THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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KING'S BAD BREAK

Following the introduction of the Marketing Bill in the Provincial Legislature, a typewritten letter, unsigned, but purporting to come from independent potato shippers, was received by members of both sides of the House. The letter attacked the purposes of the bill on the ground that it was radical in its provisions, that it infringed on personal liberty and prevented producers from selling when and how they liked, etc. etc.

Mr. B. W. LePage, Liberal member for Second Queens, declared that after reading this letter he was more than ever convinced of the need of a Marketing Board. He pointed out that the time has come for some drastic form of regulation to control the movement of goods if our farmers and fishermen are to receive the benefit of their toil, industry and initiative. The bitter opposition to the proposed legislation, as voiced in the letter received, confirmed him in the belief that it would be an excellent thing in affording protection to our basic producers against unjust price spreads and ruinous competitive price cutting.

Mr. LePage's sentiments were echoed by other Liberal members, who seemed equally convinced that the anonymous campaign against the bill was not in the interests of our farmers and fishermen.

An extraordinary situation has now arisen, which gives added significance to the opinions expressed by our Liberal legislative members. According to a despatch in yesterday's Guardian, Mr. Mackenzie King has advanced in Parliament the same arguments against the Marketing Bill as were advanced in the anonymous letter received by our local members, and Hon. Mr. Stevens, Minister of Trade and Commerce, has defended it on practically the same grounds as have been urged by Mr. LePage, Mr. Dennis, and other local Liberal representatives.

The federal Liberal leader has stated his intention of moving an amendment which, if passed, would have the effect of killing the bill. Thanks to the substantial majority of the Bennett Government in the House, this amendment has no chance of being adopted. But surely it would be fitting for the Liberal party in this Province to publicly dissociate itself from Mr. King's injurious obstructionist tactics, and tell him, in no uncertain terms, where he "gets off at" in attempting to play politics with legislation of such importance and necessity to the people of this section of Canada!

ORDER OF THE THISTLE

A London letter says: By the death of Lord Novar, following upon that of Lord Aberdeen, a second vacancy is created in that select body the Order of the Thistle. Apart from the Royal Family, it consists of sixteen members, most of them Scottish peers. One commoner at present a member is Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, whose father, Sir William Maxwell, the historian and art critic, was also entitled to wear the dark green sash of St. Andrew.

The "most ancient Order of the Thistle" was founded by James II (VII of Scotland) in 1687, and dedicated to St. Andrew. It first consisted of the Sovereign and eight knights companions, and fell into abeyance at the Revolution of 1688. In 1703 it was revived by Queen Anne, when it was ordained to consist of the Sovereign and 12 knights companions, the number being increased to 16 by statute in 1827.

The thistle as a symbolic Scottish emblem, however, dates further back than the foundation of the Order. The earliest known mention of it as the national badge of Scotland is in the inventory of the effects of James III (of Scotland, 1460-1488) who probably adopted it as an appropriate illustration of the royal motto "In Defence." Thistles occur in the coins of James IV, Mary, James V, and James VI., on those of James VI. they are for the first time accompanied by the motto "Nemo Me Impune Lacessit." A collar of thistles appears on the gold bonnet-pieces of James V. of 1539; and the royal ensigns, as depicted in Sir David Lindsay's armorial register of 1542, are surrounded by a collar formed entirely of golden thistles, with an oval badge attached.

