THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1939.

The City Council

Not in the long history of the City Council have such complete and informative reports been submitted and adopted as those at Monday night's meeting. As His Worship Mayor Foster pointed out in his full and comprehensive review, the last two years, and especially the last year, have been of the nature of a nightmare. But now that daylight has dawned, the new City Council will have a comparatively easy time building on the new foundations so well and truly laid, thanks to the competent auditors, Messrs. Archibald and Morell. It is unnecessary to dwell on the past. What the next City Council must do is to watch and see the new foundations are not undermined, and that from henceforth proper audit and financial supervision are rigidly adhered to. In a community like this where everybody knows everybody, where family relationships and connections are so involved, and where political influences count for so much, outside pressure is apt to be applied, making it difficult for the powers-that-be to hew close to the line, and to stick to that policy when once it has been adopted. For this reason alone it is a good thing that a modern system of book-keeping and accounting has been introduced, a system which, when the staff become familiar with it, will prove to be the salvation of the City, provided always, of course, that an efficient audit and financial direction such as the City now has are strictly maintained and followed in spirit if not even to the letter.

The Vital School Lesson

In these days when so many unthinking people wish to dissipate teachers' energies over innumerable subjects in school, it is refreshing to find an old fashioned domine who swears by one of vital importance. Addressing the Sherbrooke Y.M.C.A. Men's Club the other day, Major Crawford Grier, headmaster of Bishop's College School declared the most important thing in education today is to inculcate in the minds of the young the British concepts of individual freedom and national independence. Speaking on some aspects of modern educational methods, Major Grier was of the opinion that altogether too much latitude has been allowed students in choosing their own subjects and in making the school curriculum interesting without placing an emphasis on the value of individual effort. Young people must be taught to think for themselves, to be able to accept and reject ideas. He maintained that the best results cannot be obtained unless the fundamental principles of hard work are stressed and less specialization is allowed. Answering his own question as to what should be taught to aid in the formation and development of future citizens, Major Grier said that a knowledge of the British idea of life and its living was the most important. The freedom of the individual is the keynote of this British idea, and must be passed on to the generation that will some day produce the leaders of Canada. It is because of belief in the worth of their ideas that Britons are at war today, the fight for the national independence of European traditions is the fight for the Liberty of the individual.

Hides Behind A Dead Issue

The Prime Minister makes a vigorous appeal for national unity and claims that his Government has been chiefly instrumental in promoting and preserving national unity. In that respect, says the Montreal Gazette, he endeavors to make a virtue of the very defects of his administration, his earlier refusal to commit this country, its unpreparedness, etc., which have been the subjects of public criticism and have occasioned public dissatisfaction. In this respect he skates upon thin ice and in some other respects he has been less than frank. For example, when he asserts that unity was not achieved "by declaring that without consulting either the Parliament or people of Canada, the Government would commit this country to fight at any time, at any place, in any cause, if Britain went to war", he is implying something that no one in this country ever had in mind, that no Canadian Government was ever asked or expected to do or could be asked or expected to do. The demand that the people of Canada did make was that the Dominion should stand behind the Mother Country in a defensive war involving the interests of Canada as well as those of the United Kingdom. Mr. King knows this.

The Prime Minister also tells the people that he and his colleagues "were determined that Parliament, or the people themselves, would decide whether Canada should participate in war," and, "I kept that promise." The facts are that when the war did come the Government had no choice, since public opinion permitted only one course, and that between the outbreak of war and the meeting of Parliament on September 7 this country was at war, practically if not formally. The militia, the naval service and the air force had been placed on active service. Other provisions had been made for coast defences and internal security, and the War Measures Act had been invoked and made operative. The subsequent action of Parliament was a foregone conclusion. Again, Mr. King is in serious difficulty in attempting to explain the summary dissolution of Parliament in the face of his own pledge. He says that the assurance given by him was that a general election would not be held "before Parliament had again been summoned." If the assurance meant anything it meant that there would be a session of Parliament. The words used by Mr. King on September 12, in Parliament, were these: "As to the question of a general election before another session, my honorable friend has been kind enough to say that I told him some time ago that I would not think of anything of the kind, or countenance it. Nor have I had a suggestion from any member of Parliament that a general election should be thought of between now and another session." It will be noted that the word "session" was used twice, whereas Mr. King now says that he had undertaken not to have another general election before Parliament had again been "summoned". The record proves that he had promised a session.

