

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 1935.

LIBERALS TAKE OFFICE

At noon today Premier MacMillan will tender the resignation of his Government to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, and at 2.30 p.m., Hon. W. M. Lea, Premier-elect, after having first submitted his cabinet appointments to the Lieutenant Governor, will be sworn in, together with the other members of the Lea Government. The function will take place, as is customary, in the Confederation Chamber. History will pay testimony to the fact that no government since Confederation has done more for the benefit of the Province, in a time of unprecedented economic difficulty, than the outgoing MacMillan administration. The tragedy of the election results of July 23, however, is not that the Opposition has won but that the experienced Conservative members of the Legislature, who have held office in the MacMillan Government and in the preceding Stewart administration, have been lost to public life for some considerable time. The Province will be all the poorer, and the new Government correspondingly handicapped, in being without the services and advice of men of the calibre and ability of Dr. MacMillan, Mr. Sharp, Mr. Frank MacPhee, Mr. MacNutt, Mr. Strong, and others, in the transaction of public business and the passing of legislation. This fact will become more and more apparent as time goes on. In the meantime, the Lea Government assumes office with onerous responsibilities, enhanced by reason of promises made to the electors, and with every need for the exercise of all the ability which Mr. Lea and his colleagues can bring to their task.

A POET'S DEATH

"Carry the last great bard to his last bed. Death's little rift hath rent the faultless lute. The singer of undying songs is dead."—Lachrymæ Musarum.

A great English poet has passed in the person of Sir William Watson, whose death at the age of 77 in a nursing home in Sussex is recorded in yesterday's Guardian. Living out his last days in neglect and poverty, Watson paid dearly for a satire which he wrote many years ago against the wife of a leading English parliamentarian. The satire was provoked by a scurrilous attack on Robert Louis Stevenson. Its provocation was regarded as no justification in social circles, however, and through the influence of the socially elite the author of "The Woman With a Serpent's Tongue" became practically ostracised.

As far back as Gladstone's time, Watson had been recommended for the poet laureateship. Though he failed to receive this or any other public honour, his genius never lacked silent recognition from those qualified to judge. Perhaps, now that death has intervened, the true measure of his height will be taken by the English public generally. It will not be the first time that a poet has had to wait for posthumous fame.

Born in Yorkshire in 1858, William Watson's first published book of verse, "The Prince's Quest," attracted little attention. Recognition came ten years later with the publication of "Wordsworth's Grave," which marked a reversion from the current Tennysonian and Swinburnian fashion to the meditative note of Matthew Arnold. From that time until 1909, when "New Poems" appeared, Watson wrote much, including a number of odes, sonnets, epigrams and elegiac verse of enduring quality.

It is to "Lachrymæ Musarum," written in 1892 on the death of Lord Tennyson, that one naturally turns on the present occasion. Therein Watson paid loving tribute to a poet whom he regarded as "the Virgil of our time." His stately diction and fastidious taste are shown in this work, the concluding part of which is given in today's Poet's Corner.

Watson's philosophy, mellowed by classical study, found expression in epigrammatic verse of rare style and distinction, of which the following examples are typical:

"As we wax older on this earth, Till many a toy that charmed us seems Empied of beauty, stripped of worth, And men as dust and dead as dreams— For gaunts that perished, shows that passed, Some recompense the fates have sent: 'Thrice lovelier shine the things that last."

Notes By The Way

The things that are more excellent. "Not unaccompanied fight you this good fight, Lords of invisible and invincible might; The poets all are with you evermore, Marching like morn upon the camps of night."

"Full high we soar, and dive exceeding deep, And tease the gods to fling the unwilling meed; The best of geardons is the grassy steep, And dusty end of all our dream and deed."

No tribute to Watson would be complete without reference to his magnificent "Ode in May," the finest thing of its kind in the English language. What reader has not thrilled to the opening lines:

"Let me go forth, and share, The overflowing sun, With one wise friend, or one better than wise, being fair, Where the peewit wheels and dips On heights of bracken and ling, And Earth, unto her leaflet tips Tingles with the Spring."