"It is strange," writes Ruskin in 'Proserpina,' "that I cannot find authentic note of the day when Scotland took the thistle for her emblem; but, with whatever lightness of construing we may receive the symbol, it is actually the truest that could have been found, for some conditions of the Scottish mind. There is no flower which the Proserpina of our Northern Sicily cherishes more dearly; and scarcely any of us recognize enough the beautiful power of its close-set stars, and rooted radiance of ground leaves; yet the stubbornness and ungraceful rectitude of its stem, and the besetting of its wholesome substance with that fringe of offence, and the forwardness of it, and dominance,—I fear to lacess some of my dearest friends if I went on:—let them rather, with Ballie Jarvie's true conscience, take their Scott, from the inner shelf in their heart's library which all true Scotsmen give him, and trace, with the swift reading of memory, the characters of Fergus M'Ivor, Hector M'Intyre, Mause Headrigg, Alison Wilson, Richie Moniplies, and Andrew Fairservice; and then say, if the faults of all these, drawn as they are with a precision of touch like a Corinthian sculptor's of the acanthus leaf, can be found in anything like the same strength in other races, or if so stubbornly folded and starched moni-plies of irritating kindliness, selfish friendliness, lowly conceit, and intolerable fidelity, are native to any other spot of the wild earth of the habitable globe."

LIBERAL FAMILY ROW

The Halifax Liberal press takes severely to task Hon. J. H. MacQuarrie, Attorney General in the new Liberal Government of Nova Scotia, for a statement made on the floor of the Legislature. There have been many complaints about a gasoline control bill which the MacDonald Government has introduced, and in replying to newspaper criticism on this subject Attorney General MacQuarrie used the expression "unfair remarks in the newspapers whether subsidized or not." When challenged to name the "subsidized" press, he refused to do so. The Liberal newspaper devotes a front-page editorial to the incident, denouncing the minister for having said "too much or too little" and challenging him to "make good or retract."

"The press of this country," says our Halifax Liberal contemporary, "owes a duty to its public equally with any representative or minister in the House and is free to express its opinions on any legislation whatsoever without let or hindrance. If the press should say that any member of the House was "subsidized" because of any view he might choose to take on a particular measure, the press would be accountable in the courts or before the bar of the House for its words, but any member may rise in the House and say what he will and, under the law, he is accountable to nobody." The fact that a member of the Legislature occupies this favoured position should, Mr. MacQuarrie is reminded, make him doubly cautious in exercising the privilege, lest injustice be done.

In a follow-up editorial on Friday, the Halifax Liberal newspaper says:

"Since the Minister at yesterday's meeting of the House said nothing on the subject, there is only one conclusion which can be drawn—that he is unable to name such "subsidised" paper. In fairness to himself, to the House, and to the press, we venture to suggest to the Attorney General, that the statement being made out of whole cloth, he would have been better advised to frankly say and withdraw the offensive and gratuitous utterance."

EDITORIAL NOTES

A copy of the first issue of the first edition of Samuel L. Clemens's (Mark Twain) "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" brought $1,800 recently when sold at auction in New York. The volume, which was brought by a California private collector, is in the original light cerulean cloth and has gilt edges. Only a few other copies of the first issue appeared with gilt edges. At the same sale, a copy of the first edition of Clemens's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" in the original blue cloth, sold at $650.

Concrete evidence of the upturn in economic conditions is furnished by the carloading figures for the three months ending March this year as compared with last covering the Atlantic Region of the Canadian National Railways which show an increase of 15,567 loads, figures for 1934 being 51,510 cars. Commodities making up this increase included coal, lumber, agricultural products, particularly potatoes and turnips, and import and export freight.

Notes By The Way

The New Statesman and Nation (London): There was an aged prophet at the Peace Conference in 1919 who watched the signing of the Treaty of St. Germain. "That" he said, "is the harvest of one war and the seed of another." Nobody listened to him then. The victors believed in the eternity of their victory; the victims were hopeless and impotent; idealists saw salvation in the League. Now, after fifteen years of struggling and blundering, the prophecy is coming true. It is civil war in Austria today; tomorrow or the day after it may be European war. For the blood-shed in Vienna the immediate responsibility rests on the Fascists, led by Prince Starhemberg and Major Fey; in the last analysis it is the outcome of the policy pursued by the Great Powers. They left a truncated Austria, ringed round by hostile and jealous neighbours. They propped it up time and again with loans, offered it advice and read it sermons—did everything in fact except allow it to join its fortunes to Germany—just and safe though that would have been when Germany was Stresemann's and Bruening's Germany. Austria has for many years been an awkward pawn; now that Hitler has come into the game there is grave danger that the pawn will queen.