The Prime Minister has endeavored to turn a sharp corner in this matter of the dissolution of Parliament and he has been unsuccessful because he has been unconvincing. He stoops still lower in his reference to the widespread demand for a national government. National unity he says, was not brought about by any pledge "to form a so-called 'national' government that might enforce conscription or disfranchise many classes of Canadian citizens." This is rather unworthy of Mr. King. He knows quite well that the demand for a national government has had nothing whatever to do with conscription or disfranchisement, that neither of these things has been contemplated, even remotely, by those who have urged the establishment of something more broadly representative than a party government, that all they have had in mind has been a national unity which does not stop short of the Council Chamber at Ottawa. He knows that a national government would be one of the surest guarantees against the two things that he has mentioned. He has deliberately dragged out a dead issue in order to hide behind it, and if that is his only answer to the national government proposal he is very hard pressed indeed.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Valentine Day.

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Civic Election Day.

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Governor General's Funeral Memorial Service St. James Church this afternoon.

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The electoral lists are now fluttering on lamp posts and telephone poles throughout the city and country for inspection by electors and others.

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All eyes are turned these days to Ottawa where John Buchan, Baron Tweedsmuir lies in State, preparatory to his ashes being carried for interment in his native land. God rests his soul.

* * * *

As time advances the necessity for active recruiting becomes more evident; only the very pick of the "A" men have so far been accepted for service; the others will soon successively have their opportunity.

* * * *

Captain James Cook, navigator and explorer, killed at Hawai this date, 1779. His marvellous voyage of discovery in the Resolution (1772) destroyed the old idea of a southern continent, and his anti-scorbutic precautions for the first time prevented heavy death-roll usual on long voyages.

* * * *

Andy Hennessey has passed to his reward as unexpectedly and more suddenly even than the Governor General. It is no disrespect to call him Andy. In life everybody did, and he held an outstanding place in public affection and esteem as testified to by his successive bi-annual return to the City Chamber. He came of a fine old Irish family which has contributed in no small measure to the cultural and religious life of the Community. His determined character and spirit of independence carved out for him a unique place in Civic life which will be hard to fill. As with His Excellency, God rest Andy's soul.

* * * *

Clearing out a book-case yesterday, writes Harold Nicolson in the Spectator, I came across a copy of Emanuel Berl's *Mort de la Pensee Bourgeoise*, and as I turned the pages my attention was arrested by two passages which I had heavily underlined. The first was as follows: "I believe that the gravest malady which afflicts contemporary thought is lack of courage, not lack of universality." The second was as follows: "There remains something which we intellectuals can do in this modern world. We can defend Man." Is it true that the modern intellectual is treacherous to his calling, and do we really lack the courage to defend those humane values in which we were trained and in which we believe? It is not, I think, that we lack courage, since most intellectuals would be prepared to fight, to the point of martyrdom, against any dictorial suppression of free thought. It is rather that we lack lucidity. We do not realize with sufficient clarity that our standards of thought and conduct are being threatened, not so much by any suppression from above, as by a slow infiltration of disbelief and ridicule from below. Our enemies, in fact, are not the old regiments of rigid conservatism, but the new hordes of half-educated progressives. We must acquire the intelligence and the energy to save ourselves from those whom we believed to be our friends.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Every year that Quebec City is without a juvenile court it is dooming young lives to unhappiness and violence, just as it is condemning itself to pay a penalty in dollars and cents for making fresh criminals needlessly and for repressing their lawlessness once they are made. All told, it is an inhumane and not very sensible situation! — Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

The proposed bill of Dr. A. S. Duncan, M.L.A. of London, requiring motorists to remove keys from parked cars under pain of prosecution, is entitled to support There is no reason why police should be put to the trouble of tracing stolen cars when in nine cases out of ten their abstraction is due to the carelessness of their owners. Keys left in a car when it is parked are merely an invitation to theft. — Brockville Recorder and Times.

