# THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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Editor and Managing Director—J. E. Burnett, F.J.I.
Associate Editors—Frank Walker and D. K. Currie.

Morning Daily (founded 1867) $5.00 per year (in advance) delivered.
$4.50 per year (in advance) mailed in Canada and United States.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1935.


## MR. LEPAGE'S IDEA

The astounding statement was made in the Legislature Wednesday night by Mr. B. W. LePage, Liberal member for Second Queens, that the Government of this Province should not only have used the taxpayers' money to guarantee the financial losses incurred by the Potato Growers' Association, but that it should have gone "quietly" about the matter so that the true state of affairs would not "leak out"; and furthermore that at the Association's subsequent annual meeting the real financial situation should have been "kept under their hats."

As Hon. Mr. MacLean, in his speech reported in today's Guardian, pointed out, Mr. LePage was a member of the former Liberal Government, and was familiar with the oath of office which government members take. That he should bring forward such a suggestion was indeed a revelation of the attitude which one member at least of the late Liberal administration took towards governmental responsibility.

Yesterday, when Hon. Mr. Sharp referred to this statement, Mr. LePage complained that it had been wrongly "interpreted." The words quoted, however, were the words he himself used, and it is difficult to imagine what other interpretation could reasonably be placed on them, but that the transaction should have been made surreptitiously by the Government, without either the consent or the knowledge of the taxpayers, and that thereby the whole matter could have been conveniently hushed up.

## LIBERAL OPINION

Effective answer to the Liberal contention in Parliament that Premier Bennett's reform policies as enunciated in his broadcast addresses were "gestures" merely and were not implemented in the legislation subsequently introduced, is given in the Toronto Globe (Liberal) of March 23. Commenting on the Rhodes Budget, the Globe says:

"The Finance Minister's new measures manifestly represent an effort to implement the recent promises of Prime Minister Bennett in his radio addresses. The endeavor to fit the growing requirements for social amelioration into the general economic pattern has resulted in several important fiscal changes."

The Globe also credits the Finance Minister with having "moved toward the further carrying out of the Ottawa Conference promises relating to intra-Empire trade." It sees the removal of the excise tax from imports under the British preference agreement as representing "another step in the implementing of the Empire Economic Conference promises to remove as quickly as possible restrictions which hampered the working of the trade arrangements." Another change, noted approvingly by the Globe as promising to widen the scope of the British preference arrangements is the provision made for intra-Empire extension by Order-in-Council of the most-favored-nation tariff treatment accorded any foreign country.

Coming to the sections of Mr. Rhodes speech dealing with finance and commerce, the Globe finds:

"The importance of the Empire pacts as a recovery factor," says the Globe, "is revealed again by the figures showing that in the ten months ended Jan. 31 exports to the United Kingdom recorded an increase of nearly 22 per cent. For all the Empire countries the rise was 24 per cent., exports to foreign markets having expanded only 6 per cent. On the import side—Canada's purchases being largely of textiles, iron products and chemicals—increases in the last ten months amounted to $8,000,000, or 9 per cent."

The Globe notes that "in the trade field a surplus of exports over imports is recorded for the fourth consecutive year, the balance for the eleven months being $134,000,000. More significant than these figures, perhaps, is the statement showing total trade for the eleven months valued at $1,082,347,000, an increase of $168,777,000. Rises are recorded also in aggregates of manufacturing production, construction contracts, and in the outputs of forest, mining and electrical industries. Wheat and field crop figures reveal increases in production values, while the revival of live stock exports to the United States, ascribed to the higher prices across the line, is another encouraging development."

One of the most encouraging features of the Minister's statement, the Globe finds, was that dealing with the Canadian National Railways. The deficit in 1934 was $10,500,000 less than in 1933; the Dominion Treasury was called upon to put up only $48,400,000 in 1934, as compared with $58,900,000 in 1933. Main factors in the improvement were increased earnings and decreased exchange charges involved in interest payments abroad. Gross earnings increased by $16,400,000, or 11 per cent.; and, while operating expenses were somewhat larger than the estimates of railway budget, the outcome on the whole was slightly better than was expected. The debt of the Canadian National Railways outstanding in the hands of the public is recorded as $1,238,000,000, a reduction of $15,000,000 having been achieved in the year. Of the outstanding amount, $956,0000,000 represent Dominion guaranteed obligations."