George Gissing tells in his "Private Papers of Henry Ryecroft" of his purchase of the first edition of Gibson's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" for but a shilling a volume! He bought it, however, at the sacrifice of a meal, and then had to cart the big volumes over five miles to his humble quarters. But as he fondled the precious books and read and re-read them, he confessed his extreme joy. He had earned them! Therefore he loved them.

The New York Times makes some biting comment on the United States attitude. It says: "Our Presidents and congresses abound in noble sentiments about peace, but when practical steps to assure it are urged upon them they protest their inability to do anything. Ever since the end of the Wilson administration our government has taken upon itself to do a lot of preaching to Europe, but if it is a case calling for action Europe must attend to that herself." Of course the attitude of Japan, France and Germany makes it very difficult to get action at the present time, but so long as the United States stands aloof the prospects of effective international agreements to prevent war are made more remote.

After holding him under observation for two weeks, Dr. Martin Tweedie operated upon 12-year-old Harold Rickett of Sandusky, Mich. and found a fully developed appendix on the left side as well as one on the right. Dr. Tweedie said that the case was very rare. The boy was kept under observation for two weeks because he complained of pains on both sides.

Art and poetry both came to life with the birth of the human race. Each was already in the earth and sky—and everywhere. They both came to light with the desire in the human heart for expression. The crudest hut or utensils had both a touch of art and poetry to it. Every tree, flower, rock, stream—pebble had art to it, and the appreciation of this art began to flow through the human consciousness as poetry. In the darker days of the human race killing was only done for food, but in these more enlightened days people kill for money and temporary power and for a tinselled glory. And those who still have art and poetry flowing through their veins pay the big bill. Otherwise war would long ago have been outlawed from the earth. It is heartening, however, that there are period when a large part of the people of the earth may thrill their hearts with God's art and poetry that are so common that apparently only uncommon people appreciate them to the full!

Mr. Lore, writing in Harper's Magazine, says: "In all other countries future wars are regarded, except by small groups personally interested in war and war profits, as a possible evil for which one must be fully prepared. In National Socialist Germany war is the national idea and the end of all political and social aspirations. In other countries there are important forces at work to prevent future catastrophes. In Germany the National Socialist system has broken all such forces on the wheel and has placed the sources of the nation unreservedly at the command of the general staff. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that war is no longer conceived as a measure for the protection of the state; it is the end of statecraft itself."

Washington Post: Insull's dramatic arrest came on the same day that the final court in Canada ruled that his brother, Martin, prince regent of the Insull empire, must go back to Cook County to face trial. It is doubtful now if Samuel Insull can much longer escape this ordeal. Perhaps the long melodrama is nearing its last and most exciting chapter, with a famous courtroom scene for its closing. In the last chapter the Insulls would be more admired had they chosen to stand like men when the structure crashed around their heads.

Italy is due for a cabinet shakeup within a few weeks of the next Chamber of Deputies' meeting April 26. Practically all the cabinet ministers, with the exception of the three charged with military duties are slated to be changed.

No one believes, says the London Times, that there are prevalent in the Dominion abuses on a scale at all comparable with those which have recently been disclosed in America. But the economic and financial relations of the two countries are exceedingly close, and it is suspected that big business in Canada has become to some extent infected. Hence the determination manifested by both Government and Opposition to discover how far the infection has gone and to clean it out of the Canadian system. It is natural enough that this reforming zeal should have been quickened by Mr. Roosevelt's war against dishonest business and financial practices in the United States. The progress of his campaign has been followed nowhere more closely than in Canada, where the general sympathy felt for his aims was reflected in the recent speech of Mr. Meighen, the ex-Prime Minister, who now leads the Conservative Party in the Senate. He could not, he said, approve of all the President's policies; but he felt that industry could not survive under the old policy of "beggar my neighbour" and that a system of codes was now needed such as had been adopted in the United States He was confident of the success of the Roosevelt experiments, from which he believed that Canada had much to learn.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

REDUCING THE NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM CARBON MONOXIDE

In 1927, the number of deaths in New York City from carbon monoxide poison (gas used for lighting and heating) was 611.

