The Charlottetown Guardian

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Morning Daily (Founded 1887)
$5.00 per year (in advance) delivered to City
$4.00 per year (in advance) mailed to P. E. Island
$5.00 per year (in advance) mailed to Canada and U. S.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1938

Proof Of The Pudding

On the eve of a new trade alignment between Great Britain and the United States, and the United States and Canada, it is significant to note that while our preferences in the British market have been a steadily continuing factor in Canada's trade recovery, the past three months have seen a violent fluctuation in our trade with the neighboring Republic. A year ago, on Nov. 30, 1936, we enjoyed a favorable trade balance with the United States of $25,366,000. By Nov 30, 1937, the situation was reversed and we had an unfavorable balance of $10,597,000.

This reversal is due to the dumping into Canada of American manufactured goods, consequent on the business recession across the line.

Is it wise, in such circumstances, to scrap our valuable Empire agreements, which in five years have never witnessed such a fluctuation, for a new treaty with the United States?

The stablity of our trade with Great Britain is due to the fact that Canada sells mostly foodstuffs overseas and the consumption of foodstuffs is not so liable to major fluctuation. The exports which Great Britain sends us in return, furthermore, do not compete so directly with the industries of Canada.

On the other hand, Canada sells raw products to the United States, which return in the form of manufactured goods. The Commerce Department at Washington recently reported that United States factories were cleaning out supplies which had piled up because of overproduction in the face of declining purchasing power in the United States. In other words, the American factories have been dumping wherever they can find a market, have been cutting prices to force markets, and have found Canada a convenient dumping ground for their commodities.

The Tanaka Memorandum

Some time ago, it will be recalled, there was a storm of protest in Japan over the publication all over the world of the "Tanaka Memorandum", which purported to set forth under the name of a responsible Japanese statesman, the detailed plan of the Japanese militarists for the attainment of their Pan-Asian conquest. The memorandum was officially denounced as a forgery and no real evidence has ever been forthcoming as to its genuineness. Nevertheless, it is significant that the plan of conquest now being openly carried out by Japan in China closely follows the stages set forth at that time, and it seems likely that, whether or not Baron Tanaka had anything to do with it, the scheme does actually represent the strategy of the militarists who today are in the saddle at Tokyo.

The first stage in the plan called for the control of Manchuria. This was achieved in 1931. The next stage was the penetration and domination of Inner Mongolia, and this was done last summer, although the actual area of conquest extended beyond the provinces named in the Memorandum. The third stage was the domination of the Yangtse valley, and this is now being completed as the Japanese armies advance up the river from Shanghai beyond Nanking to Hankow. The fourth stage set forth had for its goal the conquest of Canton and southern China. At the present moment Japanese troops and warships are concentrating in southern waters, and the Cantonese armies are momentarily expecting a big-scale attack.

This march of the Japanese armies has followed the "Tanaka Plan" in such detail that it is worth while recalling the further stages of conquest as set forth in that amazing document. The plan proposes a halt, after Canton and south China have fallen, for the purpose of consolidation of government which is to be nominally in the hands of Chinese puppets who, it is to be presumed, would be more acceptable to the Chinese people than any open mastery by Japanese officialdom. But once that period of rest and re-equipment is at an end, French Indo-China is marked down for conquest, then the Philippines and the Dutch East Indies. After that, by both sea and land, the way would be open for the assault on India.

When the "Tanaka Memorandum" was first published, there was much scepticism. Today that scepticism has largely vanished, and no wonder in review of the manner in which events are shaping in the Far East.

Salvaging A Masterpiece

Earl Baldwin has presented to the British Museum the manuscript of Kipling's "Recessional". In announcing the gift, through the Times, the Keeper of Manuscripts revealed that Kipling had not intended to publish it, in fact, had thrown it into a wastebasket.