The Globe also notes with editorial approval the Minister's statement that there was an employment gain in 1934 or 15.1 per cent. over 1933 and that individuals on relief in February aggregated 1,229,935, a decrease of 117,285 from February 1934. The institution of the system of monthly grants to the Provinces, it finds, has "eliminated a lag in accounting."

It is interesting to contrast this appreciative comment of the leading Liberal organ in Eastern Canada with the pettifogging abuse and criticism with which the Rhodes Budget was received by the local Liberal press. If our local contemporary is right, the Globe, of course, must be wrong. Certainly it cannot be charged with partisan bias in favor of the Bennett Government; and its long record as the mouthpiece of responsible Liberal opinion throughout Canada gives its utterances on this occasion a significance which can scarcely be said to attach to anything that the local Liberal organ may say.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

Time works wonders here as elsewhere. Who would have dreamed in 1915, that farmers would be writing to the Guardian in 1935 demanding to have the auto tax reduced "thereby giving the farmers some real help."

The export of poultry to the United Kingdom continues to grow. In February it amounted to 765,000 pounds out of a total of 786,000. The total export during the first eleven months of the current fiscal year was 2,524,000 pounds compared with 1,519,000 in the same period last year.

Hon. Mr. LePage does not believe in spoiling the Government by sparing the rod; indeed, like some cruel step-fathers, he puts it in pickle. Fortunately the government is well protected by a substantial coat of work accomplished and to their credit, so Mr. LePage's efforts prove futile where they do not react on himself.

Ex-President Hoover is keeping in the limelight with a view to renomination. He sent a message to the California Junior Republican Convention, denouncing the Democratic regime; but, although he was enthusiastically thanked for it, it was Governor Frank T. Merriam who was suggested as the most likely winning candidate at the next nomination.

It was bound to happen. The Mackenzie King entourage are hinting that Mr. Bennett is suffering only a diplomatic indisposition in order to put off the election till the Fall. Of course the Liberals have no foundation other than suspicion for their allegation, but would it not be condign punishment if it were true that Mr. Bennett was outbluffing them? If the story be not true it deserves to be.

Hon. Dr. Manion, like our Hon. Dr. MacMillan, is, when he chooses, a holy terror as a destructive critic, besides being, when occasion requires, an exceptionally able constructive one. For instance, what more deadly effective than this by Dr. Manion: "Three things always give me a laugh—the Dunning Budget, the Liberal Platform of 1919, and Mr. King's book on Industry and Humanity."

The export of bacon and hams in February was of the value of $2,253,000, or more than double that of a year ago. While it is not a record since the British Empire Agreements went into effect it is much higher than usual. The record was in March, 1934, when the value was $2,787,000. This is an export which goes mainly to the United Kingdom. In February the amount to Great Britain was $2,244,000 and in the record month $2,763,000. The next best purchaser last month was the United States with $6,000.

Prorogation in the middle of May is now looked for at Ottawa. This is due to the intimation that Mr. Bennett will not be allowed to leave his room for another few days, and then must go on a vacation to put him fit for his visit to London. The present intention is to take Easter vacation, and resume thereafter, especially as it is expected by that time Washington will be able to submit her reciprocity terms. The Opposition is fighting this, as Mr. King is anxious that the House adjourn without any specific reciprocity treaty having materialized or been submitted.

Colonel F. Fraser Hunter, M.L.A., old Indian veteran, speaking at a Queen's Own Rifles dinner in Toronto had these two convictions to express: (a) "I do not believe that our political life in Canada today is as pure as it should be, and it cannot be improved until we have politicians of the type of the Bengal Lancer who cannot be bought politically. (b) With regard to Royal Military College, Kingston, whatever else may be said about it, "it does teach the boys to take their whiskey like gentlemen and not like Red Indians." The one thing that impressed itself upon his mind during his life in India was the thousands of the "finest youths of England" who died there as a result of the habitual "cocktail round." "They never seem to learn that cocktails in that country are fatal," he remarked, "and the same thing is true in Canada."

## Notes By The Way

**The St. Thomas Times-Journal** points out that the French population in Canada has increased from 60,000 in 1760 to nearly 3,000,000 with practically no French immigration. At the same rate of increase another 200 years—not a long period in the life of a country—would see it at 150,000,000. The spending bodies of the country which are deferring payments for "posterity" must have had it figured out long ago.

