

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink."

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1939.

Government By Commission

Hon. Dr. Manion in his speech in Parliament on Monday was able to show that since assuming office a little more than three years ago, the King Government had appointed no fewer than nine commissions, at enormous cost to the taxpayers. There were the Rowell Commission, the Veterans Assistance Commission, the National Employment Commission, the Textile Industry Commission, the Wheat Marketing Commission, the Penitentiary Commission, the Lobster and Smelt Fishing Commission (remember that one?), the Coal Commission, the Bren Gun Commission, not to speak of elaborate parliamentary committee inquiries into such matters as the Railway problem and the cost of farm implements.

What have these Commissions done, or changed? The Ottawa Journal pessimistically declares that nobody knows and nobody cares. They were, or are, just Royal Commissions, an ancient device by which Governments evade responsibility.

Actually, a Royal Commission represents the confession of a Government that it doesn't know what to do about some given thing, or—what is just as bad—that it doesn't propose to do anything about a given thing. Our cynical Ottawa contemporary cites A. P. Herbert of Punch as having hit the thing off perfectly in his famous poem:

"I am the Royal Commission on Kissing. Appointed by Gladstone in '74. The rest of my colleagues are buried or missing: Our minutes were lost in the last Great War. But still I'm a Royal Commission. My task I intend to see through. Though I know, as an old politician, Not much will be done if I do."

Promise And Performance

From Prime Minister Mackenzie King's own spoken and written words when in Opposition, Hon. Dr. Manion quoted at length in his speech on the Draft Address at Ottawa. It could not have been a happy evening for Mr. King, for his fulsome promises were in almost ludicrous contrast to his sorry performances in office. Among other things, Dr. Manion pointed out that Mr. King was going to reduce taxation; he was going to lessen expenditure; he was going to retain the British preference, to bring about "harmony and cooperation", to bring about social justice, to appoint an investment control board, to remove unemployment, to bring about prosperity, to wipe out third parties, or to bring about conditions which would cause third parties to disappear. He was going to bring about more equitable distribution of wealth, to control currency and credit, to set up proportional representation, to lower the cost of living and wipe out trusts and combines.

Well might one ask with Wordsworth: "Whether has fled the visionary gleam, Where is it now, the glory and the dream?" The unemployment problem unsolved, taxation at the highest level since the Great War; government expenditures ditto; total trade fallen by \$336,000,000 in the past year; third parties not only vigorously flourishing but the Liberal party leaders themselves bickering and squabbling over federal-provincial issues. Four years after Mr. King's glowing promises, the situation in nearly every respect worse than it was when he took office!

Canada And The Empire

Two professors were recently employed in broadcasting their views on the question whether Canada can be neutral in a war engaged in by Great Britain and still be a member of the Empire. Neither, notes the Fortnightly Law Journal, attempted to answer the argument that the Crown being one and indivisible, if the Crown is at war all its Dominions must automatically be at war. Therefore the price of neutrality in such a case must be the abrogation of allegiance to the Crown. It was suggested that this right of neutrality might be obtained by the enactment of some sort of statute securing such a right to Canada and the proclamation of those rights to the world. "We have the greatest respect for the omnipotence of legislatures, and it is possible that the Crown might be theoretically divided by legislation. But it seems to us that under such legislation the Empire must also be split and cease to exist in so far as the member dominion obtaining such legislation. For the foundation of Empire in so far as Great Britain and the Dominions are concerned is the unity of the Crown. The Crown is the sole common factor remaining. To preserve unity while at the same time achieving disunion seems to us to be beyond even the omnipotence of the legislature and it has not yet attained the stature of a deity to whom even the impossible is possible. It's a nice theory but its practical application like that of so many bright ideas is not so easy."

Germany Under Strain

Recent despatches indicate that there is growing internal discord in Nazi Germany. The overshadowing of the fiery Dr. Goebbels, propaganda minister, by the more moderate Field Marshal Herman Goering is interpreted as an attempt on Hitler's part to appease the German populace, who are feeling the strain of the piling up of armaments at an ever growing speed. During the past year, the German people have been practically on a war footing. The internal commotions of January and February, it will be recalled, were followed by the crisis over Austria. Scarcely was that crisis over when the campaign for the Sudetenland began, leading

to the army manoeuvres of August and September and to the dark days before Munich when to many people war seemed certain. It is not to be wondered at that Germans hoped for a real lessening of the tension and a period of steady progress. To many of them the renewed press campaign against the democracies, the violent attacks upon certain British politicians, the extreme anti-religious and anti-Jewish campaigns, and the demands for more "sacrifices" in the interests of rearmament, must have come as a bitter disappointment.

According to the London Times correspondent, there is widespread resentment in Germany over the recurring shortage of certain foodstuffs. But there is no means of organizing opposition under a dictatorship, and those who dislike the present regime must perforce keep silent. But there is a breaking point which, when reached, may mean a revolution.

