

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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A PARTY ISSUE?

The latest news from the Southport highway front, according to our local contemporary, is that the cracks are worse than the cracks which appeared in the McIntyre highway.

This is the sum and substance of our contemporary's answer to the challenge to explain why it is making a political issue of an experimental policy which both political parties have endorsed.

And what does our contemporary's answer amount to? The faulty section of the Southport highway is being repaired at the contracting company's expense. Suppose our contemporary's hopes are fulfilled, and it has to be rebuilt? Suppose they are more than fulfilled and the project has again to be rebuilt next summer? Suppose the wildest dreams of the Opposition organ come true and the same process has to be repeated the following summer? The total cost would still be less than the cost of the McIntyre highway!

Now does our contemporary see why the electors were so critical of the extravagance incurred on the McIntyre highway?

But this is not all. So the initial cost of the McIntyre highway must be added the cost of repairing it every year. Last year, for example, extensive repairs were necessary, costing over \$3,000.

Figure it out another way. The initial cost of \$27,000 a mile of the McIntyre highway was greater than the cost per mile of the permanent concrete highways at Borden and Summerside. It was greater by \$15,000 a mile than the cost of the trans-Canada projects started last fall, where the hardstanding was done on a gravel base and given a three years' guarantee and where it was greater by over \$30,000 a mile than the Southport project, which our contemporary is now denouncing.

The Southport highway, like the McIntyre highway, is of sand-asphalt, and like the McIntyre highway it may frequently have to be repaired. Again, what of it? It was built as part of some half dozen experimental projects undertaken for the specific purpose of determining the most economic road system for the Province. If one or more of these low-priced processes prove satisfactory, it means that a solution will have been found to the problem of economic dustproof road-building on an extensive mileage basis which, according to Mr. Thane A. Campbell in the Legislature (Pat.riot, April 2) is "the most crying need of the Province."

This is the policy to which our contemporary is opposed, on the ground, confessedly, that the "Tories" had the temerity to criticize the McIntyre highway! This is the great issue on which the voters are to be asked to elect the Lea-McIntyre aggregation; to build presumably, more \$27,000-a-mile McIntyre highways in place of the "extravagant" experiments which the Tories are making at one-quarter the cost!

UNCLE SAM NERVOUS

There is something breath-taking in the cool proposal of an official of the United States War Department, embodied as a "camouflaged" provision in a bill now before Congress, to build a powerful air base near the Canadian border, for the purpose of "dominating the industrial heart of Canada, the Ontario peninsula," and thereby preventing the "establishment of enemy bases" in that area for operations against northeast United States. Brigadier General Andrews, head of the new U.S. General Headquarters Air Force, is credited with the statement that "even with Canada neutral, the enemy has the following bases available: Newfoundland, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Jamaica,

Trinidad, British Honduras, and the Lesser Antilles. Against air attack being launched from any of these bases in time of emergency, they must be kept under surveillance to discover any evidence of preparation of such bases, and we must be ready to bomb such installations as soon as they are discovered. If the situation is sufficiently vital to require it, we must be prepared to seize these outlying bases to prevent their development by the enemy as bases of operation against us."

The common sense of the people of the United States will scarcely be stamped by such crazy utterances, but the very fact that ideas of this kind are being toyed with by high-placed military officials in the neighboring Republic is disquieting.

If there is one thing vital to future world peace and security it is the maintenance of amicable relations between the United States and the British Empire. Our southern neighbors may have reasons for dreading Japanese supremacy in the East; they have none so far as Canada is concerned. Such plans as are being mooted, ostensibly to protect United States from "enemy" attacks from this country, emanate from the same type of mind that is now dominant in Nazi Germany. It is the war-mongering spirit, thinly disguised under the cloak of patriotism. Reassuring, however, is the same attitude adopted at Ottawa. There was no official comment on the Washington despatch, but it was pointed out, with dry humor, that "bills before Congress do not have the same certainty of becoming law as do government measures in Canada."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Preparation will be going on apace for the great Jubilee demonstration on Monday. All the various societies and organizations are busy arranging for a monster turn out, and the procession promises to be grandest and most spectacular ever held here.