In 1928 the number was 570; in 1929 it was 525; in 1930 it was 435; in 1931 it was 305, and in 1932 it was down to 278.

What do these figures mean?

These figures mean that at last a method of reviving these cases has been found if it is used soon enough and in the proper manner.

What a patient, unconscious from carbon monoxide poisoning needs, and all that he needs, is the removal of the carbon monoxide, restoring the blood to a condition where it can absorb oxygen again, and thus replace the carbon monoxide with oxygen.

Drs. Yandell Henderson and H. H. Haggard, Yale University, point out that getting the blood back to its normal condition cannot be done by using any drugs by the hyperdermic method, as has often been tried. The proper method of treatment is the use of oxygen containing about 7 to 10 per cent carbon dioxide. Their theory, and the results of the treatment would show it to be correct, is that the air given these victims to breathe, should be like the air that is being breathed out of the lungs naturally. It is the carbon dioxide in the used air that makes the individual need to breathe in some purer air to overcome it, thus making the lungs work naturally because they must have this air.

The Schaefer method of resuscitating or reviving this type of patient is the same as in cases of drowning or other forms of suffocation.

You put yourself astride the patient's body (patient lying on abdomen) in a kneeling position, facing his head. Placing your hands flat in the small of his back, with the thumbs nearly touching and the fingers spread out on each side of the body over the lowest ribs, lean forward and steadily allow the weight of your body to fall over upon them, and so produce a firm downward pressure. Immediately thereafter swing backward, rapidly releasing the pressure but without lifting the hands from the patient's body.

Repeat this forward and backward movement (pressure and relaxation of pressure) every four or five seconds.

This method is so simple that any one can do it and fortunately it requires but one person to administer it.

Great Medical Discoveries

(Edinburgh Scotsman)

In one of his essays, Oliver Wendell Holmes—a fine physician, a human philosopher, and an excellent writer—reminded us that doctors learned "from a Jesuit how to cure agues, from a friar how to cut for the stone, from a soldier how to treat gout, from a sailor how to keep off scurvy, from a postmaster how to sound the Eustachian tube, from a dairymaid how to prevent smallpox, and from an old market woman how to catch the itch-insect." Medicine, like every other art and science, is fed by streams, the sources of which are in obscure places familiar to few, sometimes unknown to all.

Nearly everyone has, at some time or the other, had the experience of being stethoscoped or ausculated. The stetoscope, which today is part of the pocket equipment of every practising doctor, is essentially a simple tube or pair of tubes, one end of which the doctor places against his ears, the other on the chest of his patient. He is thus enabled to hear sounds of the beating heart or of the passage of air through the lungs, which indicate to his trained intelligence the presence or absence of morbid abnormalities.

The French doctor, Laennec, who lived and practised in the days of Napoleon, was concerned about the state of the lungs of a young woman patient who consulted him. He wished that he could hear what the passage of air through her bronchial tubes and air-cells sounded like. It is said that he was modestly reluctant to press his ear against the young lady's chest, but, as he walked through the park, he continued to puzzle over his problem.

He came across some children playing with a see-saw. These children had devised a sort of telepathy, one of them would make certain scratches and taps at one end of the plank, which another child, with his ear pressed against the other end of the plank, many feet away, would translate or interpret.

Dr. Laennec realized that his problem was solved; and, when he next saw his young patient, he had armed himself with a tubular roll of paper, one of which he applied to the lady's chest and the other end to his own ear. He heard what he wanted to hear, and the stethoscope was invented. He himself brought the invention to a stage of effectiveness little below that of the modern instrument.

The story of the origin of vaccination against smallpox is too well known to tell again at length. Most people have heard or read how Farmer Jesty had noticed that his milkmaids who had contracted cow-pox from the infected udders of his cows proved remarkably insusceptible to smallpox, even in the midst of the wholesale epidemics that were so common in the eighteenth century. It was Farmer Jesty's observation that gave the Gloucestershire physician, Dr. Jenner, the idea of deliberate vaccination with cow-pox as a means of rendering people relatively immune to smallpox—at any rate for a number of years.