Editorial Notes

Henry Hallam, historian, "View of the State of Empire during the Middle Ages", and father of Arthur, who inspired Tennyson's "In Memoriam" died this date, 1859.

Nova Scotia's Minister of Labour has joined the "big interests" as president of a resurrected subsidiary of Cosco. Hope it will mean the resurrection of Cape Breton's mining industry as well.

The withdrawal of the U.F.A. from politics leaves the A.C.F. with practically no background but that of Socialism. It was the unnatural combination of Agriculture-Labour and Socialism that gave the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation its name and whatever political status it enjoyed.

The King Government has launched a \$20,000,000 loan in New York without making much noise about it. In announcing the fact, the astute Mr. Dunning termed it, "a banking credit," but a loan by any other name is the same thing when it comes to paying interest and repaying capital.

The late Mrs. R. T. Holman's garden was the show place of Summerside, indeed the late Sir William Stavert once remarked that "if you have seen Holman's store and Mrs. Holman's garden you have seen an ideal business and an ideal home." Her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren have lived to bless her in life and to cherish a fragrant memory.

British Columbia Liberal members of Parliament, have through resolutions now on the House order paper, given notice that they will renew this session their fight against the illegal entry of Japanese into Canada, and against Japanese domination of the fishing industry in the Pacific Coast province.

Those deluded mortals who spent their hard-earned money in buying Irish lottery tickets now know why they never cashed in on winners. A New York gang of alleged swindlers has been arrested on a charge of theft of between \$1,500,000 and \$4,500,000 from the Irish sweepstakes ticket-buying public during the past three years. They pocketed the payments and supplied their victims with forged receipts.

"The good neighbour" idea is being transferred across the Atlantic, and Mr. Joseph P. Kennedy, the United States Ambassador, and Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain will visit Edinburgh together to receive the honorary degree of doctor of laws of the University of Edinburgh. They will also be presented with the freedom of the city, on a date yet to be fixed.

The cost to the country of the Purvis Unemployment Commission, the report of which was shelved, was \$335,549. For the royal commission on Dominion-Provincial relations, appointed in 1937, the cost, up to June 10, 1938 was \$204,598.71. Since that time numerous hearings have been held in various cities and the report is now in course of preparation.

Persons convicted in police court in Vancouver of driving an automobile while intoxicated will be liable henceforth to a minimum jail sentence of 30 days, with no option of a fine, according to City Prosecutor Oscar Orr. Under new regulations the prosecutor said, such suspects will be tried for an indictable offence instead of by summary proceedings as in the past. The previous minimum penalty provided a seven-day jail sentence or a fine.

Our Federal Ministers had an exceptionally expensive year travelling for the period ending March 31 last. Hon. T. A. Crerar, Mines and Resources Minister, ran up the largest travelling expense account of \$6,256. Prime Minister Mackenzie King's was \$3,009, and other Ministers' were: Justice Minister Lapointe \$4,473; Finance Minister Dunning \$3,377; Defence Minister Mackenzie \$4,400; Agriculture Minister Gardiner \$2,341; Postmaster General Elliott \$500; Trade Minister Euler \$1,050; Transport Minister Howe, \$2,600; Fisheries Minister Michaud, \$1,430; Labour Minister Rogers \$675; Revenue Minister Hsley \$875.

Remains of eight dwellings of people of the Stone Age have been found near Kostenka, a village on the Don in Voronezh Province, by members of an archaeological expedition sent out by the Institute of Material Culture of Leningrad. Situated in two groups on a half-acre site, the dwellings are oval-shaped hollows in the ground, from eight to ten meters long and six meters wide. Each hollow has three or four hearths along the walls. Various implements used by primitive man were found, among them flint scrapers for preparing animal skins, bone awls, as well as small drilled shells and bone ornaments. There was also a sculpture of the head of an animal in solid chalk. The use of some of the implements remains a riddle. Not one of the institute's archaeologists has succeeded in discovering the purpose of the round polished slate slabs and the thirty cubic meter rods. All the finds at Kostenka indicate that the dwellers had lived in one place for a long time and did not lead a nomad life. This is the tenth discovery of Stone Age man dwellings on the territory of the U.S.S.R. by Soviet archaeologists during the last few years.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The inventor of playing cards is unknown. If other people hold the same kind of cards that we do, it is probably just as well. — St. Thomas Times Journal.

Sir George Paish is a useful man. By virtue of his predictions, the world will never suffer financial ruin due to over-confidence.—Toronto Telegram.

The Prime Minister announces that the King and Queen when on their tour of Canada "are not to be expected to listen to addresses of welcome except in Ottawa... If there are any talking to be done we can take care of it here.—Ottawa Journal.