A correspondent sends us the following interesting and amusing story from an English paper of a visit of Canadian soldiers to an English village: The Canadian soldiers have completely conquered my village. They have stormed the shops in search of coke, which is slang, it seems, for a soft drink. They have sought out the elusive hot dog and the onion-trimmed hamburger. They call chocolates Lauras and all confectionery candy. And strange Canadians, arriving here, can still sometimes be found asking passersby the way to the beverage room. It startled us at first. Since then we have become completely dominated by the Dominion. We soon learn that beverage rooms in Canada are dull pubs suffering from a form of prohibition and purveying nothing but beer— no crisps, no cheese, no darts, no sherry. Our rural inns are already showing the Canadians the delights of the English countryside.....and how! And we are already trying to make our guests feel at home by talking of victrolas when we mean gramophones, mailmen when we mean postmen and post-boxes when we mean pillar-boxes. — London, Ont., Free Press.

Said Ben Jonson: "A soft lip would tempt you to eternity of kissing." Said Dr. William G. Donald of San Francisco, concerned with spread of influenza on University of California campus: "Influenza is a mouth to mouth disease." Said Dr. Simon L. Katzoff, consultant for the San Francisco Institute of Human Relations: "If there is an influenza epidemic at the university—which there is not — I might suggest there has not been enough kissing lately." The kiss, Dr. Katzoff suggests none too subtly, should be fervid, heavenly, soul-soul. It should be a good, solid kiss and no mere peck. The heat generated, he claims, will kill off any lurking germs. Anyway, no ordinary germ could get through the lipstick used by the average girl, he adds. Every time we get the kissing question dusted off, somebody brings it up again. Until now, it was pretty generally agreed that kissing was a good thing morally, between the right people, and a bad thing from the standpoint of health. Now, along comes someone who says it's a good thing no matter how you look at it. Ben Jonson is probably the only one who's right. A young man, confronted by a "soft lip" isn't likely to review his Rules for Good Health. The impulse of the moment will take care of everything. Anyway, it is a good subject to take your mind off the election and the war. — New Glasgow Evening News.

Whether people really realize it or not the month of January was exceptional in its steadiness of winter weather though without any extremes. The report of the Experimental Farm at Nappan states that there were fifteen days in the month when the temperature was below zero, but there was so little rain and so little snow and so little wind that the temperature was not severely felt anywhere. People moved about without the discomfort of high drifts and blinding storms, and it was easier to keep the home temperatures more even. We mention this because it is so easy to forget some of our blessings and surely this was one in the month of January when blustery days usually are expected and when people prepare for what are sometimes called old fashioned winters. Another effect has been seen in the lumber woods where operators have been able to carry on their work to a maximum of output and where there has been but little difficulty in getting the cuts to the mill sites or to the sidings. The expected larger demand for lumber has brought nearly all the former operators back into the industry again and with the fine start made in January it is not doubted that the cut will be one of the largest in recent years. This has meant not only more employment in the woods and a larger payroll, but it will mean much more work in the spring when the finished product is taken to the waterfront to provide more employment for the stevedores and many other classes of workers The only possible drawback may be the difficulty of securing vessels to carry the lumber across. Just by way of forming a new habit we might remember this about the two months of winter already passed. So many persons do not remember what happens from year to year and are puzzled when they are asked anything about weather of a previous period. Here is something definite to keep in mind, that this year of 1940 which is expected to be so eventful in so many ways, started out in a way to give every reason for encouragement for the months that are yet to come. — Amherst News.

A friend (writes a correspondent) has been complaining that those branches of the Civil Service with which the public have to deal are entirely devoid of imagination and humor, a very sweeping statement which was refuted by another member of the aforesaid public who was present He had a small pet dog which was unfortunately killed. When the licensing period arrived he received the usual notice, and in a spirit of levity, perhaps not common in a Scottish doctor, he wrote across the form, "Wee dug's deid. Nae dug noo." He expected either to be asked for details of the dog's death, tickled off for his levity in answering an official form, or ignored. Instead he received a reply on official notepaper which read, "Puir wee dug." So humor does exist even in the most austere of official quarters. (And, what is more, in Scotland). — Manchester Guardian.

