

The Charlottetown Guardian

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The Hindenburg Disaster

Whatever the cause of the shocking disaster to the giant dirigible Hindenburg at Lakehurst, it is incredible to the people of this continent that it was due, as hinted in German quarters, to "anti-Nazi sabotage".

It is more than two years since the last dirigible disaster, which occurred to the U.S. navy airship Macon off the Pacific coast. Only two persons were killed on that occasion, but there were 73 fatalities when the Akron crashed in an electrical storm in 1933.

In the last twenty-three years the Canadian Press lists no fewer than eighteen major dirigible disasters.

In the Maritimes news of the Hindenburg explosion came as an anti-climax to the shocking railway accident near Springhill Junction.

The Tragic Muse

"But, that these base and beggarly conceits should carry it, by the multitude of voices, Against the most abstracted work, opposed To the stuffed nostrils of the drunken rout!"

With all due respect to the critics at the Dominion Drama Festival this year, their dictum that comedies and farces should be preferred on the stage to tragedies cannot be accepted without protest from any one acquainted with the glorious tradition of the English drama.

Are "Hamlet", "Othello" and "Macbeth" to be dismissed as inferior to Shakespeare's earlier comic themes? Or were Marlowe, Ford and Webster—to name but three of Shakespeare's great contemporaries in the field of tragic drama—less competent artists than Congreve and Wycherley and the whole school of Restoration dramatists, who revelled in light and frivolous subjects because they were of an age which was essentially light and frivolous?

The question resolves itself into what, after all, is the aim of tragedy? Is it to cater to a morbid pessimism, as the Ottawa commentators would seem to imply? Is it not rather to elevate the moral character, to purge the emotions by means of pity and terror; to broaden the channels of human sympathy and experience? "Of all the arts," says a noted modern English critic, "tragedy is the proudest, the most triumphant, for it builds its shining citadel in the very centre of the enemy's country, on the very summit of his highest mountain; from its impregnable watchtowers, his camps and arsenals, his columns and forts, are revealed; within its walls the free life continues, while the legions of Death and Pain and Despair, and all the servile captains of tyrant Fate, afford the burgers of that dauntless city new spectacles of beauty."

This seems also to have been the conception of the ancient Greeks, who raised tragedy to the loftiest level which art has ever attained. If we have lost relish today for tragic drama, and prefer "as many comedies and farces as possible", it is for the same unflattering reason, probably, that we prefer light reading to the solid classics of literature, and jazz or a "mammy-song" to the symphonies of Beethoven.

A Note Of Warning

A note of warning is sounded in the current monthly review of the Bank of Nova Scotia with regard to the sharp advance in commodity prices which has been the most striking development of recent months. From June, 1936, to March last the general average of wholesale prices in Canada increased by roughly 18 per cent. The advance has been heavily concentrated in basic commodities. During the past nine months, prices of Canadian farm products have risen by 40 per cent, and those of base metals and their products by 44 per cent.

It should be remembered, however, says the Bank letter, that farmers generally have not been able to avail themselves of current wheat prices, for they have long since disposed of practically all of the last crop. Current estimates indicate that stocks of wheat on farms are no more than sufficient to cover seed requirements. The present high quotations reflect an immediate shortage of supplies following a succession of short crops in North America and abroad, rather than any significant increase in world consumption.

"If the immediate attainment of a higher price level were the whole story," adds the letter, "there would be every reason for satisfaction. But, as often happens, there is another side to the picture, less obvious but none the less real, which arouses serious misgivings. No one knows how long these prices can be maintained, based as many of them are on temporary shortages of a few commodities, in part foster-

ed by re-armament and accentuated by speculation."

Behind The Pageantry

Evidencing the keen interest of our United States neighbors in the Coronation preparations in the Old Country, the Christian Science Monitor has come out with a magnificent special Coronation Number accompanied by a message from President Roosevelt on the importance of cementing Anglo-American relations in the cause of world peace.

Introducing the issue is a leading editorial in which emphasis is placed on the fact that American interest in Britain's feeling today springs not from "any republican reverence for royalty" or even from ties of trade and tradition, but "from a sharing of basic ideals and purposes, some of which have been plainly at work in events of the last few days."

