

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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Morning Daily (founded 1887) \$5.00 per year (in advance) delivered. \$4.50 per year (in advance) mailed in Canada and United States.

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1935.

QUITE A CONTRAST

Our local contemporary finds it worthy of remark that Conservative policies, both federal and provincial, were warmly indorsed by all the speakers who participated in Tuesday's nominating conventions at Georgetown and Bedouque. True, the news value of the statement would be greater if it applied to Liberal conventions. According to our contemporary's own reports, Mr. McIntyre and Mr. Lea differ materially with regard to their attitude on highway experimentation. Mr. McIntyre, with the backing of the Liberal organ, is all for making this matter a "political issue." Mr. Lea gave his unsolicited assurance that he had no intention of doing so. Mr. T. A. Campbell expressed his approval of the Government's policy, as did also Mr. J. J. Larabee. It is significant also that even after Mr. Lea's "platform and policy" had passed through the party mangle, the plank regarding "a thorough investigation into the efficient and economical systems of road building"—in contradistinction to the exceedingly uneconomical expenditure of \$27,000 a mile incurred on the McIntyre highway—was retained as one of the "principal" policies on which the Liberal party would appeal. Certainly the convention which renominated Messrs. McIntyre and Cox, and which passed a resolution denouncing low-priced highway experimentation, had nothing to do with drafting that plank, nor could they be expected to give it their approval.

Premier MacMillan made a strong point at the Georgetown convention when he referred to the harmony and co-operation between the federal and provincial Conservative representatives, which has resulted in the bringing to this Province, during the past four years, of upwards of a million dollars in cash, not to speak of the substantial increase of \$150,000 annually in subsidy through the presentation made before the White Commission. And he pointed out that it was through the failure of Liberal administrations here and at Ottawa to co-operate successfully together, that the Duncan Commission recommendations were so long neglected and ignored. The fact that the Conservatives succeeded in "bringing home the bacon" during a period of unprecedented depression is the surest guarantee the electors will require that they can work harmoniously together in prosperous times, which are now in sight for Canada. And perhaps the best evidence of Liberal inability to obtain anything but "goose-eggs" is furnished by the Opposition members at the present time, in the pulling and tugging that is going on over Liberal party policies. It is self-evident that if they cannot agree when out of office, they would be exceedingly unlikely to do so if they got into power.

A WORTHY CAUSE

The annual meeting of the Charlottetown Free Dispensary takes place tonight in the board room of the City Building, when the reports of the year's activities will be submitted and an address delivered by Dr. Keeping, Provincial Health Officer. The work accomplished by this charitable institution is a most necessary and important one, and one practical way of showing interest and appreciation in the work is by attendance at tonight's meeting. On Saturday the annual envelope collection for the Dispensary takes place. The response in the past has been generous, but it is well to remember that during the past winter there have been many and heavy demands on the institution, and that every cent contributed to this worthy cause is a humanitarian investment of the greatest importance. A special effort on the part of our citizens this year in responding to Saturday's financial appeal will therefore be appreciated.

BRITAIN'S AIR DEFENCE

Great interest attaches to the British Air Ministry's new plans which may call for doubling the home strength of the Royal Air Force at a cost of one hundred and twenty million dollars over and above the increased estimates already submitted to Parliament. Clearly, the motive is to preclude the possibility of Germany's air force becoming superior to that of Great Britain. Germany claims an army which would be larger than any in Europe outside of Russia and a navy equal to that of any state on the Continent of Europe; and latterly Hitler has announced that Germany already possesses an air

force on a parity with Great Britain. If it is equal today, we may be sure that, should the policy of Germany as now pursued be sustained, very soon her strength in military aviation will exceed Britain's, even measured according to the previous augmented programme designed to add to the force forty-one squadrons by 1939 and altogether build the air arm up to 1,000 planes. The British Government's present intention to acquire another 600 fighting planes within the two years will be favored by public opinion at home and throughout the Empire.