The London Daily Herald says that the vigor of President Roosevelt's speech "put to shame some of our tired and ailing ministers." As the principal newspaper supporter of the Labor party in Great Britain, The Herald would, of course, be delighted to see the first signs of a new rest.—Kingston Whig-Standard.

And now investigators say that light-eyed motorists are more generous than dark-eyed drivers. This may be so but everyone will agree that light-headed drivers are a far greater menace to the highways than the light-eyed ones.—Wheatley Journal.

A year ago a survey made in Britain showed that about 60 per cent of those voting were agreeable to a return of the Windsor dynasty. The Manitoba scene is around 78. At that rate, next midsummer should see opinion unanimously favorable—with 99 per cent of the public not realizing it.—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

There's an agreeable story about a young woman refugee who has found work in one of the department stores here. The other day the store received from a printer a batch of signs, placards and mailing announcements having to do with the January white sale. It was his duty to check it and records its arrival. He was momentarily puzzled by the dotted line calling for a description of the merchandise received, but after some thought his brow cleared and he wrote signs and propaganda material.—New Yorker.

One of the most tasteful books of views that have come under our notice this season is Camera Studies of Ottawa, 1938, sent us by the goodness of Miss Heien, beauty, and mainly represents Lower Banffshire, and herself the contributor to its contents of a charming avenue view near the Peace Tower. But why depend on the Ottawa Journal... The views are very beautiful and are reproduced with a high sense of workmanship. They certainly represent the attractive fashion and proclaim its importance in all the busy political and economic activities of the city.—Banffshire Scotland Journal.

The grim tragedy which happened in Brantford, in which a mother and her two little daughters, one aged two and the other five, were burned to death is again being warned against pouring coal oil or gasoline on fires. This disaster was unnecessary, and that is what makes it so difficult to believe that it happened. It is a warning to understand how an intelligent person would attempt to pour coal oil or gasoline on a fire in order to make it burn quickly, in view of the fact that occurrences that have happened in Ontario in recent years by such practices. The newspapers of the province have been full with warnings against pouring inflammable oil of any kind on fires, but for some reason there are a few who disregard the vital danger with the result that these tragedies occur.—Brantford Expositor.

One of the meanest characters portrayed by Charles Dickens was Noah Claypole in "Oliver Twist." It was Noah who used to catch little children going messaged and take their pennies and sixpences. There are Claypoles today, and they rob messenger boys. Some of them in Montreal go in pairs and work from the same car. When they see a messenger, they stop the car. If no one else is about they almost invariably knock the defenceless messenger down and seize his cash and parcels and drive off. Occasionally they take the victim with them in the car to a more secluded spot, then rob him and throw him into the street or road. These mean scoundrels often are armed. If any criminals deserve the full measure of the law it is these Noah Claypoles. Compared with them, the burglar is a gentleman. The police would do well to concentrate special efforts to put an end to these notorious practices.—Montreal Gazette.

A fortune of \$314,170, which has been in the possession of the State of France since the days of Napoleon, is claimed by 1,560 self-described heirs from Holland and Belgium, from Moscow, Budapest, and Leipzig. The fortune is that of Jean Thierry, the youngest son of an ancient Champagne family. Towards the end of the seventeenth century, while still in his youth, Thierry left the family home to seek a fortune in Italy. He became an inn servant at Brescia, where one evening about the year 1700 a rich Venetian merchant named Athanasios Tipaldi, arrived. Attracted by the charm and ability of the French youth, Tipaldi made him his secretary and travelling companion. Thirty-six years later Tipaldi died and left his entire fortune to Thierry, who in his turn bequeathed the wealth—all of which was stocked in Venice—to the descendants of the Tipaldi family. The state's liability was admitted by M. Vincent-Auriol, Minister of Finance in the Front Populaire government. But it was assessed by him at only half the original fortune—namely at \$150,000. The state, moreover, has itself undertaken the task of tracing the heirs and has discovered only 35.—London Times.

H. G. Wells, who is at present in Australia, in an interview described Hitler as "a certified lunatic" and Mussolini as "a renegade social democrat." Then he said "it will be a long time before we shall see a more..."

The Poet's Corner

CYRANO DE BERGERAC I carry my adornments on my soul. I do not dress up like a popinjay; But inwardly, I keep my daintiness, I do not bear with me, by any chance, An insult not yet washed away — a conscientious Yellow with unpurged bile — an honour frayed To rags, a set of scruples badly garlanded.

I go caparisoned in gems unseen, Trailing white plumes of freedom, With my good name—no figure of a man, But a soul clothed in shining armor, hung with decorations, twirling — thus — A bristling wit, and swinging at my side, Courage, and on the stones of this old town, Making the sharp truth ring, like golden spurs! —Edmond Rostand.