The Ode flows on, a stream of majestic melody, to its tremendous conclusion: "O bright irresistible Lord! We are fruit of Earth's womb, each one, And fruit of thy loins, O Sun, Whence first was the seed outpoured, To thee as our Father we bow, Forbidden thy Father to see, Who is older and greater than thou, as thou Art greater and older than we."

"Thou art but as a word of his speech, Thou art but as a wave of his hand; Thou art brief as a glitter of sand Twixt tide and tide on his beach; Thou art less than a spark of his fire, Or a moment's mood of his soul; Thou art lost in the notes on the lips of his choir, That chant the chant of the Whole."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Today the MacMillan Government passes into the "has-beens."

From today it will again be Premier Lea. The second Premier to come back after four years in opposition.

There will be no joint meetings in the coming campaign but half an hour for questions will be allowed.

To whom went the profits of the Victoria picnic? According to reports they must have been considerable, for the picnicers had to put their hands in their pockets for everything.

Hon. W. M. Lea, says a Liberal mainland exchange, "is not only Prince Edward Island's farmer Premier; he is its premier farmer." This is covering a good deal of territory. Mr. J. Walter Jones, M.P., may have his own opinion about who the premier farmer in the next Legislature will be.

It is not the outgoing but the incoming Premier's convenience that is considered in fixing the date of handing over government. The Lieutenant-Governor, constitutionally, will not accept a Government's resignation till he has another ready immediately to take its place.

There is this to be said for the renewed Premier; he is no novice to caucus warfare; and he knows the wiles and strategy of the old gang, to which will be added the innocent, or otherwise, insistence of the newcomers, who only want the earth, politically speaking.

Taking Mr. Mackenzie King's political assurances with more than a grain of salt the Vancouver Province (Independent) remarks laconically: "We have seen two years of a Liberal government, nearer home than Ottawa, that went into office on a string of promises, and what we still have to see is the redemption of any of them."

When Mr. Mackenzie King says he agrees with Mr. Baldwin's policy he means that he believes Canada's policy should be Britain's policy, that is, adopted to suit Britain's trade and not Canada's. "No Canada First" with Mr. Mackenzie King. We must play second fiddle to John Bull and fourth fiddle to Uncle Sam.

Notes By The Way

A merchant marine based on military rather than economic needs obviously cannot exist without artificial stimulus, any more than can the battle fleet itself. Government aid is the only way to develop and sustain a merchant service on the elaborate scale demanded by a big-navy policy. Several economic factors make it impossible for the United States to compete indiscriminately with other maritime nations without subsidies for its ocean commerce. One is a relatively higher standard of living which doubles costs connected with the building and operation of American tonnage. If there must be merchant ships for a big navy to defend—or to defend a big-navy policy against tax-payers—there must be subsidies. The taxpayers foot the bills for the navy and for national shipping services over and above those which can operate profitably under private management.—Boston Christian Science Monitor.

Abolish the black cap. It is a grim relic of an age of terror, when vengeance passed for justice, and mercy was the enemy of law. Nobody would be sorry to see it go—certainly not the judges themselves, and least of all the judges who, wearing it for the first time, faltered as he uttered the words of doom. All that the Black Cap stood for has passed away. The spirit of our courts is far different from that which filled them in the days when such ugly symbols were used to put fear and dread into men accused of crime.—Manchester Sunday Chronicle.

In spite of all the difficulties that have been placed in its way, private enterprise has shown such toughness and vitality that it does not seem unreasonable to assume that it would quickly restore our economic life to full activity, were it only to recover a reliable monetary basis and something like normal liberty of action. In any case such a heightening of the activity of the social economy seems to be the only solution of the problem of the world's crisis that is compatible with the right analysis of the causes of the crisis, and as the normal way of functioning of our present social economy.—Prof. Gustav Cassel.