What are these "basic ideals and purposes"? First and foremost, in the Monitor's opinion, "a mutual love of order, or peace." Devotion to democratic processes, "to settling things by discussion rather than violence," is part of the foundation. "Insistence on equal justice is another meeting ground. Love of liberty is another. Similar concepts of Deity lie deep. Not in military alliance, not in any materialist sense of race, not in any joint enterprise of selfish idealism, not in unstable sentimentality, but in the like-mindedness of common spiritual aspirations are the surest foundations of British-American understanding and co-operation laid. And those bases are not exclusive; they are broad enough to offer a common meeting ground for all humanity."

Editorial Notes

This date 1660, Charles II was proclaimed King.

Tomorrow Sir James Barrie, Bart., O.M., celebrates his birthday—born 1860.

Death and disaster all around we see, while here a chosen people we appear to be.

A man who could and would eat 15 whole lobsters at a meal ought himself to be canned.

German oppression of the Jews has its compensation—none was aboard the ill-fated Hindenburg.

Are you to be in the parade? It will be a memorable and historic one—none more so in the long records of the province.

Did the benign Campbell Government make any rebate to those enterprising Prince County lobster fishermen who last year bought their gasoline at 11c per gallon, while we were paying 31c?

Premier Campbell and Mr. Massey C.A., have concluded a deal with Mr. Rogers, Minister of Labour, for unemployment relief work. Hope it is generous, or at all events sufficient to keep our many unemployed busy till winter once more sets in.

Now the anarchists are taking a hand in wrecking the government of Spain. It was ever thus—luxury of administration followed by dictatorship, followed by Communism, and ultimately anarchy and chaos. It is the part of wisdom to nip any such tendency in the bud.

Development of a scientific "divining rod" to locate petroleum was reported to the annual meeting of the American Philosophical Society. The device operates by analyzing gases found above and immediately below the ground in oil bearing lands. The mass spectograph is a delicate instrument heretofore used to separate isotopes, which are the component parts of the same chemical elements but have different weights. The instrument's use as a "divining rod" was described by its inventor, Dr. Walker Bleakley, Assistant Professor of Physics at Princeton University. Because the device is so sensitive, Dr. Bleakley said, it can detect rare gases which oil men say are indicative of the presence of oil far beneath the earth's surface.

Revision of the Ottawa trade agreements in the interest of British industry and agriculture is being urged by the Conservative party's tariff policy committee. At the same time the "Economist" and the "Spectator", weekly reviews, call for plans to encourage economic relation between the United States and the British Empire at the forthcoming Imperial Conference. The recommendation for revision of the Ottawa agreements was contained in a resolution sent by the recently-formed Conservative committee to Mr. Neville Chamberlain, Chancellor of the Exchequer. It declared: "This committee recommends that the Ottawa accords should be so amended as to provide that, while preserving the margin of preference, the United Kingdom should be empowered to impose duties on Empire products, both industrial and agricultural, where such duties are necessary in the interests of the United Kingdom."

Approximately \$500,000,000 a year could be saved in the payroll of the five million office workers of the United States through the application of sound principles and techniques of scientific managements to clerical works, declared Mr. Harry Arthur Hopf, American business organization authority, in an address to the Montreal Branch of the Engineering Institute of Canada at the Institute Auditorium, Mansfield street. Mr. Hopf described the ten qualifications of a scientific business executive as: "A strictly impersonal viewpoint; ability to think in terms of management; a passion for truth as revealed by methods of science and research; adequate training in sound methodology and thorough grasp of modern statistical methods; ample cultural background; an attitude of philosophic doubt; devotion to scientific use of literature; spirit of co-operation with other workers in the field, as well as with members of his organization; success in the art of self-interpretation; and the saving grace of humor. The last qualification surely should be the first.

Notes By The Way

The number of Czechoslovakian politicians advocating concessions to a menacing Germany is growing apace. Some of the schemes for giving autonomy to the German-speaking districts that one hears mooted in semi-official circles in Prague come little short of handing over these vital provinces to the tender mercies of Hitlerian Germany. Conversations are taking place between Heinlein, the German leader, and men who are, or pretend to be, the authorized interpreters of the Prague Cabinet's intentions. This suggests no reflection upon the courage or the well-known patriotism of the Czechs. But they feel that they are in a situation where it may be advisable to sacrifice a great deal in order to preserve what remains.

