

MARCH 4, 1931

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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Economy, Forsooth!

The Lea Government's reason for ignoring the rights of the electors of Cardigan and Charlottetown for full representation in the Legislature this session has at last been given. We quote it from the official Liberal organ. It is surely the most remarkable excuse that has ever been offered on behalf of a Government in this Province for violating its own statutory provisions:

"What about the cost? Practically every government in Canada is up against present and prospective deficits. Money is scarce and economy is the national watchword the world over. Why spend and waste under this stress of financial depression? Do the taxpayers want it? Two by-elections, including two sessional indemnities, would, at this season, cost the country about \$2,000. Would another opposition ten-hour talker be worth this cost? Or couldn't the \$2,000 be applied to a more profitable use?"

If this statement means anything at all, it means that the Lea Government has assumed the right to break the law on the specious excuse of economy. And if it can ride roughshod over the rights of the electors of Cardigan and Charlottetown, what is to prevent it from taking other liberties with the people's prerogatives? Who gave the Lea Government authority to decide that by-elections, due to be held under the statutes of this Province, are a "waste" of money? Why should it be more "wasteful" to hold elections in Cardigan and Charlottetown, than in the Second District of Prince? Is it more extravagant to pay sessional indemnities to the full number of representatives for Cardigan and Charlottetown than to pay the same indemnities to the representatives, say, of Victoria and Mount Stewart? Take the case of Premier Lea and the Hon. Mr. McIntyre. These gentlemen are receiving substantial salaries as portfolio members of the Government, over and above their sessional indemnity. If it be necessary to economize in indemnities, why not begin at the top?

The Liberal organ asks: "Do the taxpayers want these by-elections?" The answer is that they want them just as much as they wanted the by-election in Second Prince. If by-elections are wasteful and unnecessary, why did the Government go to the expense of reopening that constituency? Why did it go to the further expense of marshalling all its available road machinery into the district during the campaign? Why did salaried members of the Government stump the district in the interests of the Government candidate? Was "economy" thought of then? At that time, it was alleged to be very necessary to have a Liberal lawyer in the House to advise the Premier on legal matters. Is it less necessary today; and, if not, why is the Liberal lawyer, who was nominated to contest the Cardigan by-election, being refused the opportunity which was extended to the lawyer nominated against the wishes of the Liberal constituents in Second Prince?

Obviously there is but one reason for withholding the by-elections now pending in King's and Queen's Counties; and that reason has nothing to do with economy. It has to do with the funk into which the Government was thrown by the repudiation of its candidate and its policies, lock, stock and barrel, in a constituency which had been loyally Liberal since Confederation. Had Second Prince returned a Liberal candidate on Trafalgar Day, there is every reason to believe that the Cardigan district would have been reopened and, had the Government carried that riding, it would probably have mustered up the courage to reopen the Charlottetown district. But the Government's defeat in Second Prince showed unmistakably the sentiment of the people and it is of a further expression of that sentiment that the Government, not without reason, is fearful today.

Significant Figures

Automobiles in the United States have killed 50,900 people in the last 13 months—more than were killed of World War.

among other things, up-to-date information on the subject of Canada's national defense. It shows that our per capita expenditure for navy, army and air forces in 1929-1930 was \$1.33. Our contribution to Empire naval defense in that period was \$3,600,000, or 37 cents per capita, as against Great Britain's expenditure of \$5.96 per capita, Australia, \$1.83 per capita, New Zealand \$2.47 per capita, and South Africa .045 per capita.

Canada's total of war veterans' pensions, allowances, etc., paid out to March 31, 1930 reached the enormous sum of \$625,000,000 with a further \$61,304,000 during the fiscal year 1930-31. Of this latter sum \$42,000,000 will be for pensions, \$9,500,000 for soldiers civil re-establishment, \$2,000,000 under Veterans Allowance Act and \$2,000,000 to cover extra charges under amendments to the Pensions Act. In addition, it is estimated that the new pensions system will cost \$50,000,000 during the current fiscal year.

39 per cent. of the federal revenue of Canada goes to payments on War account, and 27 per cent for interest of public debt caused by the War.