Tomorrow, the first of May, will see budding maidens arising at dawn and bathing their faces in dew that they may be beautiful and attractive for the remainder of the year. That is, of course, unless they consider cosmetics an improvement on May dew.

Some erroneous impressions have got afoot about the amount of money to be spent on the fireworks on Monday evening, one party informing the Guardian that \$2,000 or \$3,000 had been voted for the purpose. As a matter of fact the order for fireworks is not to exceed \$200, about one fifth of what the Exhibition Association spent on their spectacular displays last year.

A decline of 1 1/2 per cent. was shown in the number of births registered in 70 cities and towns with a population of 10,000 or more, when they numbered 6,755 in March against 6,865 in the same month last year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Deaths numbered 4,309 against 4,298 in March, 1934, and marriages showed a 15 per cent. increase with 1,910 compared with 1,658 in the same month last year. During the three months ended March 31st, 1934, deaths, 19,805, and marriages, 5,815, against 19,610 births, 11,966 deaths, and 5,614 marriages during the same period of 1934, showing a decline of one per cent. in births, an increase of seven per cent. in deaths and an increase of 3 1/2 per cent. in marriages.

The local Liberals are in a sore dilemma. They fear Mr. Lea's delicate state of health may prevent him carrying on as leader of the party, and they have no one to understand him or replace him. Mr. McIntyre is the logical successor, but his extravagance and utter disregard of ordinary economic methods of transacting provincial business makes the party afraid to trust him with power. Mr. Thane Campbell is out with the party, and we have reason to believe, claims that his private business requires all his attention from now on. Mr. Leppage has laudable ambitions for the leadership, but trouble has arisen in the Rustico polls, and the probability is that another Liberal will challenge his right for the party nomination. With these eliminated who is there to carry the Liberal colours at the forthcoming election?

Notes By The Way

Let not the public suppose that these agitations and committees and conferences are in favour of any one man. They do not represent a movement in behalf of Mr. Hoover. Such a disclaimer is necessary in the case of William Allan White, who is the reputed leader of the Republican rally in the Midwest. He would rather have fun than be President. There are some signs that Colonel Theodore Roosevelt is willing to establish a correct branch of his family in the White House again, but for the present that may be left to take care of itself. The main point of the warnings of prudent Republicans just now is that policies, not men, must be the thing emphasized. The politicians in solemn conclave may agree upon plans for next year's Republican platform, but must not even whisper the name of the man who is to stand upon them. Ideas, not personalities, are the order of the day.—New York Times.

During their present world tour, Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, who are now in Western Canada, found the greatest number of Scouts and Guides to population in an unexpected place—small Thursday Island, off Queensland. From some 700 inhabitants—400 whites and 300 Malays and Japanese—200 Scouts and Guides greeted the World Chief Scout and Chief Guide.

Millions are starving in China. Thousands have recently been killed in an earthquake in Formosa. One way and another this seems to be a fairly good corner of the world, even when we suffer from what we regard as a flood the damage is comparatively slight. We are far enough from the European continent to watch without undue alarm the developments there, albeit our interest is not untimed with some anxiety. We do not have to try in absentia to send them to death as in Greece. We have not to battle raging over a 120-mile front as in Bolivia.

Here's something that gives us a pain in the neck: "Rule Britannia" will not be sung in Windsor as part of the celebration of the silver jubilee of King George V's accession to the British throne on May 6. The reason it might give offence to the United States visitors to the celebration. What's getting into people these days? They seem afraid to call their souls their own. "Rule Britannia" was not only correct as in the days before Britain, in the interests of peace, gave the United States naval parity, and in view of this may be a bit bombastic. But it's not one bit more so, not even as bombastic as numerous patriotic songs that our friends across the line sing frequently and with fervor—and do not care a boot how it sounds to the ears of Canadians or Britons.—St. Thomas, Times-Journal.