During that summer of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee Miss Sara Norton, daughter of the Harvard professor and scholar, was visiting the Kiplings in Sussex. One day, when the poet was going through papers on his desk and throwing some into the wastebasket, she asked if she might examine the basket. And in it she came across some jubilee verses called "After." Protesting against destroying them, she insisted upon publication, and Kipling finally agreed. But he reduced its seven stanzas to five, altering many lines, but not "Or lesser breeds without the law"—which is a pity. Miss Norton copied the revised version, for he wrote on the MS 'written with Sally's pen," and signed it "R.K." A fresh copy was made and sent to The Times, in which it appeared the next morning, July 17, 1897, under the familiar title, "Recessional."

The manuscript given to Miss Norton was, after her death, sent by her sister to Earl Baldwin, their old friend. The Times, commenting on the gift to the British Museum, said: "No matter the shifts and changes of politics, it must always be held a happy accident that this poem, so much loftier and deeper than politics, should owe its presentation to an American. Whatever of Kipling may perish, this poem will live. And he threw it into the wastepaper basket."

An Unkind Cut

A correspondent in the Financial Post, commenting on an editorial suggestion as to the naming of the proposed new Prairie Province, says:

"It occurred to me that in view of most of the subject matter in the brief submitted by Manitoba and Saskatchewan to the Rowell Commission and also in view of Messrs. Hepburn and Duplessis' reaction to same it might be a pleasing idea to all three western provinces to be represented in the following way. "Take the 'Al' from Alberta, the 'M' from Manitoba, the 'S' from Saskatchewan and call the new province 'Alms'."

Editorial Notes

Edmund Burke born this date, 1729.

* * *

It turns out that as the result of the visit of American publishers to Premier Hepburn, Ontario, a conference took place on Monday between him and Premier Duplessis of Quebec at Montreal "to discuss the existing newsprint situation in the two provinces."

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It is now up to the R.C.M.P. Mr. Mair, a member of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales considers "the New South Wales police to be the finest organization of its kind in the world with the single exception of the London Metropolitan Police."

* * * *

Necessity is still the mother of invention. Soap from coffee grounds is the latest achievement of German science and ersatz (substitute) economy under the four-year plan. A special chemical company has been formed in Berlin to collect coffee grounds, which here alone are estimated at nine tons daily. The grounds are supposed to yield 20 per cent. fat and resin, the remainder consisting of pure cellulose suitable for the production of plastics.

* * * *

At the recent annual meeting of the Royal National Association of Queensland, which each year conducts the Brisbane exhibition, the biggest agricultural show in Queensland, it was stated by the president that last year the council of the association spent 14,000 pounds ($70,000) on ground improvements, 19,000 pounds ($95,000) in the year before that, and a total of 118,000 pounds ($590,000) in the last 12 years. The council, he said, had still a big program before it, and would embark on that scheme early in the new year.

* * * *

An important issue has been raised by the British medical journal Lancet, namely, the neutrality of the Red Cross in the time of war. It says that a doctor attached to a modern army "is no more neutral than a munition worker or an artilleryman. And since he is not neutral he will be bombed". The article concludes that totalitarian war brings the medical profession, the Red Cross societies, ambulance associations and corresponding organizations into the direct service of the military authorities "which in time of war control the state."

* * * *

November imports of farm implements and machinery, although lower than in the previous month, were considerably in advance of those of the corresponding month last year. The total in November was $925,426 compared with $1,234,646 in October and $310,389 in November, 1936. The total from the United States was $893,259. There were 684 internal combustion traction engines valued at $590,392 from the United States, compared with 121 units valued at $126,226. Parts were worth $191,507 compared with $106,301. Total imports of farm implements and machinery during the eight months ended October were $12,959,347, compared with $8,694,961 in the same period of 1936.