The wage-out strikes in France appear to be causing quite an amount of trouble to the authorities, particularly in Brest. Here public and possibly international inconveniences have been caused by the refusal of ships' crews to sail. This involves both officers and men of the ships and 800 passengers are held up in consequence. There have been riots also in Toulon and in the Montmartre district in Paris.—EX.

A progressive bit of legislation that was recently introduced in the Quebec Legislature aimed at the curbing of the mushroom growth of gas stations, which in that province, as in other sections of Canada, has been stimulated by the rivalry existing between the oil companies. The Quebec Public Service Commission has been given full control over permits for the construction of new stations, so that henceforth there will be a check upon these places. The provincial government takes the view that the great competition that has been going on results in increased distribution costs, which the consumer ultimately has to pay, and at the same time the beauty of the countryside is often injured by these conspicuous filling stations.—EX.

Down in the earth more than fifty feet below the bottom of the Hudson River a wily little man pushed his way through a muddy pipe and grasped the hand of a stocky engineer waiting to welcome him. It was Harry Stripling, forty years a "sandhog," and Col. Charles S. Gleim, Port Authority construction engineer, who this celebrated amid an exuberant group of tunnellers the "holing through" of the first bore for the \$37,500,000 Midtown Hudson Tunnel, which, after eight years more of digging and finishing, will carry millions of work would be necessary on the roads this Fall. Wonder what these "thousands of men" on the roads could have been doing before the election?

Without any design on their part the new government will "drop their pilot" within a fortnight. By then Mr. H. R. Stewart, Deputy Secretary-Treasurer, and a multitude of other things as well, will regretfully have severed his connection with provincial government, and gone to Ottawa to assist in the direction of the affairs of the new Governor-General, Lord Tweedsmuir.

"Men, seeking jobs or favors, jump out from every corner; they pester the life out of the premier and his colleagues. The premier especially is set upon at all hours of the day and night. His time is not his own; he hardly has time to eat and sleep. If he cannot be interviewed personally then the telephone is used; he can't get away from the noisy jangle of the telephone bell, which breaks in at all times and upon all occasions. He must listen to the complaints and troubles of a host of people. The kinder and more courteous he is the oftener will the applicants for jobs return and bring their friends and supporters with them." No, this was not written about the new Premier, but about the new N. B. Premier; it is equally applicable however.

An applicant for the vendorship was told there was going to be no change in that office. Another who aspired to be inspector of boilers was told the position was to be abolished. A man wanting "any kind of a job," was told a lot of

That Baby of Doves

By James W. Barton, M.D.

CORBA VENON—SNAKE POISON—DOES NOT CURE CANCER

Whenever a new "cure" for cancer is announced there are many who wonder why doctors do not immediately get a supply of the "cure" and use it with their patients. Now physicians are only too willing to try anything for cancer because the present methods—surgery, X ray and radium—can only help a certain percentage of cases in the early stages. However they know from past experience that snake cures heretofore have been unsuccessful and they do not wish to raise false hopes in their patients or have them undergo physical or financial strain for nothing.

One of the recent cures mentioned for cancer is the venom of the cobra snake. That the poison from a snake may cause such a severe swelling and reaction that that patients may become free for some time afterward of certain ailments just as small pox, diphtheria and scarlet fever can usually be prevented by vaccination or the putting of small doses of poison into the blood.

However some real trials of snake venom have been reported by Dr. Lavedan to the Academy of Medicine, Paris. There were fifty-one patients and the cancers were located in various parts of the body. Every patient received the injections for at least four months. Forty-five were cases which had received X ray or surgical treatment or both. In six cases no previous treatment had been used. The dose began with 5 units three times a day and was gradually increased up to 50 units twice a week.

In only about one tenth of the cases did the venom have any effect on the pain, so that there is no reason why, in incurable cancers, one should not prefer to give morphine in gradually increasing doses to ease the pain rather than the injections which do no effect in stopping the growth of the cancer cells. The point then is that if the venom will not stop the growth of cancer, and eases the pain in only one out of ten cases, it is of no help in the treatment of cancer.

motorists between Manhattan and the New Jersey suburbs.—Christian Science Monitor.