A sequence of events has shown plainly enough that the contribution which a relatively disarmed Great Britain can make to peace has been exhausted, and the determination of an admitted champion of peace to make herself stronger—not by any surrender to panic but with a resolute will to meet responsibilities—is likely to be of greater help than a policy of laissez faire to the attainment of the ideal which is reflected in the desire that finds constant expression in every country that some better method than war shall be found for settling international disputes. Hitler himself insists that Germany's growing military, naval and air forces are not to be trained for aggressive purposes. His reaction to Britain's draft plan to reinforce her air defences will therefore be awaited with interest. Details of the British plan will be better known after the forthcoming debate on the subject in the House of Commons. Meanwhile, aircraft manufacturers have been advised not to accept foreign orders without first consulting the Air Ministry. No difficulty is anticipated in securing machines, men and equipment for new squadrons of the high standard that prevails in the existing air force.

A NATIONAL THEATRE

A plan for a national theatre at Ottawa, says a writer in the Manitoba Free Press, is taking form in the minds of some Canadians interested in the drama. The Dominion Drama Festivals held at the capital in 1933, 1934 and this year have brought to notice a large company of able performers. At each festival at least one play by a Canadian author has figured on the programme. There seems to be enough dramatic talent in the country, literary and histrionic, to justify a hope for a national theatre. There is, of course, often a long lapse of time between the birth of such a hope and the appearance of an actual theatre, complete with actors, stage crew and audience. Bernard Shaw in his one-act play, "The Dark Lady of the Sonnets," makes Shakespeare plead to Queen Elizabeth for a national theatre in London. Probably that was taking liberties with history, but the idea is certainly an old one in England and yet there is still no national theatre there. The nearest approach is the Old Vic, the endowed London house where Shakespeare is performed every season.

Possibly it is devotion to free speech that has kept the theatre a private enterprise in Great Britain. The state, when it subsidizes a theatre, naturally acquires a certain control over the plays produced there. Since plays are a medium for the expression of opinion on all sorts of public questions, that means a degree of control over opinion. To take a concrete case, it is hardly likely that an American national theatre (if it had existed) would have produced "Of Thee I Sing," a musical play which presented the president, vice-president, chief justice and other high functionaries of the United States as a mixed lot of clowns, trimmers and mental defectives. But a national theatre at Ottawa would probably be a valuable creation. Lord Bessborough, who started the Dominion Festivals, has taken a lively interest in the proposals, and the new Governor-General, as a writing man, may be counted on to show a like enthusiasm.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A pictorial resume of events of King George's reign distinguishes the Jubilee number of Punch. The drawings, reproduced from old Punches, are for the most part the work of the famous Punch cartoonists, Bernard Partridge and Raven Hill. Fine in themselves, says the Toronto Globe, they form with their letter-press an effective guide to the lost motives and amusements and the memorable crises and occasions of the past quarter-century.

Notes By The Way

For the rest of Europe there is no option but to organize common action for its common security. It is the universal hope that Germany would sooner or later prefer to come in rather than to stand alone, and an open door must always be left for her. But if she chooses to remain outside, the only guarantee of the peace will be such a League of Force as she dare not challenge. And the peace must be guaranteed, for another Great War would spell the end of modern civilization in Europe.—London Morning Post.

In Westminster Hall, on the very stone floor whereon the British parliamentary system was established in 1256 the House of Lords and the House of Commons tendered addresses of loyalty and congratulation to Their Majesties. The King replied to his parliament. Of necessity such speeches have a formal note, yet their heartiness sincerely glowed in every sentence. Noteworthy was the emphasis laid on the elasticity of the British constitution which allows the nations of the Empire to meet changes without revolutionary shock. Another point overseas listeners cannot fail to have noted was the equal prominence accorded to the dominions along with the Mother Country. Here in its traditional setting was history in the making.

It is noted in a London despatch that the annual service of the Order of St. Michael and St. George will be held in St. Paul's Cathedral on Empire Day, Friday, May 24. The service will include the Commemoration of the Departed and the taking down and affixing of banners in the chapel. The installation of Lord Athlone as chancellor of the order will form part of the service. The Duke of Gloucester will be present and will hang his banner in the chapel.