**There are always persons who disappear** without explanation. A western newspaper asks: "Why do they leave home? The reasons are perhaps as many as the people involved—frustration, fear, despair, the hope of life afresh in far places—and those left behind suffer in uncertainty until Time heals the wounds. Alert novelists make moving tales of these tragedies; and when such tales plunge below the surface to the fundamental universal perplexities which torment the common man, they solace and inspire."

**The British Government will have** a surplus at the end of the fiscal year, March 31. And it will be a real surplus, achieved after a reduction of the national debt. No other country in the world that went through the war has begun to balance its budget. Britain has revived an old national custom.

**France is plainly determined to** let slip no chance of accusing Germany of something. The latest is a charge by Edouard Herriot that Big Berthas are being manufactured. What if Germany is? These ultra-long range guns proved themselves remarkably ineffective when last used, and unless they have been considerably improved in the meantime, they can be disregarded as weapons of any military consequence. They may fray civilian nerves for a short time, but in cases like this it is generally necessary only to organize a sweepstake on where the next shell will fall to turn the affair into an interesting sport with the participants impatient for the next packet of frightfulness to come over.—Ex.

**The "internationalists,"** some few of whom are outspoken, declare that to working folk it matters not to what nation they are subject. But it is clear that peace would not come to the working man if his country were conquered and the conquerors deprived him of his vote and conscribed him for military service. It is absurd to suppose that in all circumstances pacifism is, like Touchstone's "If", the only peacemaker. Peace to be possessed, acquired, or retained must sometimes be fought for, sometimes purchased by war, or preserved by armed defence. In the same way, liberty, as Rousseau reminded us, to be possessed must be restricted. Thus we have the two blessings existing or brought into existence by an apparent sacrifice of them. There is no inconsistency here, no paradox.—The Australasian.

**A hundred years ago the first Earl** Nelson died. He was not the great admiral, but merely an obscure parson. His only merit was that the great admiral was his brother. For that he received an earldom, 90,000 pounds cash to buy an estate, and a pension of 5,000 pounds a year for himself and his descendants. We still pay that pension. In 100 years it has cost us 500,000 pounds. Horatio, the admiral for whose sake all this was done, was killed on his quarter-deck. He got none of these things. He never asked for them. He made just one request—a modest one: "Do not let Emma (Lady Hamilton) starve." It was not granted. —London Sunday Express.

**What is the use of a battleship** that can be sunk by an airplane? Let some enterprising M.P. obtain the answer when the Service Estimates are laid before the House of Commons this week. British taxpayers pay 57,000,000 pounds for warships and 17,000,000 for warplanes. In all, our defence costs us 114,000,000 pounds. It is an immense sum. True, it is far less than the 500,000,000 pounds spent on the Red war services by the Soviet Government, who shout for total disarmament. The subject for investigation is—could we get better value, more secure defence, if we spent more on air strength, less on naval?—London Daily Express.

**We in Canada have our own way** of collecting materials to help the needy. In Sofia, Bulgaria, they send military trucks, accompanied by buglers, through the streets to collect offerings. Signs on the vehicles read: "Help the poor of Bulgaria," and "Bring out your old junk." On a recent trip, servants produced old clothing of their masters, a man presented an old stove, a coster gave a large pumpkin and others donated old furniture and footwear. The articles were taken to repair departments organized by the authorities and then distributed among the poor.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

**A writer in the Manchester Guardian** considers the charge—if it be a charge—made against Victorian writers. Probably the criticism is well-founded as to the too vehement expression of feelings about which many kindhearted people are shy. The Victorian fashion of fainting on slight provocation has been held up to ridicule. The horror of death was aggravated by the studied gloom of funerals and the ostentatious wearing of mourning. But sentiment, when not so exaggerated or made into a pose, is simply the expression of goodness of heart ,which is just as essential to normal humanity as soundness of mind.

## That Body of Yours

*By James W. Barton, M.D.*

### TOOTH DECAY — IS IT DUE TO LACK OF CLEANLINESS OR WRONG FOOD?

"A short time ago there gathered in the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Pennsylvania, New York city, an audience that overflowed the corridors so great was the interest in the subject discussed."

