# THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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## IMPORTANT TRIFLES

Every once in awhile the correspondence columns of British reviews and newspapers like The New Statesman, The Spectator and The Times reveal an astonishing interest in what Canadians might consider trifles. The wide and enduring popularity of "Alice in Wonderland" is rooted in the nature of the English people. Some time ago, for example, The Times gave space to letters on the subject of "The Purple Cow." As many will remember, this gem of literature declares:

"I never saw a purple cow,
I never hope to see one,
And yet I always feel somehow
I'd rather see than be one."

But there was so much disagreement as to the author, the true rendering and the high significance of the verse, that one was no wiser when the controversy ended than he was when it began.

Later there was trouble in the Times over Nebuchadnezzar. Apparently no one could remember the whole poem from which the correspondents quoted, and no two could agree as to the true reading of the verses they thought they had remembered. Unfortunately, as in the case of "The Purple Cow," the true rendering was not established nor was the whole poem rediscovered.

During recent weeks there has been a tremendous argument going on in the columns of reviews like The New Statesman and The Spectator over something said in the House of Commons, by Sir John Simon. Sir John, discussing armaments, based his peroration on what he thought was on the whole "the most moving single sentence in modern English literature"—the ending of Thackeray's chapter on Waterloo in "Vanity Fair":

"No more firing was heard at Brussels. The pursuit rolled miles away. Darkness came down on the field and city; and Amelia was praying for George, who was lying on his face, dead, with a bullet in his heart."

For weeks afterwards the columns of the reviews were filled with letters challenging Sir John's judgment, or debating it. Some thought the most moving passage was Thackeray's description of the death of Colonel Newcome. Many voted for the last entry in Pepys' Diary. Several mentioned the description of the deaths of Tom and Maggie Tulliver in "The Mill on the Floss," and the last sentence of Olive Schreiner's "The Story of an African Farm." Two suggested the closing words of Motley's "Dutch Republic" (regarding William of Orange):

"As long as he lived he was the guiding star of a brave nation, and when he died the little children cried in the streets."

The claim—"the most moving single sentence"—was too large a one for finality. But the controversy was delightful, the sort of thing one finds only in Britain There was tension in the Saar, and war talk, and other trouble; but these people could find time to get excited over the most moving passage in their literature. Is it this, asks the Ottawa Journal, that makes them so wholesome, so wonderfully sane?

## SALES IN SCOTLAND

The practice of Canadian firms seeking a market in Great Britain to appoint exclusive agents in London or elsewhere in the South for the whole country results in many cases in their losing the opportunity of making sales in Scotland, writes Mr. G. B. Johnson, Canadian Trade Commissioner in Glasgow, in the Commercial Intelligence Journal. Scotland provides a quality market which, in so far as food products at least are concerned, is one of 5,000,000 potential consumers who show a preference for Empire products when these are of competitive value. Their business houses naturally prefer to purchase their requirements locally rather than through an occasional traveller from the metropolis. While the tastes, habits, and methods of doing business of the people in the various parts of Canada are much the same, such a generalization does not apply to the Scottish people as compared with those of the South of England. That business methods and market preferences differ in various parts of this country may be illustrated by the following examples: The residents in English cities consume large quantities of bacon and the same applies to Edinburgh; in Glasgow until a few years ago ham was preferred, and bacon was used only to a small extent. In England it is easier to sell Canadian softwoods for rough timber work in house construction because the chief competing wood is Baltic redwood; the latter is usually dearer than Baltic whitewood, which is commonly used in Scotland. Scotland uses far more Canadian flour than England in proportion to population, not only because the Canadian product is best but on account of the different methods employed by the Scottish bakers. England is a good market for canned lobster; sales in Scotland are of little importance. Scotland is more of a quality market than England, and the instinct for quality is one that runs through the whole range of commodities.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

The mornings are already lighter.

Below zero weather is characteristic here of the first month of the year.

"He don' know where he are," in the words of the old song, is truly descriptive of Mr. Mackenzie King's present predicament in leadership.

His visit here and the friendships made create a more than usual interest in the premiership and policy of M. Pierre Laval. His mission to Mussolini is being followed with interest.

Sane economic evolution is the policy of Premier Bennett. He intends to lop off the dead wood of the capitalistic system and graft on new branches which will make it suit the changed conditions of the new era we have entered.