The moral protest against the enrichment of individuals through the special needs of war and the thousands of men making the final sacrifice on the battlefield has all the support required for the enactment of appropriate restraints, but it should not be perverted and abused. The restraints adopted should deal with the evil to be corrected, and ulterior or subversive purposes should be defeated. It is easy to talk about taking the profit out of war, but how about the profits of agriculture in wartime.—Chicago Tribune.

Venezuela has been quite the greatest Greek of modern times, and the methods of Greek politics are not to be measured by those of other countries. There will be sympathy with Venezuela personally in his eclipse, but not much over the failure of the recent revolt. Nor, if it is true, will Italy be greatly blamed if she put obstacles in the way of expatriated Greeks who would have joined the rising against the government.

Instead of having to talk to Maxim Litvinoff across an empty chair at the League Council, Sir John Simon now sits beside him. Thus, silent notice was taken of Japan's departure after fifteen years of membership. In the McSwain anti-war profits bill there is this interesting provision: "No American citizen may be drafted for military duty on foreign soil except for defensive war." When it is recalled that every nation which took part in the World War was fighting "on the defence"—even the United States, although our soldiers were in France—it will be seen that this provision of the House bill is sufficiently elastic to cover every possible emergency. Defensive warfare? Is there, officially, any other kind?—New York Post.

But things are changing. Kilts are becoming quite a common sight in Edinburgh and other centres and larger sales of tartan goods than for many years past are reported. "The change," says the Stratford paper, "is believed due to the popularity of hiking. Kilts are found to be ideal attire for walking and business men and office workers are taking to the ancient garb of the country when out on recreation."—Sault Star.

It goes back to the fact that unless there is resort to force, Germany may go on arming in the Rhineland as well as in the rest of the country, and nobody supposes that expeditionary forces will be set in motion in an attempt to restore life treaty provisions that Germany has made, or may make, dead letters. Rather the probability is that the German watch on the Rhine will be restored, and the rest of Europe, however repugnant they may find the process, will make the best of it.—Providence Journal.

If we are going in for a Dictatorship, well and good. But even a Dictatorship should not be placed beyond the range of the ballot boxes. Both Churchill and Hitler

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D. YOUR BODY NEEDS SALT

Common salt, sodium chloride, is by far the most important and valuable salt used as or found in food. It forms 60 per cent of the salt of the blood and enters into the structure of all the tissues of the body with the single exception of the enamel of the teeth. The amount needed by the body is about one-half ounce daily, which amount is usually found in the foods we eat—that is if we eat a varied diet.

The kidneys are important organs in getting rid of wastes (poisons) from the body; salt stimulates the blood circulation in the kidneys, which helps get rid of these wastes, which in turn causes thirst and drinking more fluid which stimulates the interchange of juices in the body. Prof. William Thompson in his book Practical Dietsetics reminds us that salt stimulates the appetite and influences in a beneficial way the digestion of food in the stomach. It not only furnishes the chloride for the hydrochloric acid so necessary for the digestion, but also peptinogen into active pepsin for the stomach digestive juice. In fact the absence of salt from the diet checks the production of hydrochloric acid in the stomach.

Among the other uses of salt in the body which we are familiar with is its ability to help certain materials in solution in the blood, regulate the chemical reaction of the blood and of the various juices of the body, and preserve the tissues from disorganization and putrefaction. Another very helpful purpose recently discovered is the effect of ordinary salt upon the intestines. Research physicians found that strong salt solutions had the effect of making the intestines contract in cases where there was obstruction, thus helping the bowels to move.

Recently Drs. H. Eitel and A. Looser, Berlin, have experimented on animals and human beings and have found that when men and animals were deprived of a certain amount of salt the intestine was not able to cause contraction. The thought that salt is not only of help in digestion, but lack of it can cause a lack of power or activity in the intestines.

All that is necessary for us to make sure of getting enough salt is to eat fruits, vegetables, meat and milk daily.