* * * *

It will be recalled that during the South African war when the Black Watch under Wanchope was all but wiped out, the government of the little West Indian Island of Barbaros cabled Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, then Secretary of State for the Colonies: "Tell Her Majesty not to be discouraged or depressed—go forward to ultimate victory—Barbardos is behind you." History is repeating itself, only this time it is the State of Georgia and President Roosevelt. After hearing a broadcast of the President's speech, the Georgia House of Representatives endorsed "the principles advocated" by the President "that our great country may continue to go forward and be the greatest nation with the happiest people on the face of this earth." The resolution was adopted by voice vote and ordered to be sent to the President.

* * * *

Why so many of us, and at least, most of us, find it difficult to get along financially, was explained by Sir Edward Beatty at Windsor the other night—we are taxed to the tune of $280 per family annually in indirect taxation and don't know it. He said: "I know that we have adopted the unwise system in this country of concealing taxation as much as possible in invisible forms. I am quite well aware that it is hard for the average citizen to know that when he buys fuel, clothing, food, or anything else, that, for example, from the time the wheat was sold, to the day when the wheat grower spent the money which it brought, every single transaction paid taxes; everyone who contributed goods or services to the enterprise paid taxes; lived in a taxed house, built of taxed materials; wore taxed clothes, made by men whose every expenditure was taxed; ate taxed food, produced by others whose every movement was taxed. I know, however, that the total of these taxes is over $700,000,000 per annum for a people of less than eleven millions, and that when these eleven millions realize this the tax bill will be made less."

NOTES BY THE WAY

Once upon a time the fur trade was the foremost industry of Canada. It is a long time since it has lost that position, but while pushed far down in relative importance the production of furs in Canada remains an extensive industry. During the twelve months ended June last, for which statistics are now available, the production of raw furs showed a healthy increase in value. It amounted to a total of $15,464,883 as compared with $12,843,341 in the previous season. — Kingston Whig Standard.

The Japanese armies are ramping around in China like the proverbial bull in the China shop, if one of those rampant quadrupeds ever did get into an establishment of that kind. They have captured the seventh provincial capital and now hold a corresponding number of provinces. Their original objective was five provinces, which according to the official spokesman were to be held indefinitely just to teach the Chinese to love their neighbors and stop suspecting them of predatory aims. But since Shanghai fell things have been going so smoothly for the invaders their ambitions have no doubt expanded with their progress. If five provinces why not seven, and if seven why not ten, or the whole country if the Chinese army continues to vanish as they advance? The race may not always be to the swift nor the battle to the strong, but the Japanese do not believe the Bible and for the time have pretty successfully demonstrated the contrary. For the time: there's the rub. They are getting a long way from home; and history records some interesting episodes in the careers of conquerors who overreached. History also has a way of repeating.—Edmonton Bulletin.

War only gets more horrible... In Spain they shot their fellow Spanish prisoners, both sides claiming that the other side were mere bandits. In China, the Japanese are shooting their Chinese prisoners, claiming probably that the Chinese are rebelling against the latest Japanese-owned "Provisional Government of North China." The Chinese could claim they are entitled to treat the Japanese as bandits since no war has been declared.—London Express.

From end to end British Columbia got a foot of fresh snow for Christmas; providing. Victoria rather boastfully proclaims, the first "white Christmas" it has seen for eighteen years. Vancouver got more than a foot of the beautiful between Friday and Sunday night, while along the Fraser river the receipt of four feet of snow was acknowledged at many points, with or without thanks. — Edmonton Bulletin.

The chance for each part of the country to state its case clearly and fully in the expectation that it will have a fair hearing from the authorities and the public, is something that was greatly needed. There has been a feeling in various sections that grievances have continued for lack of understanding in other parts. If ,then, the importance of this inquiry is sufficiently recognized, it should have the result, not only of bringing about certain readjustments, but also of creating a much better understanding and a definitely stronger basis of national unity. That would be great gain and would undoubtedly help to advance Canada toward her high destiny.—Winnipeg Free Press.