The properties of many of our best-reputed drugs were known to primitive or illiterate folk long before doctors became acquainted with them. It was from an old village woman in Shropshire that Withering, who first introduced digitalis, or fox-glove leaves, into orthodox medical practice, learned of this potent drug, now prescribed almost daily by every practising doctor. The Indian natives of South America employed Cinchona bark for malaria ages before any European doctor had ever heard of it or of its essential ingredient, quinine. The early history of opium is buried in oblivion; but its effects were known to whole races long before the foundations of scientific medicine were laid.

The list might be indefinitely prolonged; nor is it at all unlikely that great and revolutionary medical discoveries will be made in the future, as they have been made in the past, by simple folk with minds charged with courage and imagination.

The Indian Rope Trick

(By Lieut.-Colonel R. H. Elliot in The London Spectator)

To begin with, we need a clear understanding of what we mean by the Indian Rope Trick. A fakir, or conjurer,—according to the bias of the narrator—throws a rope into the air where it remains suspended, defying the law of gravity. A boy climbs up and disappears. The rope falls down and the boy reappears, none the worse for his experience. When people say that they have seen the Indian Rope Trick, that is what the public understand by their claim.

The Occult Committee of the Magic Circle has long been investigating such claims and always with the same result. A number of writers like Sir Bindon Blood testify to having spent many years in India without succeeding in seeing the Rope Trick. The late King Edward when Prince of Wales, Lord Curzon when Viceroy, Lord Lonsdale, Mr. Maskelyne and others made every effort to see the trick, but all without success. During my service in Indian, taking a great interest in conjuring, I tried hard to see it, backed by all the advantages which a surgeon has in such matters. I could never even hear of it. Major Yeats-Brown in Bengal Lancer says he was told by the Superintendent of the Shrine at Puri "that he had heard of the Rope Trick, but had never seen it." He was cautioned against believing in "miracles made to orders, especially in India."

Nevertheless, the Rope Trick is widely believed in here, despite the fact that such a belief implies the temporary suspension of the law which not merely determines the fall of an apple, and the swing of the earth's vast oceans, but, reaching far out into space, enables us to weigh stars whose colossal distance can only be calculated in unimaginable light-years. Surely before according belief to a miracle—for such it obviously is—we must demand strong corroboration and clear proof that the stories stand up to searching cross-questioning. In not one single instance have either of these requirements been satisfied. I will take some of the cases that have been boomed in print.

A lady saw the Rope Trick in the Madras Presidency in 1892. I was then serving in that Presidency. She said it was done in a number of places in South India by a troupe of strolling conjurers, and yet she admitted that not one word about it appeared in any issue of the very active South Indian Press.

A gentleman saw it done in Secunderabad during the War. Secunderabad is one of the largest cantonments in India. It has, I believe, its own Press, and in any case the Madras papers, European and vernacular circulate widely there. One of the most startling things that the mind of man can conceive was done in th's station full of Europeans and of educated Indians and yet no word of it appeared in the Press. The conclusion is obvious.

A lady of over 60 described in detail the Rope Trick as she had seen it when a child of six. There is no corroboration and the whole story invites scepticism.

A gentleman appeared before the Magic Circle and stated that not only had he seen the Rope Trick done, but that he had a photograph of it. The moment I saw the photograph I called the attention of the chairman to the patent fact that the boy was not suspended on a rope, but balanced on a bambee, the knots of which were obvious. The gentleman admitted I was right. I suppose he was trying to pull our legs, but very unsuccessfully.

