THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1939

This Is A Fateful Day

Today will be fateful in the history of Europe and the world, for the British House of Commons meets to give approval or otherwise to the action being taken by the Government to stop the on-road of Hitler and Mussolini. It seems to be generally accepted that the invasion of Albania by Italy was done deliberately for one or two purposes, perhaps both. First, to show to the world, and especially the Balkan States, that Italy has "iron in her soul," and, second, to convince Italians themselves that there was something more as fruits of victory for them than the barren rocks of Abyssinia. Though an independent country Albania has been, since 1828, when Zog ascended the throne of what was formerly a republic, practically a mandated country, or proctectorate, of Italy. Apart from the reasons given there was no occasion, or necessity, for Mussolini invading this friendly neighbour unless for the purpose of an easy victory to offset Hitler's recent successes. Albania has a population of little more than a million; her army numbers perhaps two thousand men, and her "navy" consists of a few motorboats on the Adriatic. Though Albanians are magnificent warriors, their resistance —and they appear to have made a brave resistance, particularly at Durazzo—was quickly overcome. They had to accept the inevitable. Mussolini, runing true to form as imitator and second fiddler to his "axis" partner, has violated an agreement he made as recently as November 16 last that Italy would maintain the status quo as regards national sovereignties in the Mediterranean area. What will be the outcome of his coup? Mr. Chamberlain may possibly tell the House of Commons today, but indications are that this wanton act brings us one step nearer war, although the British Government is reluctant to do anything aggressive that would give an excuse for firing the first gun.

Lyons Of Australia

Today the grave closes over the mortal remains of Prime Minister Lyons of Australia, who passed away at an early age the victim of a heart attack.

"'Honest Joe' the Australians called him," says the New York Times. "He was fair to his opponents. He kept his promises. He insisted that the Commonwealth and the States should keep theirs. Dishonest finance and repudiation he fought relentlessly. He began work at 9. He was an office boy. He was a hired man on a farm. He knew what labor was. In little Tasmania the Labor party, so strong elsewhere in Australia, was slow to rise. Tasmania was the flower of conservatism.

"An ambitious young man looking for political distinction would have gone to some other State. School teacher Lyons's admirable wife, also a school teacher, was ambitious for him. He was elected to the Tasmanian House of Assembly in 1909 as a Labor member. Later he became Premier of Tasmania; then went to the Federal Parliament in 1929. He became Postmaster General in the Labor Government. In 1930 he was Acting Treasurer. Disaster was closing in on Australia. Prices, exports, national income were sinking. There were ominous deficits in State and Federal budgets. Various polltical groups were howling for inflation. In 1931 Mr. Lyons threw up his office and helped form a union party of all supporters of sound finance.

"Prime Minister, he cut salaries, pensions, interest, every sort of expense. He negotiated internal loan conversions. He called a conference of Premiers of six Australian States that resulted in a plan for the gradual balancing of budgets. He restored the shaken credit of Australia. In one year he reduced the Government deficit from one hundred millions to forty-five. He turned deficits into surpluses and reduced taxation. That is glory enough for 'Honest Joe' Lyons."

Protesting Over Much

The Liberal monopolists of the Legislature are protesting too much and explaining too little. The first plank in their 1935 election platform was:

"Reduction of expenditure sufficient to balance the budget annually.

That was their definite, specific promise to the electorate which returned them to power, Have they fulfilled that pledge, and if not why not? Needless to say they have not, and no amount of quibbling or alibis will excuse them for their failure. No one denies that times have been bad, but then we were assured in 1935 by the Premier himself that if we returned the Liberals to office, there would be:

"a revival of trade and the end of stagnation, and the commencement of a new era of prosperity for this province and for Canada."

These are the guarantees which Premier Campbell and his supporters gave the electorate in 1935. Can anybody reasonably assert the promises were even attempted to be carried into effect? Now when the bluff is being called, the bluffers turn-round and protest they "did not know the conditions" when they appealed for support, and that, when by means of their bluffing they got the direction of Government, they had to spend more money than they anticipated —hence a balanced budget was an impossibility.

Well, isn't that just the sort of excuses Hitler and Mussolini are offering for breaking their pledged word in Europe? It is the way of the faker who proclaims impossible cures, and when brought to task curses the law, the medical profession, the public at large and everybody but himself for his failure to get away with the fraud. There are fake statesmen just as there are fake prohibitionists, and Father Time has a way of uncovering them.

This is what "F. S. M." in the Montreal Gazette thinks of men of that kidney:

You trusted a man, you believed in his word,
And what has your trusting taught you?
Naught but the way of a threatening sword;
This is all that your trusting has brought you.