Danzig is incited by Germans, if not by the German government, and has got out of hand; and the present moment when Nazidom seems to be in a nervous state over the possibility of armed revolt at home might be opportune for the League to issue a sharp reminder to Danzig. Surely Danzig is small enough for the League to call to order.

Now the hearts of the Empire Free Traders are lifted up in thankfulness. They are encouraged to advance to new tasks. There is plenty to fight to gain. The next objective is the Customs Union of Britain's Imperial Empire. It means the denouncing of agreements like the Congo Basin Treaty which give British territories wide open to the trade drive of Oriental competition. It involves the directing of British capital and enterprise into the unexploited area under Colonial administration. Empire Free Traders! Renew your faith! Take up the battle! Persevere to the end of the journey! For there lies the City of a Great Ideal. It is the ideal of a mighty, united Empire, living at peace with its neighbours, under just laws affording full life, labour and happiness to all its citizens of every creed and colour.—London Daily Express.

For a time General Smedley Butler served as head of Philadelphia's Police Department, but retired when he found that he had to contend with conditions of which he did not approve. And a reporter recently asked him in the course of an interview, how "a big city" could be "cleaned up." Whereat General Butler is quoted as having replied by another question: "Do you know a single big city that really wants to be 'cleaned up'?"—Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

A speaker at the Royal Sanitary Health Institute Congress, at Bournemouth, recently pointed out that five times as many people die of tuberculosis as are killed on the roads. That is true, and it is a reproach to the nation. A concerted attack on tuberculosis would practically wipe it out. It is, largely, a disease of poverty, of malnutrition, of overcrowding, of unclean milk. Give everybody decent homes, adequate nourishment and open-air activities and the disease would soon become as rare as leprosy.—London Daily Herald.

FLETHORA OF LAWYERS

ALLAHABAD, India.—When the civil courts opened recently at Korakpur the addition to the ranks of lawyers in that district was so large that they outnumbered the litigants and witnesses.

DANCE-HALL NOISES COSTLY

HARROGATE, England.—Complaining of disturbances and noise in a dance-hall, Alfred Dean was awarded \$975 damages. An injunction to restrain the club from holding dances was refused on the grounds the noise did not constitute a nuisance.

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.

THE BOSS CACKLER

Sir,—The boss of the Liberal hen-coop spiced an editorial with this tid-bit—"A farmer's wife being asked if their hens were laying well replied,—'No, we've the Bennett breed of hens lots of cackling, but very few eggs.'"

This is certainly rich, appearing in the columns of the Patriot, a paper that does more cackling than any half dozen papers in Canada all bunched together. For years, when in occasional luck, the "Rooster" has been the official trade mark, and day in and day out, from year to year, it never ceases from cackling, its columns containing very little else than cackle, cackle, cackle from the rising to the setting of the sun. I am, Sir, etc., SHAN/SHAI

ELIMINATING IMPORTS

Sir,—In a characteristic blunder, titled "Butter Hits Back," the Mackenzie King organ exclaims—"High tariffs have meant the elimination of imports," of butter. Of course, and the Patriot's leader has given us radio assurance that he will abolish this high tariff, open the market again for New Zealand butter, and give back the 16c butter prices to the dairymen of our Province. But to be honest we can get along without this South American butter. We don't want to be for buyers again at a 16c or perhaps lower price. We prefer the present Bennett average price of 25c per lb. I am, Sir, etc.

BELIEVER IN HOME MARKETS

The seasons change, the winds they shift and veer; The grass of yesterday for grass is dead; the birds depart, the groves decay; Empires dissolve and peoples disappear; Song passes not away. Captains and conquerors leave a little dust; And kings a dubious legend of their reign; The swords of Caesars, they are less than rust; The poet doth remain. Dead is Augustus, Maro is alive; And he no Mantuan of our age and clime. Like Virgil shalt thy race and tongue survive, Bequeathing no less honeyed words to time. Embalmed in amber of eternal rhyme, And he no more the hum of idle praise. In that great calm our tumults cannot reach, Master who crown'st our melodious days With flower of perfect speech.