Canada's war loans to Italy, Belgium, France, Greece and Roumania amounted to \$45,993,938. Italy, Belgium and France have repaid; Greece owed \$7,520,473, on which \$720,000 has been paid. Roumania still owes us \$20,499,083. Interest payments of \$12,015,537 have been received of which Roumania has paid \$5,273,390 and Greece \$2,549,771.

Commends Bennett Policy

The Toronto Globe, leading Liberal newspaper of Eastern Canada, gives high praise to the Bennett Government for its "wise business move and patriotic step," in banning Russian imports of wood, coal, and other products. It believes, moreover, that "if there are any people in Canada today who think otherwise there is little doubt that they will change their minds in the course of time."

"This action," continues the Globe, "is likely to have wide repercussions. It has come at a time when many nations are considering what is to be done to counteract the Soviet economic menace. Canada has given leadership and in an emphatic way, when Soviet intrigue was dangling before her eye an order for \$10,000,000 worth of agricultural implements. The effect should be to strengthen the courage of countries which would like to take such a step but are hesitating."

"It is not improbable that the Dominion has let herself in for some trouble by this move. Russia will strive harder than ever to interfere with Canada's foreign trade, will work more strenuously to disrupt the Canadian market in Britain to imperil Empire relations."

"The British Government, however should sense the fact that there is a principle at stake and that Canada has shown a way to assist in putting legitimate international business on a better basis. It is clear this cannot be done by sitting in on Russia's schemes. Those countries which presented alarming reports of Russia's inroads on trade at the meeting of the International Chamber of Commerce have a worthwhile example to follow."

Editorial Notes

No less than sixty-three countries bought flour from Canada, the total being more than 2,000,000 barrels. The larger purchasers were Great Britain, 774,811, Germany, 388,215, British West Indies, 200,346 and Finland, 111,742 barrels.

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Notes by the Way

In 1926 it was possible to give a complete demonstration of television, although at that time the image, whether transmitted by radio or by wire, was not very clear; and since that time there have been many improvements. Today there are two buildings in New York City which are connected by television telephone equipment and it is possible to converse between them with the image of one's interlocutor before one. Recent refinements even permit the transmission of the image in color. Nevertheless the equipment is not yet satisfactory. The present image consists of about 4,500 image elements. For really successful transmission it would be necessary to broadcast 350,000 image elements, and because of the continuous movements some seven million image elements would be necessary per second. To achieve this perfection a great deal yet remains to be done.

Canada is passing through a depression, says the London Daily Express, but it is from no inherent causes. The dumping dislocation of Russian grain and the general international dislocation of trade have exacted their heavy toll. But the glory of Canada's future shines like the sun through the mists. Favoured among all the nations in the wealth of her soil and the virility of her people, the years ahead are laden with treasure.

After all, 1930 was the healthiest year on record. Fewer late hours were spent in night clubs; more time was spent with the family; fewer children ran away; more good books were read; there was less riding and more walking, and more home cooking. There are compensations.

When Prime Minister Bennett went to Washington to see President Hoover he was accompanied by Mr. McNider, the U. S. minister at Ottawa, and in the New York Times attention is called to this visit as showing the "independent interchangeability between the United States and Canada." The writer of the article points out that the Prime Minister of Canada is descended from United States colonists, while Mr. McNider, the U. S. minister at Ottawa, is the son of a Canadian.

The case was, however, more interesting, says the Toronto Star, from the fact, not mentioned by our New York contemporary, that President Hoover is the son of a Canadian mother. The interesting spectacle was presented of a Canadian Prime Minister of U. S. descent conferring at Washington with a U. S. President of Canadian descent.

There is no validity in the "cycle of civilization" theory. Rome and Greece, Carthage and Assyria, were laid in ruins for causes quite other than natural decay. Muddleheaded biologists tell us that nations, like trees, grow old and die. What they forget is that it is not the nation, but the individual who suffers from senility. Nations are born fresh with each generation. Trees die of old age, but forests may be immortal. If this civilization decays and dies, it will not be through the operation of nature's laws, but because of their violation. We impoverish those who produce, and we enrich those who prey on them.

What man, no matter how ordinarily prudent or economical he may be, hasn't bought at some time or other something he didn't want, or has missed the opportunity to buy something he pined for? Does this come from deficiency of will? Does it come from alternate states of parsimony and liberality? Is want of logic or instability of temperament the cause?