Italy has been Japan's only open sympathizer among the large powers during the conflict. Antipathy to Great Britain has probably prompted Mussolini to steer a pro-Japanese course, emphasized by Italian recognition of Manchoukuo. Apart from the political considerations which have made for Italian-Japanese rapprochement symbolized by Italy's adhesion to the anti-communism pact. Italian commercial interests in China are small. Mussolini probably reckons that he will best safeguard Italy's future trade by openly taking what he forsees will be the winning side, namely Japan's.—Christian Science Monitor.

Courtesy, culture and freedom from coarseness have become old-fashioned ,according to one of our best known newspaper columnists, who deprecates, and rightly, the increasing vulgarity of our era both in the theatre and in life. But we fear that no correction of the evils complained of will come from any preaching against them. . . . It is a sad state of things. When culture dies, the barbarian in man comes to the front. And the barbarian prefers aburlesque show to Shakespeare, and any kind of exhibition in which refinement is conspicuous only by its absence. He is unable to appreciate wit, but an indecent yarn excites his risibles. Poetry fails to move him but a coarse jest puts him ingood humor. An English philosopher, now dead, wrote some years before the beginning of the Great War that he feared the world was about to ente rmother dark age, and one akin to that of mediaevalism. It would seem as if we had already entered it.—San Francisco Orgonaut.

When things go well there are always people who wag their heads and say that good times cannot last. This vague notion is the only foundation for recent talk of a coming slump. There are no facts behind it, and no responsible opinion. All the facts and all the authority are on the other side. "There is no slump and no reason to anticipate a slump," says Mr. Reginald McKenna, chairman of the Midland Bank. To this fully informed business man the famous trade cycle is a myth. What he does see is the enormous expansion of Britain's home market. Facts like these are the complete answer to all doubts and fears.—London Sunday Chronicle.

Florence Nightingale, too ill to move from her bed, recognized the hospitals of England. Pasteur, semi-paralyzed and under the constant threat of apoplexy, tirelessly attacked disease. Milton wrote "Paradise Lost" after he was stricken blind. He gave courage and hope to those in pain. "Who best can suffer, best can do", he said.—London Express.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

A HEAD COLD USUALLY AFFECTS THE SINUS ALSO

What have always been called "head colds" are now known to be more than a "cold" or inflammation of the lining of the nose and throat, but also a cold or inflammation of the sinuses adjoining the nose. For, after all, these cavities or hollows are just depressions in the bones of the face and are really extensions of the same lining or mocous membrane as the nose itself. "It is not possible, therefore, to have inflammation of the lining of the nose without some inflammation of the sinuses."

In speaking of the acute cold — head cold—before the Post-Graduate Institute of the Philadelphia Medical Society, Dr. Karl Mussef Houser, University of Pennsylvania, stated that for convenience sake three stages should be recognized.

First, sneezing, feeling of tredness, slight 'fullness' in the head, unpleasant dryness of the nose, and an irritation at the back of the throat. Headache and fever may be present.

Second, a few hours later the head seems to 'loosen up' and there is 'running' of water from the nose, all the lining of the nose is fiery red; the sense of smell is nearly, if not completely, lost, and the tiredness and headache are usually increased. It is during this second stage that the cold or inflammation of the sinuses probably takes place. Sometimes there is fullness in the ears.

The third stage occurs when this water or mucous turns into pus. When this stage arrives the patient feels less toxic (that is, the tired, depressed feelings due to poisons formed become less), and if there is no obstruction at openings of the sinuses, the pus drains out and the individual soon gets well. Although it is generally thought that sinus inflammation is always painful, Dr. Houser states that "as a matter of fact, hundreds of cases of acute sinus infection occur" and neither the patient nor even his physician may be aware of it."

The services of a nose specialist may be required in these cases.

The Poets' Corner

CLONMACNOISE

In a quiet water'd land, a land of roses,
Stands Saint Kieran's city fair;
And the warriors of Erin in their famous generations
Slumber there.