Belgium, oft protesting that she would not, has deserted the gold standard. Only France, Switzerland and Holland still hold unqualifiedly to gold in a paper money world. It is only France that really counts in this group. Her position is such that she can probably stick to gold until the world returns to it—if she is willing to pay the price. The adverse balance of trade does not seem to affect her stock of gold, and it is likely that she could withstand any foreign raid on the vaults of the Bank of France. It is scarcely possible, as France is on the bullion rather than the gold coin standard, that her own hoarders can bring her to grief. It is not loss of gold that will cause overthrow of the gold standard or devaluation of the franc. It is loss of trade and declining business.—Magazine of Wall Street.

Hitler Must Have Noticed

The gold judgment was, perhaps, one of the most remarkable ever pronounced by a judicial body anywhere. Then, as now, there was a very sharp conflict of judicial opinion. Nevertheless, looking at one result after another, it is impossible to escape the conclusion that the NRA and the Constitution do not get along very well together. There are a great many people in the United States who are glad of this, who think that business recovery will be accelerated in proportion as the NRA is discredited, whether through legal process or through the failure of its own features to produce economic benefits promised, if not expected, by their authors.

The one hundred thousand George dollars turned out by the Canadian Mint were immediately taken up by the public. The machines were set going again but have not been able to catch up with the demand. Evidently, the silver dollar is greatly prized as a Jubilee souvenir.

Mr. J. S. Woodsworth, C.C.F. leader, in an address at Barrie, Ont., said he believed banks, railways and industries should be public in character and "operated in the interests of the people of the Dominion." It may be mentioned in reply that Canada is already running National Railways, but as the people are called upon to pay scores of millions in taxation annually to run them the public operation is hardly in their interests.

Scottish M.P.'s protest against the purely English character of the decorations of the historic Westminster Hall. English M.P.'s protest against the purely Scottish character of the decorations of the Scottish office in Whitehall. They are all good Britons, but members of each race wish to see their distinctive national emblems displayed in honor of the King.

Alexander Tsankoff, former Premier of Bulgaria, states that the people are on the verge of mutiny and demand a say in the re-making of the constitution, else the foundation of the monarchy will be shaken. If King Boris, who recently assumed dictatorial powers, remembers his history, he will beware of that old enemy, "Trouble in the Balkans."

The German people are definitely worse off under Nazi rule than they were before they allowed the fomenters of racial animosity to gain control. The economic motive behind the Nazi campaign against Jews is obvious. Desperate people are misled into believing that they can benefit themselves by eliminating someone else from the community. The only people to benefit are the unscrupulous instigators of the persecution. They distract the public from getting at the real economic causes of hard times.—Ex.

Germany perhaps does not realize that she has now lost her moral superiority. While the allies were dawning with disarmament, and France and Italy increasing their

That Body of Hours

By James W. Barlow, M.D.

THE ELECTRO-CARDIOGRAPH WHICH MEASURES THE HEART BEATS

You may wonder how the electro-cardiograph works and what the "writing" means as the doctor carefully reads it. The electrocardiograph simply records how the heart is beating—the strength of the first beat which pushes the pure blood from the left side of the heart through the large vessel above it to all parts of the body and the strength of the second beat which pushes the used or impure blood from the right side to the lungs only, to be purified.

There is a "spot" or node in the upper right side of the heart which is the "pacemaker" setting the pace for the heart rate, and also two other nodes which start the heart contracting, but the trouble is that every cell in the heart has the power of contracting and may start the heart contracting "out of turn." Thus when the heart doesn't beat in its regular way it may be due to some trouble in one of the three regular "nodes" or some single cell may be starting the contractions. Moreover the natural impulses to make the heart beat may be "blocked" at some point; thus heart block doesn't mean that the heart is "blocked" with blood, but the nerve impulses causing the heart beat have been blocked or interfered with in some way.

Dr. Chauncy C. Maher, in a talk before the Medical Round Table of Chicago, said that when the heart beat very fast (200 to the minute), it is called tachycardia. When the heart beat was slow, when the heart beat missed now and then, or when the first and second beats ran together, it showed trouble with heart muscle, with the vessel feeding the heart muscle, or with the node or spot where the impulses start.