Thus were you befooled, and subtly deceived,
Asleep in your easy confiding;
The word of a liar you blindly believed
While he his grim purpose was hiding.

Spring Here And Away

It is really encouraging to have "brothers in adversity," and this is the case with regard to our present weather. Sir W. Beach Thomas writing in the London Spectator of March 31 says:

"Spring (official) opened last week 'with even more than its usual severity'; but almost with its usual, and yet always new, pleasantness. The phenologists with their curious science have laid it down that the best time to sow barley is when the blackthorn opens its flowers. The coincidence will occur this spring, and we may hope that it is omen of a bountiful harvest. Is Spring late or early? The question is not so easy to answer as you may think even for the engrooved diarist and complete countryman. Most critics will say that the Spring is late; but the birds, the so-called summer visitors, are not late. Two members of my household and one neighbour are quite sure that they heard an unmistakable cuckoo in the second week of March. May we credit the evidence? It is still, I think, denied that the presence of a March cuckoo has ever been proved. I am told that both the wheat-ear and the chiff-chaff were early. The general truth is doubtless that in exposed sites spring is very late indeed. In one orchard, well tee'd up and quite unprotected, the apple buds are still scarcely more perceptible than in winter, and the daffodils grown in the grass are still in tight bud, while those in a sheltered bed are already past their best. The continuous aliquid amari of the northerly winds has been disregarded only in the hollows and snug retreats; and even there the snow has whitened the ground for an appreciable period. Even the South of France has not been exempt."

Similarly down south, conditions have been no better as witness the New York Times: "No remark was more frequent this week, in casual conversation, than deprecatory comment on the kind of Spring we were having. The bare boughs bending under pitiless northeast rain, the low and un-springlike temperature even on occasional days of sunshine, the overcoats buttoned to the chin, presented a picture seemingly more appropriate to December than to April. But the disappointment must in fairness be ascribed to quite mistaken tradition regarding this particular time of year. A year ago the first week of April was distinguished by snow and freezing temperatures, and the testimony of many other Aprils has been similar. Sometimes such experience would seem to suggest the question, not whether Spring is late in coming but whether, in these parts there is such a season. An observant English guest once remarked that she would always remember her visit, because she had seen the splendors of an American Autumn, and "you know," she added, "that we have no Autumn in England." But she was glad that she was returning in April to her own country, "because, you know, you have no Spring in America."

As we say, it is pleasant to think that we are not alone in the "enjoyment" of bad Spring weather.

Editorial Notes

The Roman Catholic Disabilities Act passed by the British Parliament this date, 1829.

* * *

The City Council is evidently looked upon as an employment agency in itself.

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It is easy to be valiant in debate when one has only a "shadow" opposition. But does it really get the "debater" anywhere, does he even succeed in fooling himself?

* * *

It is currently reported in Ottawa that Mr. Dunning is slated for the Chairmanship of the Tariff Board in succession to the late Mr. Justice Sedgewick. He is eminently suited for the job, even though not a lawyer. At the same time his colleagues, or at least some of them, wish him to stick to the portfolio of Finance, as his health is said to be completely restored, and he is the one in the Party in whom the moneyed interests have the utmost confidence.

* * *

Rapid progress in the fight against pneumonia, for many years one of the gravest causes of mortality, is reported at the Notre Dame Hospital, Montreal, through the medium of sulfapyridine —a treatment that was evolved barely a year ago and results of which were reported this week in the Canadian Medical Association Journal. Drs. Jules Prevost, Georges Herbert and Georges Leclerc, speaking at the last meeting of the hospital, claimed that of the 32 cases of pneumonia treated with the new medicine, only one failed to respond completely. It is felt that these figures constitute fairly adequate proof of sulfapyridine's efficacy.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Someone in the Navy Department at Washington has dug up and posted an old World War sign:—"Beware of female spies!" So the European crisis has its compensations. Of course, we're not in the navy and we don't know any military secrets, but if female spies are around again we can always hope that one of them will try her wiles on us. And being exposed to the wiles of a female spy, judging by all the books, is not at all unpleasant—although naturally, we should finally feel compelled to repulse the temptress with stern, patriotic indignation. —New York World-Telegram.

Canada is saved. Discussing our defence situation after the revelation that Germany was seeking air bases in Iceland, it was pointed out at Ottawa that we now had six (count them, six) Hawker Hurricane 'planes, each one mounting eight machine guns. These would be stationed in the Prairie Provinces (two per province?) for use in defence of our Arctic regions. This calculation appears to be mathematically correct, except of course that one of our six Hawker Hurricanes crashed at Vancouver and that we now have only five. But we have five to defend us. Five Hawker Hurricanes, after several years of great activity by our Department of Defence. Canada is saved. —Winnipeg Free Press.