Government In Business

(Ottawa Journal)

When on Monday of last week a delegation of Montreal bakers asked Premier Taschereau for a commission to fix minimum bread prices, Mr. Taschereau replied: "We are verging on governmental-state-control of everything. Yesterday it was control of milk; today it is control of bread. Tomorrow, it will control of meat. This means state control of everything, on a very, very socialistic basis." Truly we have come a long way since the days when men believed the best Government is the Government which governs least. The party which gives that creed most lip service is the Liberal party. It is left hand know what its right hand is doing. In its political literature and oratory it pays homage to individualism, but in Parliament it votes for collectivism. As a consequence, because all our political parties, influenced by a public pressure, stand for regular legislation, no business seems too small to escape the hand of Government. In addition, more than one-eighth of the population is dependent, either directly or indirectly, upon the federal Government for its food, clothing and shelter, for its basic necessities of life.

It is little wonder then, that there is today almost more government in business than there is business. While pioneer days remained only the hardest souls survived under a laissez faire system. But those days passed forever with the close of the Great War and business ceased to be successful in finding new markets in new sections of the world. It was then, when it became necessary to divide up what markets there were that Governments were appealed to.

The tangled industrial business situation which exists on this continent today is derived from many sources but the most important is the unsolved question of consumption. We can and do produce more than the country will absorb. If Government has failed to solve this problem, a fair measure of its attempts to be a bulwark against chaos of the wildest kind is to be found in consideration of what Canada and most of this continent would resemble if, tomorrow, all relief, all regulation, all enforcement of law, all Government loans and financial assistance, should suddenly come to an abrupt full stop. A blessing! No person in the possession of his mental faculties would call it that.

Weeds are great travelers; they are, indeed, the tramps of the vegetable world. They are going east, west, north, south; they walk, they fly, they swim, they steal a ride; they travel by rail, by flood, by wind; they go underground, and they go above, across lots, and by highways.—John Burroughs.

Hitler Thumbs His Nose

(Ottawa Journal)

Indicted by the nations of the world, Adolf Hitler thumbs his nose. Throwing off all pretence of observing the Versailles Treaty, he tells the League of Nations it has no right to judge Germany. Standing once more in "shining armor" Germany's policy henceforth will be directed to serve only German ends.

What it means, clearly, is that Germany, arming secretly for two years, feels sufficiently powerful to defy the world. It is the arrogance of 1914.

And that Germany is once more powerful, no one need doubt. Thus the American Associated Press, after careful inquiry, reports that "intense military air activity" is rapidly placing the German army beyond dreamed-of dimensions." In gas, airplanes, personnel and the storage of material there is "feverish rearmament." New factories are being pushed ahead; recruiting progressing apace; war games being played; intensified training given special population groups.

The Associated Press adds that, according to one reliable quarter, Germany now has 1,500,000 men in uniform, so that the beginning of conscription this Autumn "will mean very little, since by then the cream of able-bodied men will be soldiers and the inauguration of compulsory training will mostly be a move to round up the unemployed." An enormous war "plane factory" has just been completed at Schoeneweide, a suburb of Berlin; sixty airports are being constructed near sixty German towns and cities; larger offensive groups of planes are being stationed at larger concentration points. Meanwhile plants are being built for the manufacture of tanks and automobile transport for troops, emphasizing rapid transit of armies. A new Krupp factory near Berlin is expected to employ 20,000 men.

What of the other nations? The cables tell of almost equally feverish haste in building a front against Germany. France and Russia, since the Russian revolution, have entered into a pact of mutual assistance. Inevitably, official mouthpiece of Moscow, warns Hitler that if it comes to a test "millions of men and millions of tons of steel" will defend peace. Russians and Czechoslovakians discuss an aviation treaty with Italy. In London, Austria's Vice-Chancellor Von Starheimberg discusses co-operation. Rome and Paris draw closer together. At Geneva Sir John Simon and Russia's Maxim Litvinoff become friends.

That Germany should deliberately ask trouble with the combined might of all these Powers seems incredible. Yet it seems clear that Hitler is in defiant mood, has no intention of taking suggestions, and is banking on the outside world. Whether he is banking on peace sentiment among the peoples generally to prevent aggressive action being taken against Germany, or is careless of consequences, no one can say. The whole picture is too desperate and too confused to permit of reasonable deduction.