By reading the "writing" made by the electrocardiograph and comparing with the writing made by a normal heart, the trouble and its probable cause could be learned just as the X ray film reveals trouble in the lungs, stomach or elsewhere in the body. These machines are usually found only in hospitals and in the offices of heart specialists because like an efficient X ray outfit they are costly to install. Your doctor makes use of the electrocardiograph as he does the X ray, when he wishes to confirm his own findings.

Admiral Sims Addressing Some Generals

(Ottawa Journal)

"I think some of those fellows down in Washington are crazy." Thus poke the famous U. S. Admiral Sims, retired, on that testimony given by Washington army officers that enemy powers could seize coastal islands or Canadian territory and from such air bases destroy the American cities. Sims, one of the great figures of the Great War, and a prime favorite in England, scouted the idea that war "planes could destroy New York." "It would take 20,000 airplanes to put New York out of commission if they could do it," and further:

"High-explosive bombs would break windows, but they would not topple skyscrapers. I was in London during bombardments. All we did was stay away from in front of windows, to keep glass out of our whiskers. The public has been aroused by articles which said that in event of war such articles would be written out by gas. Such articles are written out by men who know nothing about the behaviour of gas or the practical difficulties of dropping enough to do serious damage."

Proceeding, Admiral Sims—he was talking to the Detroit News—argued that the United States is safe from war; that no foreign power or combination of foreign powers could operate across the ocean and stand a chance in combat with the American navy and "planes" operating from home bases. On the other hand, he held, the American fleet could not wage successful warfare against any power on the other side of either the Atlantic or Pacific.

Which sounds like common sense. Admiral Sims, incidentally, lives in peace, and it should be supported militantly. "Americans have a right to support peace. If they allow themselves to be brow-beaten by persons who, for business or other reasons, oppose the peace movement, then the horrors of the last war are going to be repeated." This goes for all of us. There is a frightful lot of nonsense talked about war, or about what other nations may do to us if we don't get into the armament race, resort to death-dealing things like the latest in bombs and poisonous gas. A lot of this talk comes from Generals and Admirals who have never smelled gunpowder; hence the importance of counsel of sanity from a great naval figure like Admiral Sims.

Rain Making Scheme

(The Border Cities Star.) Men are still seeking artificial rains and Mr. Bernard J. Dubos, of the Meteorological Society of France is the latest to have a scheme. He would build a steel and concrete funnel 2,000 feet high. Through this he would waft water which would rise to the top and be blown by the upper air with the thought that it would return in copious rains over a large area.

The funnel would be constructed so that it would be tapered with the broad end at the top and the pillars supported by struts and cables would be about 450 feet in diameter at the top and resemble a large telescope standing on the smaller end. The underlying idea is to have a series of wind vane at the top which would catch whatever breeze there may be and start a whirl of air inside the spout to create a vacuum. This would give a vacuum core on the principle that water-spouts have vacuum cores.

There is one detail concerning Mr. Dubos from building his core at the top. He requires \$10,000,000 to go ahead with the construction. It will take that much to buy materials and build the spout. And he is finding it hard to get anyone to gamble the \$10,000,000 on the chance that the thing might work and produce rain. It would take a lot of bushels of wheat, for instance, to pay the interest and principal on that much money. Perhaps Mr. Dubos will not get anyone to take him up on his venture. But that will not curb other scientists and inventors trying to find some way to get rain from the clouds. And some day, one of them is quite likely to solve the secret, even though people may laugh at his efforts while he is experimenting.

Poet's Troubles

(Edinburgh Scotsman)

Half a century ago most of Gaelic poets' newspapers printed every week some verified contributions under the general caption of "original Gaelic poetry." This gave local bards an outlet for their effusions and they awaited themselves thereof with much constancy and vim.

It is questionable if even Neil MacLeod, the Skye poet, would ever have come to the front as a weaver of pleasant odes were it not for the press. In getting his compositions placed before a discerning public. The same may be said of Murdo MacLeod of "Isle of the Heather" fame, Dugald Macphail, the Mull author, and a number of others whose names are familiar as household words wherever the old language is spoken. Had they lived today they would have some difficulty in finding anyone to help them in making for themselves a reputation above the common. Very few papers in the Highlands send a column of their space, week in and week out, for the encouragement of poetic gifts still latent in the North.