Hon. Mitchell F. Hepburn in his attempt to justify the cuts in the grants to the universities claims that the institutions "are populated mainly by the sons and daughters of the rich, whose parents could help in the maintenance of the colleges." It might interest Mr. Hepburn to know that no less than 22.7 percent. of the students registered at the University of Western Ontario come from the farms of this peninsula. Surely Mr. Hepburn will not regard the farmers of Ontario as wealthy! The percentage of sons and daughters of the rich at Western is surprisingly few. An amazing number of the students are helping to put themselves through university. —London Free Press.

The recent display in Fredericton of weaving, of woven tweeds and of clothes tailored from them all made in New Brunswick down to the production of the wool, seems to have captured popular attention. Well it may. New Brunswick has many characteristic products, from dulse to hooked rugs, and all are worth fostering. They stamp the province indelibly on the minds of visitors. They advertise New Brunswick wherever they are mentioned. They are profitable in every respect. As a constant reminder none, however, can compare with a high quality cloth. Whoever wears it is a walking advertisement of the place of its manufacture. —Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

As long as people have been writing and speaking in English at all, they have been writing and uttering the expression, "Quick as a wink." Way back in the primitive days before everything was scientific, they used it. But, poor, benighted folks, they didn't really known what they meant. Just how quick is "quick as a wink?" No need for ignorance any longer. Science has stepped in and accurately measured the wink. With apparatus and photographic film and pages of mathematical calculations, based on the records of expert and just average winkers, they found that the ordinary involuntary wink (blinkus vulgaris) takes between one-eighth and one-fourth of a second, while even one of those long, lazy provocative winks takes no longer than a full second. —Kitchener Record.

One of the most serious handicaps to the building up of a real sheep raising industry in Algoma is the prevalence of wolves. In most ways Algoma is ideally adapted to the raising of sheep. It has large areas which are especially suitable to that industry which could be put to good use if it were not for the discouragement to farmers resulting from the raids by wolves. "It is hard on the nerves," said one Algoma farmer, "to have to go to bed every night worried for fear that your flock of sheep will be cut down before morning. The result is that a good many of us have pretty well given up raising sheep." Perhaps the Government could do something to help. There is a possibility that a large bounty or the appointment of official wolf hunters or some such measure would be of assistance. Some years ago the Government helped in the building of wire fences on Manitoulin to keep the wolves out. These and other methods might be considered. And it is worth while to remember that the wolf is a menace not only to the sheep but to game as well. —Sault Ste. Marie Star.

Mr Justice Cave's laconic summing-up mentioned the other day might be compared with the comment of Mr. Commissioner Kerr: "Gentlemen of the jury, you have heard the witnesses for the plaintiff. If you believe them you should find a verdict for the plaintiff. You have heard the witnesses for the defence; if you believe them you will give a verdict for the defendant. But if, like myself, you don't believe any of them, then God alone knows what you will do. Consider your verdict." At the same time, a laconic summing-up may be a dangerous thing and even defeat the ends of justice. Hawkins used to say that he learnt a very useful lesson in this respect early in his career as a judge. He forgot, as he confesses, that country juries were not always wise, and that "juries are unused to evidence and have very often to be told what is the bearing of it." In a case of fowl-stealing at Exeter the evidence seemed so overwhelmingly clear that he confined himself to saying: "Gentlemen, do you believe in the defence?" "They put their heads together and kept in that position for some time, and at last, to my utter amazement, said: 'We do, my Lord. We find the prisoner not guilty'."— Manchester Guardian.

Many lists have been drawn up to show that all men are not useless when they reach mature years. The Commentator, a New York magazine, offers the following: Between the ages of 70 and 83 Commodore Vanderbilt added about 100 million dollars to his fortune. Kant at 73 wrote his Metaphysics of Ethics, at 74 his Anthropology. Tintoretto at 74 completed painting the vast Paradise, a canvas 74 by 30 feet; while Verdi at 73 produced his masterpiece, Otello, at 79 Falstaff and at 85 the famous Ave Maria. Cato at 80 began the study of Greek; Goethe at 80 completed Faust. At the early age of 80 Tennyson wrote Crossing the Bar, while Titian topped all the boys by painting his historic picture of the Battle of Lepanto as a youngster of 98. —Edmonton Journal.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

PAIN IN THE HEAD

In my student days I witnessed a most prolonged and difficult operation for the removal of a small nerve bundle that was causing unbearable pain in the head and side of the face. This is known as Tic Doloreaux or trifacial neuralgia. The operation was justified because only morphine could deaden the pain.