I think that several of our witnesses had, like this gentleman, seen the common balancing-trick in which a boy climbs a bamboo supported on a man's shoulder and spread-eagles himself on the top of it. It is difficult to believe that educated people can in the retrospect and with the aid of a vivid imagination, transform this into the Indian Rope Trick, but the alternative is so unpleasant that one must accept this possibility. Men believe what they want to believe, and the fact that a marvellous story brings them into the limelight weighs with certain people. Stories of the occult are often associated with some little-known region of the earth, for the simple reason that the narrator thinks his statements cannot be checked. Their location has gradually receded from India to Tibet, and dislodged from there they will probably take refuge in the stratosphere.

Lord Frederic Hamilton in "Here, There and Everywhere" quotes Colonel Barnard as having seen the Rope Trick. It is hearsay evidence, is uncorroborated and does not bear investigation. If it was not simply an after-dinner leg-pull, it may have been founded on an experience similar to that reported to us by Colonel H. Cornes, R.A., which was as follows. In a narrow Indian street, under cover of a dense smoke screen and of darkness, a rope was thrown up, became taut and was climbed by a boy who later appeared from a lower verandah after the rope had fallen. The explanation was simple. Above the smoke screen the rope was evidently caught and made fast at a window through which the boy climbed after disappearing in the smoke. The same explanation will cover Colonel Barnard's story, but will not explain how the Colonel was able to take photographs in a courtyard "thick with dense smoke," or why, contrary to all the rules of suggestion, "neither the juggler, nor the boy, nor the rope had moved at all." His ideas as to "brain-stealing drugs" and to "masked hypnotic passes" belong to the realm of the sensational novelist.

In "Twenty-five Years with Earl Haig," Sergeant Secrett states that Sir Douglas and his staff of three officers were taken in by a fakir who made them think they had seen the Rope Trick and who, to revenge himself on Secrett for exposing his trick, set a viper on to attack him that night. I wrote and asked Sergeant Secrett for the names of the three officers as I wanted to enquire if they would corroborate the story. My letter remains unanswered and unreturned. The story of the viper is to anyone acquainted with the ways of snakes simply unbelievable. Lady Haig has kindly permitted me to say that her husband never mentioned the Rope Trick incident to her at any time. Without impugning Secrett's good faith I suggest that the story requires corroboration.

Quite recently we heard of a gentleman in a high position who had actually seen the Rope Trick in India during the War. This officer now holds a responsible post in the British Museum. The story seemed water-tight. The officer most kindly met us and told us how he had seen a rope that was made to rise seven or eight feet from the ground. No boy climbed it. It was merely a conjuring trick, not very difficult to explain, and the officer, who was most straightforward in his evidence, was satisfied that there was nothing supernormal in it. It was not the Indian Rope Trick at all and the bubble was pricked.

When the spinners of the Rope Trick story find themselves cornered by the sheer impossibility of getting credence for anything so manifestly absurd, they fall back on the idea of hypnotization. This is equally incredible. To hypnotize a man or a body of men they must yield themselves to your command, and you must employ certain definite procedures for your purpose. You cannot do this from a distance with people who are not willingly co-operating with you. Further, the hypnotized subject forgets afterwards what happened during the trance, whilst these people profess to remember every detail and have been able to take photographs, &c. This is not hypnosis. Then, is it suggestion? The art of suggestion is practised by actors, conjurers, public speakers, and others, but that a group of educated people can be tricked into believing the utterly impossible without a word being said to them on the matter is not in accordance with all we know of the subject. There is probably no starting-point for each of the stories, such as the smoke-screen experiment or the spread-eagle balancing feat on a bamboo. The myth is to be attributed to an overactive imagination combined with a defective memory, a poor power of observation and a desire for the limelight. I have no hesitation in saying that the Rope Trick has been done and never will be

The Poets' Corner

NEITHER OUT FAR NOR IN DEEP

The people along the sand
All turn and look one way.
They turn their back on the land.
They look at the sea all day.

As long as it takes to pass
A ship keeps raising its hull;
The wetter ground like glass
Reflects a standing gull.

Some say the land has more;
But wherever the truth may be—
The water comes ashore,
And the people look at the sea.

They can not look out far.
They can not look in deep.
But when was that ever a bar
To any watch they keep?

—Forest Frost.

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