There beneath the dewy hillside sleep the noblest
Of the clan of Conn,
Each below his stone with name in branching Ogham
And the sacred knot thereon.

There are laid to rest the Seven Kings of Tara.
There the sons of Cairbe sleep—
Battle-banners of the Gael that in Kieran's plain of crosses
Now their final hosting keep.

And in Clonmacnoise they laid the men of Teffa,
And right many a lord of Breagh;
Deep the sod above Clan Creide and Clan Conaill,
Kind in hall and fierce in fray.

Many and many a son of Conn the Hundred fighter
In the red earth lies at rest;
Many a blue eye of Clan Colman the truf covers,
Many a swan-white breast.

—T. W. Rolleston, from the Gaelic of Angus O'Gillan.

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THE TWO MACS

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.

NEW TRUCK AND SNOW PLOW

Sir,—In the Guardian of January 11th I am informed that the City Council has placed an order for a motor truck and snow plow at the extraordinary price of $3,250.00. After seeing this in the paper I inquired from some of the dealers as to prices and they gave me to understand that they put in tenders for a suitable equipment running as much as $1,000 less money. What I cannot understand is why they should pay so much difference. There is something very peculiar about this transaction; it was like pulling teeth to find out very much about it. The dealers complain that they could not find out what was wanted. They would go from one Councillor to another and the same story, "I can't tell". Some of them would say, "We do not intend to buy anything, we cannot afford it, we haven't got the money." It looks to me that there is a "nigger in the wood pile."

I am, Sir, etc.,
CITIZEN

"GROSS EXTRAVAGANCE"

Sir,—I note in the report of the last Council meeting that it cost the City $5000.00 for last month's relief, and in the next breath they vote for the expenditure of $3250.00 to purchase a truck and snow plow Now, I claim this purchase gross extravagance. For a number of years we have been using a small crawler tractor and plow for light work, and for heavy work we had the use of the Provincial Government plow. We have had the use of the Government plow once this year, and it was quite satisfactory. On inquiring from the Government office to know if they had refused the City the use of their tractor plow they said they did not, and the City was still privileged to have the use of their plow when they did not require it themselves. According to The Guardian's report there was no vote taken, therefore the Council as a body sanctioned this extravagance.

I am, Sir, etc.,
TAX PAYER.

COMPULSORY AUTO INSURANCE

Sir,—With our tourist traffic gaining rapid momentum, and our highway program promising huge expansion over the next few years, I am inspired to submit the feasibility of our Government in providing such a bill at its next session as would take care of motoring accidents.

It is found that the car-owners who are most in need of insurance are often without it when an accident occurs, so that the injured parties are unable to get redress.

It is for the better protection of the innocent third party that insurance should be made compulsory.

A bill could provide that insurance should cover all damages and injuries caused by motor vehicles irrespective of the way in which they have been caused. The only case which would not be covered would be where the injured party had with intent become injured.

In some countries the liability to pay damages in connection with motor accidents is based on the reverse rule of proof, which means that if an injured party claims that he or she was injured by a motor vehicle, the onus of proof is on the driver to show that he was not at fault in causing the injury. This rule has added to the difficulties of both car owners and insurance companies.

P. E. I. motorists, generally speaking, should class as, select risks, our seasons being comparatively short, and mileage limited.

I am, Sir, etc.,
L. M. CALLBECK

A FALSE THEORY OF LEARNING

Sir,—Before getting back to a discussion of any one subject in the present curriculum of the Common Schools of Prince Edward Island, it is very important to free ourselves from a false, deep-rooted idea that is in large part at the bottom of this curriculum. It is the idea that so many of us cling to the idea that certain subjects notably Latin and Greek, Mathematics and Grammar, are of great and particular value for the purpose of "training the mind."

How often have we heard conversations like this: "Poor Mary is having a terrible time with her geometry. She's crazy about reading, but the poor kid has had to give up library books; she spends every minute on that geometry. I don't see what use it will ever be to her, but anyway it's good mind training."