The art of selling may be enlarged, but in perfection of style, in variety of persuasion, it hardly needs addition. Not merely goods, but whole ideas are "sold"—so put before the eyes and ear as to be irresistible. Perhaps it is different with the women, but simple ordinary man is more or less dazed and powerless as a buyer. If he fails to see what he wants, he takes something else; and if he sees what he wants but the clerk wants him to take something else he takes what the clerk sells him.

If a man's misery and danger can be dramatized, he is pretty sure to get speedy help. If he can't, he is apt to be out of luck.

The trouble with us is that we don't respond to ordinary misery and misfortune. Appeals must be made dramatic. We must have something that could be put on the moving picture screen. The fight against hunger and cold is not exciting enough.

The moral seems to be that one who falls into misfortune must take care to pick a misfortune that has plenty of human interest.



That Body of Ours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

WATER NOT ALWAYS BENEFICIAL

One of the good habits man has developed the past few years is the drinking of one to four or six glasses of water daily.

As you know the tissues of the body, the tiny cells not only are made up mostly of water, but need plenty of water in and about them if they are to do their work properly. These little cells have been likened to little fish with water all about them.

Water is needed for the blood and for all the digestive and other juices of the body.

Water dissolves materials that might otherwise be harmful in the body.

It is the great heat regulator of the body enabling it to get rid of its internal heat by way of the perspiration.

However just like other good things in life it is possible for some individuals to do themselves harm by drinking too much water.

One type who may drink too much water is the overweight individual. His tissues have the power or tendency to hold more water than the tissues in other people and if he drinks his four to six glasses a day besides his water tea, coffee or other liquids with his meals, then his tissues will be overburdened with water and he will become sluggish or water logged.

So most, not all of course, overweight individuals should drink liquids when they feel the need but should drink but a small quantity at a time.

Another type of individual who should not drink too much water at one time or at meal time is the one who has a stomach that hangs low in the abdomen. This type of stomach is usually weak in muscular power, and takes a long time to get food (digested in the stomach) pushed out into small intestine.

It has to push it upward. Thus if this type of individual takes much water with his meals, the food is not going to get churned up as well and will be a long time in the stomach before getting pushed into intestine. A normal stomach, not hanging low, will get rid of a meal in two hours that would require five to six hours in a low hanging stomach.

So be careful about drinking water. It is of real benefit to most of us; but overweight folk, and those with low hanging stomachs would be wise to drink but small quantities at any time and very little, if any with meals.

Our Busy Bees

(Quebec Chronicle)

An indication of the growth of beekeeping in Canada is convincingly given by the following figures of honey production in 1930 compared with those for 1929: In 1929 the total production was 13,769,649 pounds; in 1930 it had increased to 31,169,635 pounds. The most remarkable growth was in Manitoba, where the production rose from 3,522,515 pounds in 1929 to 10,110,128 in 1930. In Alberta the production jumped from 215,000 pounds to 1,878,900 pounds; in Saskatchewan from 170,287 to 685,551, and in Ontario from 5,000,000 to 12,000,000 pounds. Each of the other provinces scored an advance, but not so marked as that for the provinces mentioned. The total value of the 1930 Canadian honey crop is placed at nearly \$4,000,000.

England's Light-Opera

(A. P. H. in the London Observer)

We have never excelled in grand opera, but light opera is part of our tradition and is in our blood. Think of Gay and Bickerstaffe and Sheridan, and remember the Lyric, Hammer Smith, productions during the last twelve years.

The eighteenth century writers and composers wrote of contemporary life, but comic operas today are nearly always set in Ruritanian countries and buffer states, with choruses of peasants in Balkan costumes. When I went to Sir Nigel and told him that I wanted to write an opera about modern English people he said, "What about costume? You must have costumes in a musical play." I have, therefore, attempted to meet the demand by writing a light opera about modern people and at the same time satisfying the desire for costume.

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New England's Loss

(Walter Prichard Eaton in Current History)

The most discouraging thing about New England today is the fact that Boston, from which as a centre used to emanate the matured influence of Yankee civilization, is no longer an influential city.