The great success of the recent Catholic missions at the Basilica and the Church of the Holy Redeemer should encourage the Protestant clergy in their six evening's special services this week. It is a time for prayer and spiritual revival.

Now it is our old friend Hon. Duncan Marshall who is finding the advantage of the Bennett Marketing Act, and he has gone to Ottawa to seek its extension to the cattle export trade. Poor Mr. Mackenzie King made a bad break in staging opposition to this now much appreciated legislation.

The publication on page six of Saturday's issue of the literary success of Mrs. John Gardner Caughlin (nee Miss Sally Sue Allan, niece of Mrs. Brow and Mrs. Paton,) reminds us literature must run in the blood, as Sally (by which name she is more familiarly remembered here) is a cousin of Miss Passmore of P.W.C. and Miss Ruth Heartz, writer of our Book, Art, and Music column.

President Roosevelt has announced that early in the present session he will call upon Congress to enact legislation "to take profit out of war," and to ensure the proper coordination of the man-power, the manufacturing capacity, the financial reserves, and in fact all the resources of the country in any future conflict. Britain has a similar object in view as witness the commission of which Lord Macmillan is chairman. To be effective any scheme of the kind must be international, and Sir John Simon recently laid down the three main objects which should be sought in an international agreement. The first and most obvious is effective control of the export trade. The terms of the Convention should be such as to enable an effective embargo to be placed on the export of arms wherever such an embargo will help to preserve peace or to stop a war. The second is effective national control on agreed lines of the manufacture of arms in all countries. The third is reasonable publicity. It would be of real service to the cause of peace if all the principal countries manufacturing and exporting arms could be brought to accept an agreement of this kind.

Herr Hitler has washed his hands of the church dispute, and says henceforth the disputants can fight it out themselves. Nevertheless for the present conflict between church and state in Germany, Hitler and his advisers have themselves to blame. It arises from the attempt of a Reich Bishop nominated by Herr Hitler and his "German Christian" associates to unify the regional Churches on the basis of "leadership" and false doctrine. The Confessional Community do not object to unification as such. Their objection is to the men and the methods by which, with the support of the Nazi regime, it has been sought to achieve unity. In the result there are two administrations claiming to be responsible for the affairs of the Protestant Church. One, appointed by the Confessional Synod, is attempting to build up a new order from below on the basis of the parishes, in accordance with the democratic tradition of Protestant Church life in Germany. The other is the regime of the Reich Bishop, whose attempt to compel unity from above collapsed on the withdrawal of police support, and who is attempting to build a bridge back to the Protestant majority by revoking all the decrees which are inconsistent with the generally accepted Evangelical Church Constitution of 1933.

## Notes By The Way

**At the beginning of each new** year we get so used to greeting every one with "a Happy New Year" phrase—and it's a fine custom. Would that everyone would be happy—always happier at each new year. But what is it that makes people happy, anyway? Is it not the experience of having something useful to do—and doing it as well as one's ability permits? Certainly the happiest people are those who are continually busy at work, feeling that they are doing something that is not only enriching their own lives, but the lives of others. Nearly all of us have searched for happiness all our lives—and we always come back to the one thing that produces it—doing something to make others happy! After all, this is the simple formula for happiness.

**His Majesty may be said to be** without an accent, and certainly he is not handicapped with that, infringement which tries to ordain that only a certain accent is the attribute to polite society. By nature and by life's environment he himself happens to be a man of culture, and that is conveyed without being emphasized in his voice. He does not employ it to proclaim his rank and position. He neither regurgitates his words in what is supposed to be the Oxford accent, nor trims and clips his words as noodles still do in the services, nor on lofty occasions does he intone the depth of his sorrow or the appreciation of his approval. The King is an Englishman who may be claimed as the sovereign exponent of the best English. He speaks neither as of Marylebone nor of Mayfair, and because his voice may be imbued with the modulation derivable from the moderation of the climate of his native land, it need not be, and His Majesty would be the last to expect it to be, the accent of refinement prevalent in other countries where climate and other contingencies make good speech and pleasant voices sound differently without being less cultured.—Ex.