Postal Tercentenary

(St. John's, Nfld., Telegram) This year brings the tercentenary of the Royal Proclamation which instituted the first State postal service for private letters in Great Britain.

The only official postal service that existed under Queen Elizabeth was expressly limited to her Majesty's affairs. The general public were only affected by such road traffic provisions as that "the post" or his postboy, must "blow his horse so oft as he meets company, or passeth through any towns, or in James' reign the duties of the Master of the Post for England and Scotland and for Foreign Parts in the King's Dominions were not sufficiently comprehensive or well defined; or sufficiently safeguarded against abuse; for the service of that time to be considered a true ancestor of the present system. James created, among other doubtful monopolies, a further office of Master of the Post for Foreign Parts out of the King's Dominions, which in the next reign fortunately fell into honest and competent hands. A joint holder of the latter office, one Thomas Witherings, turned his eyes to the mismanagement of the home service under Lord Stanhope or Harrington. His scheme for reform at home was accepted by Charles I, and embodied in the Proclamation of July 31, 1635. Thomas Witherings was, in fact, the father of the G.P.O., and the first real P.M.G.

The Proclamation itself is a rare document. A printed copy in the library of the British Museum has recently been issued in facsimile; and the Record Office's original manuscript has been reproduced—both in facsimile and, for the reader whom the ornate handwriting and contractions might bewilder, in transcript—in a Post Office "green paper" by Mr. C. R. Clear (H. M. Stationery Office, price 6d.). It makes entertaining reading at a time when, through penny postage (itself first introduced in the report of a committee appointed exactly 100 years ago) is, alas! not restored, the prospect is held out of a three-halfpenny air mail between the foreign parts in the King's Dominions. A rate was higher in 1635—two pence a letter if under fourscore miles, with a schedule rising to eightpence "upon the borders of Scotland and in

Scotland." It is this expensive for the King's Scottish subjects they had one consolation. Bristol and Plymouth and Holyhead were to be served once weekly; outlying towns were to be served as occasion demanded; but observing that "there hath been no certain or constant intercourse between the Kingdoms of England and Scotland," Charles was graciously pleased to command two posts a week between Edinburgh and the City of London. Under Witherings' directions the speed of travelling for the posts was fixed at seven miles an hour in summer and five in winter, and the journey to and from the northern capital at six days. He introduced, or at least regularized, several useful safeguards on which modern methods are founded. Registration, for example: every postmaster was to "keep a fair paper book to enter the packets in," and "write upon a label fastened to every or any of the packets the time of receipt thereof and not on the Packet or Letter as hath been disorderly used." The exemption of postmasters from jury service under the Post Office Act of 1808 is in direct succession from their exemption 300 years ago from Summons, Prests, and personal attendance at Assizes, Sessions, Inquests and Musters. Witherings' efficiency and foresight are in no doubt. But, whether he early threw in his lot with the Roundheads or attempted to steer a middle course, the Civil War upset not only his postal services but his prestige. Charles threw him over in favour of a Royalist merchant, and under the Commonwealth he suffered, though he successfully answered them, many charges of delinquency and favouritism. Worry led to illness, and illness to death, in the autumn of 1651. A memorial tablet in St. Andrew's, Hornchurch, describes him as "Chief Postmaster of Great Brittain and foreign parts . . . second to none for unfatigued postoffice unparalleled sagacious and divining Genius; witness his great correspondence in all parts of ye Christian World."

Trade And Commerce

(By Exporter)

Appealing to the Mackenzie King election slogan—"Prejudice," our governments, provincial and federal have been charged by Liberal propagandists as responsible for the low price of potatoes, the world over.

Viewed by Mr. King's belittled standard—"Intelligence," and common sense, it is without foundation. Potatoe prices have ever been under absolute control of the law of demand and supply. Despite every effort of government trying to resist the ravages of war time living the price of potatoe soared up to \$3.50 per bushel, and likewise under the Laurier Liberal Government, and a Liberal Government in Prince Edward Island, over supply and under demand, made potatoe a drug on our market at 10c per bushel. In those days politicians were too honest to claim credit for the \$3.50 market, or to charge opponents with responsibility for the 10c slump.