Or: "I wish they'd give Hilda more composition and less of that grammar stuff. Grammar never did me any good, and I'm ashamed when I have to write a decent paragraph—but I suppose grammar is good mind-training."

Or: "John hates Latin. He's only happy tinkering around machinery. Sometimes I wish they'd have shop work in school instead of Latin—he'll never use a word of it—but I make him stick to it—I tell him it's the best training his mind'll ever get."

Now the pathetic part is that as far as mind training goes, Mary would get as much "mind-training" through reading her beloved books; Hilda would get as much mind-training from writing compositions; Johnnie would get just as much mind-training from "tinkering with machinery", and, of course, each would profit immeasurably more from subjects in which a natural aptitude and interest is present, instead of purely forced attention.

In the magazine "Time" of December 13, 1937, there is this statement: "The schools of every nation on earth have been profoundly affected by Dr. Thorndike's facts. An old theory of learning was that certain subjects, particularly the classics, were especially useful for training the mind. Thorndike tried out this theory by experiment and found it did not work. His findings hastened the departure of Latin and Greek from school curricula."

Dr. Thorndike, famous Psychologist, professor of Educational Psychology at Teachers College, Columbia University, startled educators, about thirty-five years ago, when he first announced that no special subjects held the key to mind-training. In his book, Educational Psychology (the study that explains what makes the wheels of the mind go round) Thorndike says: "The notion of the mind as a reservoir of potential energy which could be filled by any one activity and drawn on for any other has now disappeared from expert writings on psychology. The results of the many experiments wherein learners were tested in several functions, before and after a period of special practice with some one function have proved them false." This simply means that many pupils who studied Latin, for instance, were tested to see whether they showed a better grasp of other subjects, because of such study; it was found that they did no better in those other subjects, after special practice in Latin, than before.

Now, let us not jump to the conclusion that the study of any subject does not help in the study of any other. Certainly the study of Latin is of decided advantage in the study of French. But that is not because of any mind-training, but because Latin and French have so many similar elements. In the same way practice in addition improves the ability to multiply, since multiplication contains so much addition.

Thorndike was the first to prove experimentally that no subject could be studied for its power to train the mind. It is now agreed by all leading psychologists, that subjects should be studied on their own merits. Professor Angell says: "No study should have a place in the curriculum for which this general disciplinary characteristic (mind-training) is the chief recommendation. The intrinsic values of each study afford a far safer criterion of educational work than any which we can derive from the theory of formal discipline (mind-training)."

Dr. Dewey says: "It is desirable to expel the notion that some subjects are inherently 'intellectual' and hence possessed of an almost magical power to train the faculty of thought."

Professor Heck says: "Mental discipline is the most important thing in education but it is specific not general. The ability developed by means of one subject can be transferred to another subject only in so far as the latter has elements in common with the former (Latin and French). Abilities should be developed in school only by means of those elements of subject-matter and of method that are common to the most valuable phases of the outside environment."

That last statement seems especially significant in connection with the present controversy over the curriculum in the common schools of the rural districts of P.E.I. Since Latin and French, Algebra and Geometry are not any better for "training the mind" than any other subjects, why not study subjects "that are common to the most valuable phases of the outside environment", as Professor Heck says. Why not study subjects that will, in themselves, prove of value to that large majority who will spend their lives in an agricultural environment? Why not give that majority at least an elementary knowledge of chemistry and physics, and a more thorough knowledge of agriculture, instead of Latin and French, Algebra and geometry? Why not give the boys a chance to "tinker with machinery" and the girls an understanding and love for the supremely important house-hold duties which will fall to the share of most of them? Why not at least try to instil in these boys and girls an ability to read and a love for reading, so that the long winter nights may be filled with usefulness and beauty?

I am, Sir, etc.,
RUHAMAH SCHEINFELD FRANK

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