conviction that the power that has staged the whole human drama means something by it, something really wise and good. Knowledge is an explanation that is always incomplete. It reveals the text-book every year. There are things that are the greatest in the oldest findings that will be swept away. Knowledge passes but faith abides and keeps men unweary in their search for truth.

Not a day passes without some new indication of the deliberate determination of Germany to flout every code that the experience of civilization has shown to be essential to the peaceful lives of people and friendly intercourse between nations. They are encircling themselves with the same barrier that brought the exorcution of the world in the War. It is ruthlessness.

Each summer, lately, more and more men have been going without hats, and the hat manufacturers are worried. How much of this increase in the hatless vogue is due to the fact that we have to re-buy our hats several times a year, no one can state; but undoubtedly it has been a factor. If the hat manufacturers were smart, they would raise a fund to pension off all hat-check girls from Maine to Montana. They won't. Yet we could abolish this silly custom, you and I, all by ourselves. Suppose everyone who reads this article wrote a letter of protest to the hotel, cafe, or restaurant where he last bought back his hat. Well, within two weeks the racket would be busted—and we wouldn't need to sneak into a dining-room with our hats under our arms any more. Does it pay to kick? You bet it does. Try it and see for yourself.

It may be safe to assume that dictatorships will not go by the boards in Europe unless or until the people become thoroughly dissatisfied with them. Even then they will not be abolished.

Matthews has this to say: "There has been a tendency to identify religion with social service and even to identify the Kingdom of God with an earthly Utopia. Some churches have become, it would seem, primarily centres of excellent social and cultural activities, and their ministers entangled with the multiplicity of organized good works. This phenomenon was pointed out in Edwardian days by Charles Booth in his great "Survey" of London. At present a reaction can be observed in most sections of English Christianity. The idea that the Church exists first of all for worship of God is gaining ground, and with it the perception that worship is an "end in itself."

That Body of Ours

By James W. Burt, M.D.

COD LIVER OIL SALVE IN TREATING WOUNDS AND BURNS

You have known for a long time about the helpful effects of cod liver oil for thin children and adults. It was thought formerly that it was the oil itself that gave the strength and fought off infection; now it is known that it is the vitamins A and D that are mostly responsible.

Some years ago Dr. W. Lohr, Leipzig, found that various fats and oils were free of organisms even when sterilized by heat or other methods. Organisms (bacteria), ordinarily found in infected wounds, perish when put into cod liver oil. Just why the organisms die when put in the cod liver oil is not known.

It is further shown that large amounts of cod liver oil used in the treatment of extensive wounds did not cause any symptoms of poisoning whatever. Various neutral substances were put into the oil to make it of a paste.

The oil in this salve permeates or spreads through the tissues and causes the dead parts of the tissues to become more liquid, followed by a powerful stimulation of the growth which affects all tissues, including the surface or "epithelium" tissue.

As you know, in extensive wounds or burns the usual treatment is transplantation of skin from other parts of the body, but Dr. Lohr states that during the past three and one-half years the cod liver oil salve has healed the wounds or burns without the need of skin transplantation.

After the wound has been cleaned in the usual way, a thick layer of cod liver oil salve is laid on the wound surfaces and in the case of the arm or the leg a plaster-of-paris cast is applied over it. The cast is removed at the end of fourteen days, by which time the wound is usually healed.

The cod liver oil treatment should not be used in wounds badly soiled with earth or when severely infected and in infections due to the gas bacillus where of course the parts must be removed with the knife and strong antiseptic solutions used.

In burns the cod liver oil paste was found to be quite as effective as the new treatment with tannic acid. It is believed that these helpful effects of cod liver oil are due to the vitamins A and D which it contains. It may not go very readily. They may not go without force, and considering the severity with which critics of the existing order in Germany, Italy, Russia and other countries of Europe are dealt with, there may be a hesitancy about employing force unless it is felt that public opinion is preponderantly against the existing authorities. A dictatorship is not an easy thing to dislodge. It usually takes steps to perpetuate itself.

DUTY COLLECTED ON IMPORTS

The duty collected on imports in November was \$7,124,000, which was an increase of six percent over 1933 and one percent over 1932. The duty collected in the eleven months of 1934 was \$73,940,000 compared with \$68,690,000 in the same period of 1933 and \$69,664,000 in 1932.

Only 2 Days Left For Your Xmas Shopping

You can select from the following lines: Toilet Sets (Pearl and amber), Yardley Toilet Sets, Hudnut Toilet Sets, Potter & Moore's Bourjois Sets, Eau de Cologne, Bath Salts, Max Factor's Products, Cased Pipes, Cigars, Cigarettes, Fancy Soaps, Stationery, Vanity Cases, Hot Water Bottles, Military Sets, Moirs Christmas Chocolates, Thermos Bottles, Ladies Handbags.

The Two Macs

149 Great George St.

COAL Merry Christmas To our many customers and friends, we wish A Merry Christmas W. D. GILLIS & CO.

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.