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.

ONE MORE

Sir,—I read with pleasure Veteran's letter in yesterday's Guardian and wish to say another veteran is in the field for civic honors viz. Mr. Jas Leightizer who is a candidate for Water Commissioner.

Mr. Leightizer has been quite prominent in veterans affairs here and held the honored position of President of the Canadian Legion. With Mr. Leightizer on the Board of Water Commissioners veterans would be represented in our city's two most important administrative bodies.

I am, Sir, etc.,
ANOTHER ONE.

The Health League Of Canada

A TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL OBJECTIVE

If one province of Canada can reduce its tuberculosis death rate so that it is 47 per cent less than that for the country as a whole, it is safe to take the lowest rate as an objective in tuberculosis control Even assuming that Saskatchewan's climate may be more favorable to the keeping down of the tuberculosis mortality, the difference in the death rate is so marked that those who are working to conquer this disease may well be encouraged.

Dominion Government figures for 1938 credit Saskatchewan with having only 28.8 deaths from tuberculosis per 100,000 people. Canada's average was 54.6. This of course, is a splendid improvement in the last decade, ten years ago there being over 80 deaths per 100,000 people.

If the low rate for Saskatchewan had applied to all Canada in 1938 there would have been only 3233 deaths instead of the actual number of 6122.

When it is considered that the Canadian rate is only one quarter of what it was at the turn of the century, an achievement of which this country may be proud, those who are specializing in the fight against tuberculosis may well feel justified in working toward the objective of securing a Dominion average equal to Saskatchewan's.

This would, naturally, mean that some provinces might even excel Saskatchewan's record —perhaps Saskatchewan itself — and to prove that even this is possible, it is pointed out that in some Canadian cities there are now only 15 deaths per 100,000 population from tuberculosis.

A gain of 31 per cent in logging production and an increase of 24 per cent in water-borne exports for the first nine months of 1939 is reported by British Columbia's lumbering industry. Up to the end of September the log scale amounted to 2,333,295,593 board feet and water-borne exports totalled 1,090,082,035 board feet.

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THE 2 MACS

BALTIC SCHOOL

Standing of Baltic School for January.

Grade X.—1, Shirley Woodside; 2, George Woodside; 3, Robert Pierce.

Grade IX.—1, Evelyn MacDonald; 2, Eunice Clark; 3, Doris Matthews.

Grade VII.—1, Archie MacDonald; 2, Harold MacKenzie.

Grade V.—1, Carl Woodside; 2, Muriel Wall; 3, Reuben Wall and Billie Woodside, equal.

Grade IV. Sr.—1, Earle MacKenzie.

Grade IV. Jr.—1, David MacKenzie; 2, Janette Clark.

Grade III. Sr.—1, Eric Holmes; 2, Gordon Anderson.

Grade II. Sr.—1, Marion Campbell; 2, Jean Rubley; 3, Muriel Cousins.

Grade I. Sr.—1, Mary Cousins; 2, Ralph Sudsbury and Harry Wall equal; 3, Ethan Campbell.

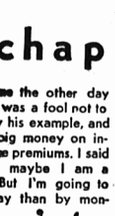
Grade I. B.—1, Edith Cousins; 2, Robert Campbell.

Grade I. C.—1, Freda Holmes.

Teacher—J. Weeks Murphy.

I. Ins. Fully Says:

A chap told me the other day that I was a fool not to follow his example, and save big money on insurance premiums. I said 'Well, maybe I am a fool. But I'm going to save in some other way than by monkeying with anything that's as vital as insurance.'



"The property my insurance protects represents a lifetime's accumulation of possessions—and I'm not doing any juggling act with the property that's cost me years to get—just to save a few dollars. I'm sticking right by the agent of the National Fire Insurance Company of Hartford—and the good, sound, stock insurance he writes."

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Children five years of age and under twelve, "half fare"; under five, free, when accompanied by adult. Similar Excursions from Western to Eastern Canada will also be operated February 17 to March 2 inclusive.

For tickets and full information as to routes: stop-over privileges, sleeping car reservations, etc., consult

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