A Post Office Mistake

(Winnipeg Tribune) Few Canadian stamps ever have borne as beautiful scenic views as those on the five higher values of the set recently put into circulation. It is a pity, then, that not one of the stamps bears anything to identify the view shown. Port Garry gate appears on the new 30-cent stamp—the first time that any Manitoba scene has been used on a stamp. To Manitobans it is recognizable at once. Outside this province, or outside Canada, how many could identify it? The same fault is found in the other values. The 10-cent shows the Peace Tower of the Parliament Building at Ottawa. But that is something the user of the stamp must find out for himself, unless he has seen the chamber. The 13-cent gives a view of Halifax harbor. To one unfamiliar with the Maritimes, the harbor might be any one of a dozen inlets on the Atlantic Coast. At first sight it looks uncommonly like the St. Lawrence River as seen from the south side some miles above Quebec. On the 50-cent appears the Lions Gate, entrance to Vancouver harbor, as it was before the new suspension bridge was erected this year. Again, local knowledge or a postal guide is the only means by which the scene can be identified. The Chateau de Ramezay, Montreal, shown on the one-dollar value, has been photographed frequently and is familiar to tourists. But why depend on these accidents for its identification? The wide advertising of Canada's scenery and historic sites has been advocated for some years as a means of encouraging tourists to visit this country. The Post Office has helped the good work in the past, stamp issues by including the name of the scene on each value as part of the design. It is unfortunate that so sensible a practice was abandoned in preparing the current stamps.

BEER BEATS FIRE

VIENNA—When fire broke out in a brewery at Naebeck, firemen found the water hydrant frozen and put out the blaze with beer. time before they get me in a concentration camp. This may be taken as a hint that the famous scientist and writer is not going to visit any of the totalitarian states.—Montreal Gazette.

TIRED FEET

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That Body of Hours

OUTWITTING HOMEMAKERS' FATIGUE For many years it was believed that as practically all of the mistakes made by typists or office employees and the accidents in factories occurred just before the noon hour and again between 4 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon, they were caused by tiredness or fatigue. Recently Drs. Haggard and Greenberg in their book "Food and Physical Fitness" were able to show that it was more often hunger that caused mistakes and accidents as office and factory employees ate very little breakfast and very little lunch. By spreading the same amount of food over four meals instead of three, 10 to 15 percent more work was done daily by factory employees. There is one class of individuals, however, whose fatigue or tiredness is due more to being constantly on the feet than to not eating enough food. I refer to the wife, mother, housekeeper, of the home. Some idea of the physical and mental work the homemaker has to cover in a day is outlined by Lou Tregoning in an article entitled "Outwitting 'Homemakers' Fatigue" in Hygeia. You must be the manager, book-keeper, buyer, cook, waitress, dishwasher, artist, nurse, telephone operator, counsellor and budgeteer of time, money and energy — and hold all the other positions as well. Overfatigue is one of the homemakers' worst enemies. After outlining the work to be done each day, as "system" prevents confusion and confusion brings on fatigue sooner, some of the suggestions to outwit fatigue are: 1. Rest an hour or at least half an hour each day depending on the number of members in the family and your general health. 2. Are you of normal weight? If underweight and live easily, eat a light lunch between meals and a hot food at this time when doing heavier work. 3. Remember that stair climbing uses up fifteen times as much energy as walking. 4. Too much light (glare) and too little light (eye-strain) can bring on fatigue early. 5. Have good shoes and a good bed; you are in one or the other twenty-four hours a day. 6. Good daily bowel movements will help outwit fatigue. Establish a daily habit. Include two vegetables and two fruits in the day's diet. I believe that if the above suggestions by this food and equipment specialist were followed, many housewives would outwit fatigue.

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CONSERVATIVE CONVENTION Charlottetown & Royalties A Conservative Convention to nominate two candidates to contest the 5th district of Queens, in the next provincial election, will be held in the Board Room of the City Hall on Monday, January 30th, at 8:00 p. m. Each poll is entitled to send 5 delegates. Poll meetings to appoint delegates will be held in the McLure Building, Kent Street, as follows: Wards 1, 2, 3—Monday, January 23rd at 8 p. m. Ward 4 and Royalties—Tuesday, January 24th at 8 p. m. Ward 5—Thursday, January 26th at 8 p. m. R. R. BELL Secretary S. KENNEDY President.

Check Your Bearings! We travel fast on the journey of life, striving to reach a haven of independence, before the evening of old age overtakes us. The New Year comes, another milestone, and bids us pause to check our bearings. The road to independence is plainly marked—the highway of life insurance. Why take an unknown road? You can obtain a Great-West Life Pension or Endowment at age 60 or 65 by investing your savings for large or small amounts. It protects your family too. Let us send you particulars. HYNDMAN & CO. LTD. Provincial Managers Charlottetown, Summerside, Montague

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