A curious feature of the situation is the aloofness of the United States. Congress, as the New York Times points out, is lifting not a finger toward co-operation with the other Powers. The only thing that has come from the United States Senate thus far is a denunciation of the League of Nations for taking sides against Germany. According to Senator Borah, the League has become the puppet of a few nations, impotent to serve peace. Europe might well reply that if the League is not as powerful as it might be, and if peace is endangered, a large part of the blame must rest with the nation which helped give birth to the League and then proceeded to abandon it. Indeed, Europe might well argue that had the League the result would have been general disarmament, with Hitler and a re-armed Germany impossible.

Nor does it lie in the mouth of Senator Borah or of anybody in the United States to denounce European armaments. Almost as much as any nation in the world, the United States has been building armaments, has this year voted hundreds of millions of dollars for her air and naval forces. Indeed, compared with Britain, the contribution of the United States toward disarmament has been negligible. While her representatives went to Europe to talk disarmament, her congressmen voted more money for arms.

It is impossible to think that this is the eve of another world war. The world can't be that mad. Yet it would be foolish to deny that these days have a frightening resemblance to the days just preceding the last war; more foolish to ignore the desperate situation that is being created, whether war comes or not. From a period of high faith and hope for disarmament, we have passed to a world which is an armed camp, with suspicion and fear ruling forces.

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The Poet's Corner

TO SPRING

O thou with dewy locks, who look'st east down Through the clear windows of the morning, turn Thine angel eyes upon our western isle, Which in full choir hails thy approach, O Spring!

The hills tell one another, and the listening Valleys hear; all our longing eyes are turned Up to thy bright pavilions: issue forth And let thy holy feet visit our clime.

Come o'er the eastern hills, and let our winds Kiss thy perfume-ed garments; let us taste Thy morn and evening breath; scatter thy pearls Upon our lovesick land that longs for thee.

O deck her forth with thy fair fingers; pour Thy soft kisses on her bosom; and put The golden crown upon her languished head, Whose modest tresses are bound up for thee.

—William Blake, 1757-1827.

Geologists To Explore Canada

(Exchange)

Discussing the plans of the Federal Government to send out a hundred and eighty geological parties to explore the gold and other mineral resources of the different provinces of Canada, the Mail and Empire says: When the Hon. Wesley Gordon is not busy as Minister of Labor or Minister of Colonization he concentrates on his third job as Minister of Mines. We give him the credit for getting the tax taken off gross gold production and readjusting to profits in a manner that will help the industry. Having spent a great proportion of his mature years in the north country he knows what he is doing when he tackles mining problems. Hence his proposal to spend one million dollars during the coming summer in sending out a hundred and eighty geological investigating parties to explore the gold and other mineral resources of the several provinces. These parties will include nine hundred geologists, university students and laborers, and their efforts should achieve something in making plainer the path for prospectors and operating companies. In putting this item in the estimates Mr. Gordon recognizes that gold mining is the one Canadian industry which steadily expanded throughout five years of world depression, and that it has played a leading part in protecting the nation's monetary system and credit at a high level. If the work of these geological parties leads to the opening up of a few more gold mines the Minister will have done the Dominion an enormous service.

The Cost Of War

(Exchange)

If you have ever doubted that wars are almost unimaginably expensive, consider this fact; today, fully seventy full years after the close of the U. S. Civil War, the federal government at Washington is still paying out \$5,000,000 a month to settle the cost of that conflict. Seventy years add up to a long, long time. Since the last shot was fired in the war between the states, children have been born, grown to old age and died and all that while the nation's purse has been steadily drained to pay the bills.

Most of the \$5,000,000 paid out each month goes to veterans and veterans' dependents in the form of pensions. This expenditure grows progressively less each year, of course, and will vanish entirely before so very long. But it is appalling even so, to reflect on the length of time war costs hang on.

O. N. R. REVENUES

MONTREAL, Que., April 29.—The gross revenues of the all-inclusive Canadian National Railways System for the week ending April 21st, 1935, were \$3,116,971, as compared with \$2,995,008 for the corresponding period of 1934, an increase of \$121,963.

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