What was that subject?

The discussion was whether the time-honored statement "A clean tooth never decays" was true, or was not true.

I am quoting from Oral Health, the official organ of the Canadian Dental Association.

Three outstanding research workers stated that a clean tooth was all that was necessary to prevent decay, and three, equally outstanding, believed that tooth decay was due to faulty hygiene and diet.

Thus one school of thought believes that tooth decay starts on the outside of the tooth and that by-products due to ferments destroy the tooth whether the quality of the tooth tissue is good or bad. The other, however, suggests that the tooth structure is changed either by inheritance or because of improper diet, and that teeth decay whether clean or not.

Commenting seriously and also humorously on the question, the New York Times states that mothers are now in doubt as to what to do—make the children continue to brush the teeth or feed them certain foods.

The youngsters themselves were all for doing away with brushing the teeth until it was found that the diet recommended meant more spinach and cod liver oil.

However the majority of the dental profession is of the opinion that while the process of decay may be the same in every case, the immediate cause may be from inside or outside the tooth, as the decay is affected by local conditions in the mouth and the condition of the blood which nourishes the tooth tissues.

"The modern skilful dentist is one who is called upon to balance all the factors concerned, when decay is found. The great amount of dental decay now existing shows the vital necessity of maintaining mouth health, and overlooking neither the hygience of the mouth nor the importance of the diet."

From the above it would appear that you and I must continue to brush our teeth to keep the surfaces clean, and to eat vegetables and fruits daily to maintain the tissues. The youngsters however may have to take cod liver oil also.

## The Poets' Corner

### A LATE LARK TWITTERS

A late lark twitters from the quiet skies;
And from the west,
Where the sun, his day's work ended,
Lingers as in content,
There falls on the old gray city
An influence luminous and serene,
A shining peace.

The smoke ascends
In a rosy-and-golden haze. The spires
Shine and are changed. In the valley
Shadows rise. The lark sings on. The sun,
Closing his benediction,
Sinks, and the darkening air
Thrills with a sense of the triumphing night—
Night with her train of stars
And her great gift of sleep.

So be my passing!
My task accomplished and the long day done,
My wages taken, and in my heart
Some late lark singing.
Let me be gathered to the quiet west,
The sundown splendid and serene:
Death.

—W. E. Henley.

## PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

### THE EXHIBITION PROJECT

Sir,—Regarding the money spent moving clay from the Exhibition Grounds I wish to take exception to the remarks of Mr. LePage, both on the draft address and the budget debate. Ths money was an unemployment grant from Ottawa. The Federal Government sent an unemployment agent in the person of Mr. Thomas McGladeny to investigate the unemployment situation of this province. He was much interested in trying to promote some system of immediate employment. On his arrival in this province a conference was held in Hon. Premier MacMillan's office and the chairman of the Charlottetown unemployment committee and the president of the L. P. U. were asked to attend. Those men were naturally interested particularly about the unemployed of Charlottetown. They recommended the filling in of those swamps and marshlands on the Kensington rifle range as the clay could be secured from the exhibition grounds, a distance of about three hundred yards. It was the best proposition they had to offer at that time as there were then 500 men idle in this city. This was the best real unemployment grant that was ever sent to this province. Not one dollar of it was expended on material or machinery. Any man, be he Liberal or otherwise, that will criticize a proposition of that kind, does not know the unemployment situation as it exists. This money could not possibly have been spent on roads without the use of material and machinery. That is the great difficulty in this province, to find work for our men without spending a very large amount in material and machinery. That was one occasion where the government consulted labor representatives and twenty-five thousand dollars was paid for labor without any expense otherwise.

The unemployed very much appreciate anything that may be said or done to help their cause, but when they receive something that they asked for it would be well for politicians to keep quiet about it and perhaps they might get more. When a sum of money is given for unemployment we should all appreciate it, but when some men try to criticize and make political propaganda at the expense of the unemployed it only has a tendency to stall further relief. It seems just too bad that another project such as the one referred to could not commence as soon as spring opens up. We now have 700 unemployed in Charlottetown and I hope that the members on both sides of the House will be unanimous in trying to relieve the situation. Mr. LePage at times says some splendid sympathetic words for the unemployed, and he is certainly trying to legislate to keep them sober. As a taxpayer of the city he might use his influence with the City Council to give more relief, or he might get them to take more advantage of Federal grants, as I understand the local government are willing to [illegible] their share for Charlottetown. After all a lot could be done for the unemployed if there was less criticism and more unanimous action

I am, Sir, etc.,
UNEMPLOYED.