They seem to share Montaigne's view that in the long run it is easier to sacrifice great than small things... The passive acceptance by the Locarno Powers of the flagrant Rhineland outrage of March 7, 1936, and of every other cynically insolent repudiation of Treaty obligations and of the sanctity of moral law, and a most damaging echo in Prague, Bucharest and in Belgrade... If the developments of the next few weeks or months demonstrate that in fact, the small nations of Central and Eastern Europe have the great democracies behind them and that collective security is not a vain word or an empty phrase to which they all may yet be well with Europe and the world. To-day what is the lesson that is writ so large in Central Europe, that he who runs may read.—The National Review.

The great fault of the American tax system is not that it rests on too narrow a base, but that only part of the base is visible. It would be an excellent thing if some of the many taxes now levied indirectly were promptly scrapped in favour of direct personal taxes even on the smallest incomes. That would give us an electorate with a greater sense of responsibility in the matter of public finance, and legislators with more backbone in the matter of retrenchment.—New York Times.

"In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love"—but this has to do with love of flowers and gardens. The writer does not claim to be an authority on birds. He hopes, however, that these few words will be of help to many people who soon will be planting flowers or vegetable seeds. The species for today's study is the scarecrow. A scarecrow is more useful than ornamental. Clothes do not make the man, but they do make the scarecrow. A scarecrow stands a lot without a murmur. He has no caws for complaints. A scarecrow scares, but doesn't crow about it. A scarecrow is an affected creature; so stuck up. Yet, a scarecrow never gets anywhere; he is an old stick-in-the-mud. After all, a scarecrow is just a frame-up, but don't tell the birds. Scarecrows make crows scarce. Birds do not believe in signs, but they do believe in scarecrows. Exc.

I see no way for us to keep out except absolute neutrality. This means complete isolation from belligerent nations and nations doing business with belligerents. It is impossible to define munitions of war. Food, for example, is more important than gunpowder. Americans would travel at their own risk. They would do business at their own risk. We might consider whether the Government should not pay a subsidy the average annual profits over a five-year period before the war to any corporation that had been doing foreign business. If this were done, it might help to prevent great corporations from trying to conduct business with the belligerents directly or indirectly.—The Forum (New York).

German denial of the massacre by Nazi flyers of the Nationalist population of Guernica would be much more convincing if the semi-official Voelksischer Beobachter had not described the reports a "lax, shameful Jewish journalism." One remembers the brutalities of the Nazis to the Jews, which all but the new deny in Germany. Hamilton Spectator.

According to the conclusions reached by scholars, the first quarter of the present century was "the bloodiest period in all history." Having studied 902 wars and 1,615 "internal disturbances" reaching back over 2,000 years, they find that the "war index" for the twentieth century is "eight times greater" than in "all the preceding centuries. In other words," says Professor Sorokin, "the average man of the thirteenth century had 6,500 more chances to die peacefully in bed than has his descendant in the twentieth."—Baltimore Sun.

The buses only exist because so far they have managed to render a specialized kind of service. The railways have shown, both in Canada and the States, that when they get down to business, they can take it all. People like to travel by train, prefer it, in fact, to all other means of travel, when they can afford it. The railways have, of late, made it possible for people to travel, both on long and short journeys, at reasonable and very cheap rates, and the people have not been slow to take advantage of the offer. Buses and trucks should carry their full share of the tax load in view of the fact that their roadbed that part of their business equipment indispensable to their existence, is provided from the public funds. But they must not be simply taxed out of existence because they take business away from the railways. The railways have proved beyond question that any time they feel like taking the business, they can step out and take it.—Dauphin Herald.

That Body of Bones

By James W. Burton, M.D.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR HEART

When you feel a pain in the region of the heart—directly over it, below it, above it or to one side—and you are not doing any work, and it is not after eating a heavy meal, it is not likely that there is anything wrong with your heart. Again, you find yourself getting out of breath easily, and you have been righty told that this is the first sign of a failing heart. If, however, you have been eating too much acid food—eggs, bread, cereals, meat, fish—the blood and tissues are likely to be acid and are asking for more oxygen which would mean having to breathe oftener.