The Cuban market was the one flimsy pretext used to mislead those to whom "prejudice" was more potent in argument than "intelligence." The informed man would know that Cuba, an island of 3,000,000 population, principally colored, 44,000 miles area, was wrested from the United States in a war with Spain, and is in a sense under American protectorate. As in other places the U.S. potatoe market was demoralized, and to help their potatoe farmers they used their prestige to secure control of the small Cuba market.

An open or closed Cuban market could have no more influence on the price of potatoe than a fly's resistance to a locomotive. In proof of this, the State of Maine, with first access to the Cuban market, were unable to get 10c a barrel for their potatoe, and Canada had to adopt measures to prevent their being smuggled into New Brunswick to get the attractive Canadian price of 10c per bushel.

But the bare fact of a preferential tariff in Cuba, in favor of the United States, was magnified and faltered into election defamations, by Liberals in their appeals to "prejudices" to get votes. Their claim was, although without a shadow of foundation, that the Cuban duty as against Canada was in resentment against our sugar duty; to which it was broadcasted that Cuba was our chief source of supply.

Time has proven that every one of these claims was basically false. Canada's sugar duty was not against Cuba, but a needed revenue impost against all countries. Nor was Cuba in any sense our chief source of supply. Barbadoes was largely by almost 1,000,000, and in some years by nearly twice the total import. Barbadoes sent us nearly \$5,000,000 worth of molasses against Cuba's less than half a million. Santa Domingo, another source of supply, contributed \$2,452,627 worth of sugar. These are British possessions. They put up no sugar against Canada's legitimate duty, but because Cuba, a ward of the United States, gave their foster parent a preference in their limited market, the Liberal propagandists made the mole-hill into a mountain, and then tried to slander the Conservative government with its parentage.

No doubt that in the federal contest they will continue to disseminate the same false doctrine. Where "prejudice" is their chosen camping ground they will hope to entrap some straggling votes. There may be, no doubt there will be an offset amongst the "intelligent" voters for the Liberal tanks are not without many of this who will judge for themselves, who will weigh the facts and evidence, and who will resent at the polls this attempt to classify them as of the type who have no gift of discernment or who can be led into injustice by the most palpable of flimsy shadow chasings.

Scotland." It is this expensive for the King's Scottish subjects they had one consolation. Bristol and Plymouth and Holyhead were to be served once weekly; outlying towns were to be served as occasion demanded; but observing that "there hath been no certain or constant intercourse between the Kingdoms of England and Scotland," Charles was graciously pleased to command two posts a week between Edinburgh and the City of London. Under Witherings' directions the speed of travelling for the posts was fixed at seven miles an hour in summer and five in winter, and the journey to and from the northern capital at six days. He introduced, or at least regularized, several useful safeguards on which modern methods are founded. Registration, for example: every postmaster was to "keep a fair paper book to enter the packets in," and "write upon a label fastened to every or any of the packets the time of receipt thereof and not on the Packet or Letter as hath been disorderly used." The exemption of postmasters from jury service under the Post Office Act of 1808 is in direct succession from their exemption 300 years ago from Summons, Prests, and personal attendance at Assizes, Sessions, Inquests and Musters. Witherings' efficiency and foresight are in no doubt. But, whether he early threw in his lot with the Roundheads or attempted to steer a middle course, the Civil War upset not only his postal services but his prestige. Charles threw him over in favour of a Royalist merchant, and under the Commonwealth he suffered, though he successfully answered them, many charges of delinquency and favouritism. Worry led to illness, and illness to death, in the autumn of 1651. A memorial tablet in St. Andrew's, Hornchurch, describes him as "Chief Postmaster of Great Brittain and foreign parts . . . second to none for unfatigued postoffice unparalleled sagacious and divining Genius; witness his great correspondence in all parts of ye Christian World."

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