### "HOG MARKETING"

Sir,—I notice in The Guardian, issue of the 25th., inst., that your mystery correspondent on "Hog Prices" has returned to your columns, in an effort to regain his equilibrium, in the discussion that ensued from his perverted interpretation of extracts, selected from a brief address given by the Secretary of the Livestock Marketing Board, at the annual meeting of the Swine Breeders' Association. I do not think he has enhanced his reputation in this, his latest effort, either as a square shooter, as a logical debater, or as a reliable authority on the advantages of modern marketing methods.

Your correspondent draws attention to the fact that the "rejoinder" was "lengthy and labored". For this fact no apology is offered. It must be remembered that in the realm of controversy, as in the physical, when poisoned matter has been injected into the system, either openly or by subterfuge, the logical remedy is to administer an emetic, and naturally the antidote must be measured in much larger quantities thon the irritant it is endeavoring to counteract, if the issue is to be successful. Hence the reason for monopolizing so much space in your valuable paper.

I have no desire that this correspondence should develop into a display of literary talent or a debating contest. If the former is the objective, then I am prepared to grant my antagonist (for such he has become) a favorable decision. His literary style and diction, and facile pen, betray the fact that early in life his educational advantages were much above that made available to the average, from among the hardy sons of toil. However, when it comes to a discussion on modern methods of marketing, as recommended and applied to the disposition of livestock and other farm products, he gives every indication of being fully possessed of the antiquated ideas of a recluse. The statements made at the Swine Breeders' meeting, to which "producer" took exception are as follows: "Twelve to fourteen years ago hog prices were much lower than they had any need to be."

And he voiced the warning "that unless care is taken hog producers will find themselves where they were twelve to fifteen years ago."

These statements he characterized as "remarkable utterances." In my reply I proved, from "Producer's" figures and our own records, that notwithstanding the fact that the general price average per pound was higher at the time for which he quoted sales records than it is today, (that point was not disputed and does not enter into the discussion nor constitute an argument) nevertheless he accepted 2 1-2 cents per lb. less for his hogs on a live weight basis than our present system of marketing would place within his reach. In his second letter "Producer" does not attempt to disprove that statement. In fact he appreciates its accuracy and I venture to suggest that your correspondent is a patron of the local Shipping Club operating in his locality, and if so we wonder why, when there is still an open market for dressed hogs in Charlottetown.

Ninety percent of your correspondent's letter is made up of personal opinions and irresponsible statements, unsupported by proof of fact, and if he intends to be taken seriously he must do better than that. Prince Edward Islar farmers today, with more than a decade of experience with practical marketing methods, are "from Missouri" and they demand more than mental aberations of the irresponsible type. We challenge "Producer" to refute our claims that livestock marketing conditions have vastly improved during the past twelve to fifteen years, and that the farmer is getting a much higher percentage of the prevailing value of his hogs and lambs, than he did under the system to which our modern Rip-Van-Winkle would have us revert. He must submit something more convincing than a re-hash of his own shrivelled and antiquated ideas.

The Secretary of the Livestock Marketing Board has not made a statement that he cannot prove. It matters not whether he has become mentally corpulent as a result of his association with so called "big business", or that he may be "enjoying the comfortable places" made possible by and incident to the emoluments of office; That is not the issue precipitated by your correspondent but rather beside the point. This Secretary is occupying his present position at the solicitation of the Directors of the Livestock Marketing Board and he is content with their judgment and that of the thousands of farmers throughout the Province who are consistent patrons of the organization which he is endeavoring to develop. He is much more appreciative of the good-will of those with whom he has been associated and closely identified for a number of years, in evolving a better marketing service for livestock producers, than he is concerned about the aspersions of one who is lacking in the very rudiments of that courtesy usually associated with direct debate, that he deliberately attacks from under cover and elects to remain enshrouded in the obscurity made possible, to those who are brave enough to embrace it, by the use of a nom-de-plume.

I am Sir, etc.,
J. A. GILLIES,
Secretary,
Livestock Marketing Board.


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