Perhaps also, you find your heart beating rapidly, perhaps at a rate of 84 to 90 instead of the usual 72 beats to the minute. If you are under any tension or strain, or have just eaten a hearty meal, it is normal or natural for the heart rate to increase. However the thought is not that you should ignore or tell yourself to forget the pain in the chest or under breast bone, the getting out of breath easily or the rapid beat of the heart. The very fact that you have these symptoms and they "get on your nerves" should cause you to say to yourself, "I've either got heart disease or I haven't and I'm going to find out about it."

Fortunately your family physician can tell you in a very few minutes whether or not your heart is sound. And if he finds it sound then you can give the pain, shortness of breath, and the rapidity, even some irregularly, no more thought. And even if he finds some actual heart trouble, does this mean that you are doomed to the life of an invalid till you pass away? By simple tests—exercise, holding the breath, and others, or by means of the electrocardiograph and fluoroscope, your doctor is able to estimate just what your heart can do "safely." He will give you some simple instructions as to rest, exercise, and food; (medicine is sometimes given to steady the heart, and also to a great extent to steady the upset mind.)

So, don't worry about your heart. It is sound or it isn't. Even if not sound, all you need to do is to follow your doctor's advice, and so live "safely."

The Poet's Corner

HEART OF EMPIRE—1937

A little Isle that spans the seven seas, Is pulsing with the history of past years, Toward which the sentiment of Empire turns. We watch thy unfolding triumphs once again, In welding destinies in a long chain Of sovereigns, kings and queens and emperors Thy princes, nobles, men of great renown, Are gathering east and west to swell the van. The argosies of nations, gay with flags, Bring forth a chosen few, Dominion's pride, First ministers and counsellors of note. From utopia come her princes, great with gold, And jeweled retinues that boast a state Unrivaled in the new-found realms of wealth. South Africa is mustering a band Of statelymen, proud of Dutch and British blood, Erst foes, now friends in a free Commonwealth. Australians, for most with their men of might, Arrive, strong, bronzed and keen, with loyal hearts, To take their places in this pageantry. New Zealanders have joined the race to meet The parent stock of lineage tried and true. And intermingling French and British blood With alien peoples, in joint homage bound, The choice of Canada will greet her King— All knit by bonds unsevered yet through feud. And Erin's sons come, too, from north and south, To view the King's anointing— an ancient rite. Beside the mystic stone, where Jacob slept Of old and made his covenant with God. This earthly power is pledged to safeguard homes And subjects' rights beyond the seven seas. So may God save Their Majesties and grant Them health and wealth to sway the sceptered throne For justice, peace, prosperity and weal. That all may live within an Empire's might!

—Florence H. Edgar, in the Ottawa Journal.

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.

BEER'S BRIDGE

Sir—On May 1st inst., I asked "Taxpayer" through the Public Forum to change his battleground to other parts of the Second District of Queens, Colville Road, C. N. R. crossing. Who were the fifty percent who worked on this relief work or otherwise? And further, would ask, does he know if the government supplied those fifty percent with free gas for their cars for the faithful who could not ride bicycles to perform their arduous day's labor from nine a. m. to some time in the afternoon? I am, Sir, etc., VOTER

PRISON VISITATION

Sir—I could not help wondering on Sunday while hearing the Salvation Army at the jail, why churches didn't do this work. There must be a reason why their money is sent to India, China, Africa, and to all parts of the world and the prisoners in both our jails never even visited. Well, the fact remains, and the situation doesn't reflect credit on any of the churches, and the sooner a change is made the better for all concerned. Here is a work right at our own doors, and the doing of it would give an opportunity for the many young people in our churches to practise what they hear preached from Sunday to Sunday. It must be thoughtlessness on the part of the leaders of religious work in our city. The Y.M.C.A. could very well give their young men this opportunity for service. The condition of these poor souls shut up those lovely May days, is sad indeed. Even if they have done wrong it is inhuman to shut any person up without work of some kind. It does no good. Do those who sentence them ever visit the prisons? I think not. In God's name let something be done and done quickly. We were pleased to learn Sunday that some of the prisoners work at farm work every day. Some one will answer for these conditions some day, and it may be the prisoners will not have as much to answer for as those people who keep them there, and care nothing for their souls' welfare. The writer attended a meeting some time ago in the city when the matter of visiting the jail and holding meetings there was brought up. The remark was made: "Why, the prisoners have done wrong; let them take their medicine." At the same meeting the Bible lesson read was "The Good Samaritan" and the closing hymn was "Rescue the Perishing!" There seems nothing further left to say on this subject except a great need has been presented, in a feeble way, and now that the need has been made known may there be a response that will cheer the hearts of all concerned. I am, Sir, etc., PRISONERS' AID.