RE CORNWALL MEETING

Sir,—As a subscriber to your valued paper permit me to reply to a letter in your yesterday's issue signed "ONE WHO WAS PRESENT." This man criticizes me for not giving my address but is himself ashamed of giving either his name or address and well he might be. My letter was written on my printed stationery.

There is nothing helpful or constructive in his letter which is only a cheap attempt to slam me, to slam my intelligence for voting against the scheme, to slam the district of Hampshire and to slam Mr. Mallinson.

To imply that in my suggesting a secret vote I am reflecting on the industry and intelligence of the Cornwall people only shows that "ONE WHO WAS PRESENT" is no judge of industry or intelligence. Secret votes are taken on all political issues and this potato scheme is a most important issue. Few people like to stand up if they are indebted for fertilizer to the supporters of the scheme who are there watching how they vote.

Hampshire district has no apology to offer—it is very proud of its reputation and resents the slur that "if there is one place on Prince Edward Island or the world over which needs a marketing scheme for produce it is Hampshire." Residents of Hampshire and Cornwall heard similar propaganda before the live stock marketing scheme was introduced and since then; but I have not yet met Government officials in the live stock marketing branch who can tell me why, with dressed hogs selling at 40¢ per lb. today I have to pay 40¢ per lb. for bacon in Cornwall.

The whole letter written by "One Who Was Present" looks to the intelligent people of Cornwall and Hampshire rather "SANDY." I am, Sir, etc., CHESTER EDWARDS, Colville, P. E. I., 21st Dec., 1934.

A writer wonders how public interest in Shakespeare can be revived. It might be a good plan to begin by banning one or two of his plays. The six-year-olds were talking about the arrival of a new baby to the family next door, and said one of them: "Why isn't the baby and Mrs. — home?"

"They're down at the hospital," exclaimed a second six-year-old. "The hospital," said the first with an amazed expression. "Such a new baby, and is it sick already?"

Little Johnny, aged seven, had been taken to the zoo to see the animals. He stood before the leopard's cage for a few minutes staring intently. Then, turning to his mother, he asked: "Mother is that the dotted lion that everyone wants Dad to sign on?"

"Married life," once remarked a sage, "is merely a habit." Yes, and the trouble is too many people are trying to break themselves of it.

TAXPAYERS ATTENTION

The City Tax Office will be open for the convenience of citizens, to receive taxes each evening until December 31st.

FRED LARGE, City Collector.

L-296-12-21-22-24-26.

Supplies For SANTA CLAUS

FLASHLIGHTS complete 65c Christmas Tree STANDS \$1.00 SKIS \$1.50 to \$7.75 Christmas Tree LIGHT SETS \$1.25 SLEIGHS 55c to \$2.50 SKATES \$1.00 to \$5.00 HOCKEY STICKS 15c KIDDIES SNOW SHOVELS 15c

This store will be open for business Friday, Saturday, and Monday evenings, December 21, 22, and 24, until 9.30.

The Rogers Hardware Co., Ltd.

The Poet's Corner

FROM "PARADISE LOST," BOOK III.

"Thus with the Year Seasons return, but not to me returns Day, or the sweet approach of Ev'n or Morn, Or sight of vernal bloom, or Summer's Rose, Or flocks, or herds, or human face divine; But cloud in sted, and ever-during dark Surrounds me, from the cheerful ways of men Cut off, and for the Book of Knowledge fair Presented with a Universal blank Of Natures works to mee expung'd and ras'd, And wisdom at one entrance quite shut out. So much the rather thou Celestial Light Shine inward, and the mind through Shine irradiate, there plant eyes, all mist from thence Purge and dispense, that I may see Of things invisible to mortal sight."

—John Milton. Referring to the complete blindness which had fallen on Milton.

We want men of Mallinson's experience and ability to help sell our produce in spite of what the opposition says.

I have too many good friends in Cornwall to do anything or say anything to reflect unfavorably on Cornwall residents. I was entertained in Cornwall after the meeting and am always made welcome in Cornwall.

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"Married life," once remarked a sage, "is merely a habit." Yes, and the trouble is too many people are trying to break themselves of it.

I want the World on My Radio. so I'm getting a VICTOR GLOBE TROTTER FOR Christmas. Here's fun for Christmas... and for years to come. From around the corner or around the world you'll hear more broadcasts and enjoy the programs more... if you own a Victor "Globe Trotter." Easy terms... 14 models to choose from. Miller Bros. Ltd. 147 Gt. George St. "Globe Trotter" Radios are made only by Victor.

Buy the Best TEA Brahmin Orange Pekoe Ceylon Small Leaf Sipping Stands for Service

The Best Gift of All This is the Season when the Joyous Spirit of Christmas is abroad; a time of cheer and good will to all. What more appropriate gift than a life or endowment policy? It survives the lapse of time and gives constant evidence of the affection, wisdom, and forethought of the giver. The love that never dies. The Great-West Life wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Hyndman & Co. Limited Established 1872 Provincial Managers, Charlottetown

The Chew for You HICKEY & NICHOLSON'S BLACK TWIST CHEWING