Some budding Milton or "Ducan Ban" may be hidden among us, but who is to discover his location or press for getting his compositions placed before a discerning public. The chances are that the sheets will remain unread because his name is new to those whose patronage he seeks to invoke. The chances of a popular bard capturing the Gaelic imagination within the next few years are consequently not re-assuring.

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.

FLOWING MATCHES

Sir,—The letter of our genial friend Mr. John B. McFadyen of Augustine Cove, some time ago, urging the resumption of Flowing Matches, has no doubt been read with much interest.

Mr. McFadyen can justly be termed "The potato King," from his extensive cultivation of that tuber, and being among the first—if not the very first—in producing large quantities he led the way. I was also glad to see that President Carter of the Carter Seed Co. favoured the idea, also a correspondent signed "Farmer." In the Sixties, plowing matches were held annually and were looked forward to by the best of our farmers as a great incentive to our young men. More anon. I am, Sir, etc. W. B. ROBERTSON.

P. E. I. HIGHWAYS COMMENDED

Sir,—I wish to congratulate Prince Edward Island, through your paper, for the excellent condition of the highways at this early season. Whether it is an act of God, or the industriousness of the Highway Department I still congratulate you on the condition of the roads. There is not one place where it was necessary to exercise manoeuvring feats to pass.

I passed through sections of New Brunswick which were in a deplorable state. I admit that the conditions upset the highways, but when a crevasse in the face of the earth is left unattended for several days, the motorist, in a position to grumble.

The people of the neighborhood of these New Brunswick crevasses have been carefully nursing them to insure the water remaining intact. In one instance I was offered the following bargain by a teamster, namely, \$1.00 to be pulled through against the stream if I tried it alone and got stuck.

Being of an adventurous nature I tried it alone and got stuck. It then occurred to me that I was in no great rush so I stayed in the canyon and read the paper until a pressure of more prospects arriving forced them to pull me through for fifty cents.

Do you think I was justified in my act? If more motorists did as I did, possibly the fostering of waterholes would be discouraged. I am, Sir, etc. HALIFAX TRAVELLER

Parliamentary Cheers

(London Times)

In a letter published in these columns a few days ago, Sir Halford Mackinder drew attention to the precise meaning of parliamentary cheers. A too literal interpretation of the word in the film "Royal Cavalcade" had been noted by those who remembered that the foreign secretary's speech on August 3, 1914, which made it plain that war was inevitable, had not been greeted by members rising to cheer with wild enthusiasm. This is an excellent example of the pitfalls which beset those who search into the past, because a reading of the contemporary newspapers, where it was admitted that the speech was greeted with "cheers" and even "loud cheers," seemed on the face of it impeccable authority. To most people, particularly those accustomed to the robust enthusiasm of film crowds, the picture of cheer can not have seemed exaggerated. It was only those well acquainted with the ways of Westminster who would have realized, in the words of Murray's Dictionary, that "In the House of Commons cheers of approval are expressed by the words 'Hear! Hear!'" There have, of course, been many occasions, and those not always the most creditable to parliament's reputation, when approval or disapproval has been shown by the members of the House of Commons were probably commoner in the years just before the war than they are to-day, but nothing

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has ever exceeded the enthusiasm after the second reading of the Reform Bill. It was known that 302 members had voted for the bill, and Mr. Wood, afterwards the first Lord Halifax, stood on one of the benches and cried out, "They are cheering!" When it was realized that there was a majority of one, the supporters of the bill, in the words of Macaulay, "set up a shout that you might have heard to Charing Cross, waving our hats, stamping against the floor and clapping our hands." Yet on occasions of national, as distinct from party, moment the calm and passionless temper of the House of Commons is worthy of its reputation. Even 300 years ago, when the five members returned to Westminster after hiding from the King in the city and were everywhere greeted with the cheers of the mob which drowned "the clattering discharges of the ordinance," and their fellow-members stood at their entrance but did not cheer. Again in 1815, after the escape from Elba,

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