The Yukon

(Sydney Post Record) The proposed annexation of the Yukon to British Columbia will enlarge that Province's area to 573,331 square miles, will place it second only to Quebec in size, and will give it jurisdiction over more than one-fifth of the land surface of the Dominion. So stated the agreement just concluded between the Patullo Government and the Dominion authorities can be made to read like fine campaign material on the eve of a Provincial election. But it is more than doubtful whether this mammoth real estate deal will prove financially profitable to a Province involved in what looks like a losing fight against bankruptcy. The discovery of gold in the Yukon in 1893 caused a great stampede of prospectors to that remote and inhospitable corner of the Dominion, but the radiant dreams of the wealth it was to produce were disappointed, the boom quickly collapsed, and the administration of the territory, sparsely settled and

difficult to reach, has ever since been a burden and an expense to the Dominion Government. For the past 10 years the Federal treasury has been supplying more than two dollars on the Yukon for every dollar taken out of the territory. Since the gold rush of 1898, the Department of the Interior has spent \$10,782,000 on public works and administrative services for the Yukon population, and the outlay continues from year to year. In the fiscal year 1933-34, the revenue derived from the Yukon amounted to \$187,000 and the sum spent on its administration was \$504,000. In 1934-35, these figures were \$212,000 and \$465,000 respectively. Last year revenue receipts rose to \$228,000 and expenditures to \$537,000. For the past 10 years mining royalties from the Yukon have averaged only \$20,000 per annum. These burdens, however, are not to be wholly assumed by British Columbia, for the Dominion Government will, of course, continue to maintain such services as fall within the responsibility of the Federal Postal and Interior Departments, as well as meeting the costs of the judicial system of the district and providing necessary aids to navigation. The Yukon postal services cost \$117,000 per year and the Indians \$100,000 per year. According to Premier Patullo's announcement, British Columbia is to receive \$125,000 annually for the next 5 years, as a special grant to help out in financing purely provincial public services for the people of the Yukon. This will mean that the Dominion will be paying more than ever on account of the Yukon, while, at the same time, the Provincial Government must obviously make certain expenditures from its own treasury on the annexed territory. The discovery of gold in the Yukon was an unlucky accident for Canada.

Johannesburg

(Montreal Gazette) Johannesburg, the largest city in the Transvaal and the centre of the gold mining industry in South Africa, is growing at the rate of six thousand new buildings annually, according to latest reports.

MANSLAUGHTER CASE DISMISSED

TORONTO, May 7 (CP)—Charge of manslaughter against Frank Marshall, driver of the car in which Mrs. Gladys Baird, formerly of Truro, N.S., was fatally injured in a collision last March, was dismissed in magistrate's court today. The bench held there was no evidence of a criminal nature.

TABLOID

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Mr. Tea Pott Says: For a Delicious Cup of Full Flavoured Tea Use BRAHMIN Orange Pekoe Tea

In the month of March a total of 1,028 applications was recorded, constituting a record. In the first quarter of the year there were nearly 3,000 permits issued, the value of the buildings being \$3,220,402. No other town in the Union is progressing at such a rate, and there is a reason. Gold and other metals, precious and base, are in universal demand, and Johannesburg, strategically situated near the Rand field, supplies the wants of the mines and the miners. The place grew with amazing rapidity following the gold discoveries in 1886 and when it celebrated its jubilee last year with an exhibition, visitors came from all over the world. They saw a city planned on regular lines, with theatres, zoological gardens, two racecourses, great parks, art galleries, libraries, fine public buildings, churches and synagogues and all the other amenities. The chief educational institution is the South African School of Mines and Technology. The citizens are generous with their money and the public institutions suffer no lack of funds. The city is governed by a Council run on English lines, and altogether is a credit to the Union. Its inhabitants total about 378,000, some 204,000 of whom are whites. The statistics just published about building development indicate that the half-million mark will soon be reached, provided the call for gold keeps up.

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