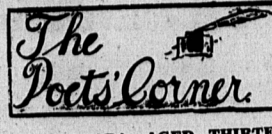
New England seems destined for a long time to come to be the site of educational institutions of great influence, dominated by traditions of thoroughness, sound taste and Puritan conscientiousness. Where it is at present weakest is in the capacity to concentrate its own best spirits into one community, where they can by mutual contact give definite shape to the group ideas, if such ideas exist in a form distinctive from those of other sections. New England at present has no literature, nor does the immediate prospect look too rosy for one, with Boston sunk to so low an intellectual level, and so ready to pounce upon and claw on any spirit brave enough to be a rebel. To recapture such influence as it once had in the realm of literature and ideas, New England needs a focal point other than its scattered colleges; it needs the leadership of Boston.

Romantic Arabia

(Montreal Gazette)

Human curiosity is an indefinite quantity and has an exhaustless appetite. Although it is the opinion of scientific experts that the 900-mile trek made by Bertram Thomas across the Ruba-el-Khali desert of southern Arabia can have no commercial value, the greatest interest is taken in the account this explorer has forwarded concerning his trip. Fifty-eight days it took him to traverse the interior salt-pan of this heretofore unknown part of the peninsula, averaging eight hours per day in the camel saddle. Such details as are now made available will further stimulate the desire to come to the romance which for so many centuries has slept in the silence of oblivion. Some years ago a British army officer made it known that many of the Sahara sand-dunes were composed of minute sea-shells, these the relics of some ancient ocean bed. Mr. Thoms has made a similar discovery in the Dhana desert, having penetrated the borderland country 100 miles from the sea, where at an altitude of 1,000 feet, the sand is strewn with fossils of sea-shells. Within this red belt he discovered a lake seven miles long, a little "dead sea," so salty that even the camels could not drink of it. This torrid belt is, however, by no means destitute of animal life. The explorer tells how he collected eagle's eggs and saw foxes, hares, lizards, wolves, wild-cats, rats and mammals which took on the tawny sand color of their strange environment. All this is very interesting; but there are other features of the story equally fascinating and which will stimulate the curiosity of archaeologists the world over. Mr. Thomas reports that his route led him over the Oara Mountain range, through the reputed "frankincense country" mentioned in the Bible; and in the "mighty bulwark of red" beyond Shisur he came across numerous deeply-cut caravan tracks in the steppe, evidence of the centuries of usage in bygone times. The Bedouins, he tells us, call this the road to Urbar, which, by legendary tradition, is supposed to be the sacred city once the stronghold of an ancient people known as the Ad-dites. According to the local tribesmen, Urbar is the "lost Atlantis" of the Ruba-el-Khali, and today all vestiges of its former glory have disappeared beneath the encroaching sands, save, of course, the wheel-tracks Mr. Thomas mentions in his report.

But this hint is extremely interesting. It takes us back in history along the shadowy road towards the citadel of "Arabian Nights" entertainment. Historians of Arabia are few and far between. They aver, however, that the Arabian chroniclers added to their annals a prehistoric tract peopled with men of renown and "sons of Anak," a saga fabricated after the manner of the Jewish records. And to such story belong the tribes of the Ad-dites, and the Redouin account of "Trem," the "city of pillars." It is so styled in the Koran and this grand citadel is supposed to have



TO BARBARA AGED THIRTEEN

Barbara, though you aren't a boy, As you'd have liked, I wish you joy, And all the things that I think best— Laughter, a Home, a Heart at rest, Old books and Love, to make you wise, A man like you with steady eyes: Children, lots of them (and they'll fight, And ask you questions, day and night); And, Barbara, when you come to die, Some grandchildren to say goody-by. —A. S. Le Maitre.

been erected by Shedad, one of the latest despots of the "Addite" dynasty. Only occasionally to some heaven-sent traveller does the vanished capital reveal its ghostly form to the gaze. So runs the Bedouin tradition. But also they have a legend of some mighty deluge which long ago overwhelmed the inhabitants of this Dhana territory. And perchance the salt-pan belt Mr. Thomas crossed, with the salty lake to which he alludes, are the remnants of the deluge which figures so largely in remote Arabian annals. Be this as it may, the grit and determination displayed by Mr. Thomas in this lonesome trek are recognized by all who have any acquaintance with the conditions under which the adventure was made, and another romantic strophe has been added to the world's knowledge.

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