To-day this operation is not in use to the same extent as the nerve supplying the side of head and face can now be injected with alcohol and other substances and the patient kept free of pain for months and sometimes for years. There is thus no fear of forming the drug habit.

Another pain at side of head and face is migraine, believed to be due in part to mental and physical overwork. The use of ergotamine tartrate is now having success in most of these cases. Pain at the very top of the head giving the feelng of a tight band — neurasthenia—is usually due to mental and physical tiredness, also.

Pain in the forehead immediately in or above the eyes is usually due to eyestrain; if pain is up a little higher on the forehead it is likely due to sinus trouble. If half way up forehead, it is usually due to digestive disturbances, as is also pain at back of head.

Pain below the ear, at the hinge joint connecting upper and lower jaw may be due to mumps or ear disturbance but another cause for pain in this region is reported by Drs. E. C. Ernst and J. B. Costen, in Radiology These physicians report that the removal of teeth from the upper or lower jaw can cause pain about the ear, up to top of head, about the eye, and along the border of the tongue. "Burning of the tongue follows, and the patient lives in dread of cancer." The pain is caused by pressure on the nerve supplying the ear and side of the head as it passes over the joint between upper and lower jaw bones. Relief is obtained by proper bridgework or other methods by which the dentist can bring the jaws together properly.

This discovery by Drs. Ernst and Costen should help physicians and dentists give relief for pain in this part of the head.

The Poets' Corner

A BALLAD OF TREES AND THE MASTER

Into the woods my Master went,
Clean forspent, forspent.
Into the woods my Master came,
Forspent with love and shame.
But the olives they were not blind to Him,
The little grey leaves were kind to Him:
The thorn-tree had a mind to Him
When into the woods He came.

Out of the woods my Master went,
And He was well content.
Out of the woods my Master came,
Content with death and shame.
When Death and Shame would woo Him last,
From under the trees they drew him last:
'Twas on a tree they slew Him—last
When out of the woods He came.

—Sidney Lanier (1842-1881), a southern poet.

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.

BRIGHTON BRIDGE PROJECT

Sir,—Kindly allow me space in your column to express a few of my thoughts concerning the Brighton Bridge project.

I would like to say that I read an account of the Premier's Draft Address in the House in which he mentioned this well deserved project. I must say, that our honourable friend is certainly to be congratulated on being able to congregate so many excuses as to why this project should not go ahead. I have heard a great many people express their views on this subject since the bridge meeting, and most of them think that Messrs. LePage and Prowse took a great deal of pleasure out of announcing the fact, that this bridge would cost over a million dollars. Now do they think for a moment that the people of southern Queens County are so dumb that they will swallow such a bluff hook, line and sinker? Did not Mr. Jenkins tell us what this bridge could have been built for some years ago? Surely the cost of labour and material has not more than doubled since that time, which would bring the cost of the bridge to-day around three hundred thousand dollars. Instead of going ahead with this well deserved project our Liberal Government is going to spend around two hundred and thirty thousand dollars on the old North River bridge, to benefit a dozen or more LIBERAL families, and at the same time lose several thousand Liberal votes at the coming election. Our honourable friend, the Premier, says that one million dollars is too much money to spend on one locality. Does he refer to our Capitol City and every district from York Point to Victoria, including the West River district as one locality? I would like him to know, as he apparently does not, that this section of southern Queens county is the best farming locality of Prince Edward Island and, as Mr. Hyndman has already pointed out, pays in about one third of the taxes on the Island. Our Premier, in his draft address lavishes a great deal of praise on Cavendish as the ideal place for the National Park, and sets out the advantages of the paved road to it, given by the Federal government. It is a great pity, that he and our Queen's County representatives, could not look on the bridge project in the same light as they see the benefits of the National Park. It seems very strange how Messrs. LePage and Prowse can be one hundred per cent behind this project and still be putting forth no real effort to have it undertaken.

I have no doubt if this matter was presented to the Federal government, in the proper way, and had the sincere support of the Premier of our province, and Queen's County representatives, that Mr. Dunning would see the matter in a different light, and we would get our bridge under the Unemployment Plan. If this million dollar project was in Summerside or any other part of Prince County, I am sure our Premier would be more interested and would put forth a great deal of effort to procure it.

I am, Sir, etc.,

A YORK POINT LIBERAL.

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NOTICE

Highways Closed To Motor Vehicles

Commencing on this date, until further notice, all paved and gravel highways in this Province are closed for motor vehicle traffic, except in such cases where the total weight of vehicle and load does not exceed 4,000 pounds.

Anyone driving on provincial highways contrary to this order shall be duly prosecuted.

Dated the 5th day of April, A. D. 1939.

By order,

P. S. FIELDING
Clerk of the Executive Council

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