**Sir Andrew Macphail has an** article on "Hindenberg" in the latest Queen's Quarterly in which—as ballast to the biographical record—there is the first notable Canadian appeal for the restoration of humanity in our thinking and speech about international affairs. He recites once again the intolerable scene of vengeance too weak to save itself, which was enacted when the Peace Treaty was signed by the German plenipotentiaries: he reminds us that "The Germans trusted us," i.e. the British people, to see that rectitude was preserved in the carrying out of that treaty; he quotes the unlearned truth of Mr. Lloyd George's words, "no settlement which contravenes the principles of eternal justice will be a permanent one," and he concludes himself that "until the wrong in the Treaty is set right, there will be nothing more than an armistice,—no peace, no security."—League of Nations News Sheet Canadian.

**A member of Parliament who** brings in the same bill session after session is sometimes misunderstood. There was the old member who, after many vain attempts to have the cleaning of windows from the outside made illegal, at last induced a sympathetic Home Secretary to issue a departmental order to that effect, and was congratulated on the success of his persistent effort to make window-cleaning safer for the cleaners. "No, no; safer for myself," said the member. "When walking the streets I used to be afraid that a window-cleaner might fall on me."—Aberdeenshire Mail.

**They still talk in England. As a** rule there is no straining for notice nor any controversial asperity. A guest at a dinner table is content to talk to his neighbor. If one gets the attention of the whole company it seems to be by accident rather than by design. Nor does one forget the left even though he would rather talk to the right. There is the obligation of courtesy and the guest does not forget that he is only less responsible than the host and hostess for the success of the dinner. One remembers the Punch story of the anxious butler who whispered to the young daughter of the house at her first dinner party, "a little more conversation to the left, please." The talk ranges from books to pictures, from hymns to doggerel, from birth notices to epitaphs. Now and again, too, there is a frank revelation of political differences and as candid criticism of political associates as of political opponents. The social life of the British people is essentially tolerant even though their political quarrels are often as acute and bitter as those of any other country. —Exchange.

**The Wicked Fairy has had pretty** much her own way throughout 1934, stirring up strife and keeping the political situation in a state of simmering disturbance. For nearly a month, however, the Good Fairy seemed to gain the upper hand, the international cauldron went off the boil and all looked forward to a finale promising greater quietude. Not so. The Bad Fairy has still a trick or two up her sleeve. With a single wave of her black wand the Italo-Abyssinian trouble has flamed up, the Gran Chaco war between Bolivia and Peru, that all believed was as good as over, has sprung to life with a big battle in which 80,000 troops were engaged, and a brand new mischief has blazed in a brand new territory in the form of forcible resistance by the peasants of Russian Turkestan to the grain levy imposed on them. What a world!

**"The destinies of our Indian em**pire are covered with thick darkness. It is difficult to form any conjecture as to the fate reserved for a State which resembles no other in history, and which forms by itself a separate class of political phenomena. The laws which regulate its growth and its decay are still unknown to us. It may be that the public mind of India may expand under our system till it has outgrown that system; that by good government we may educate our subjects into a capacity for better government; that having become instructed in European knowledge, they may, in some future age, demand European institutions. Whether such a day will ever come I know not. But never will I attempt to avert or retard it. Whenever it comes it will be the proudest day in English history."—Macaulay a century ago.

## That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

### SUGAR AND CEREALS ARE GOOD FOODS

So much has been written about the overuse of sugar and cereals that it is just possible that some individuals may get the impression that sugar, and cereals—wheat, oats, corn and other breakfast foods—are not needed by the body.

Now the first point to remember is that your body, like any furnace, needs a certain amount of fuel or food and there is really no better fuel or food for heating the body and giving it energy than sugar and cereals. It is quite all right therefore for everybody to continue the use of these two foods.

What food experts object to however is that as sugar and cereals are prepared or purified foods they do not contain certain other factors aside from their heating ability, which the body must have. These other food factors are minerals and vitamins.

It has been proven that minerals and vitamins are absolutely necessary to maintain good health, and some experiments would tend to prove that certain foods are helpful in warding off certain infections.

Fortunately very small amounts of foods containing vitamins and minerals are all that is necessary to supply the body needs, but they should if possible be eaten every day.

Drs. Alan Brown, and F. F. Tisdall, Toronto, tell us that we can go a long way in overcoming any lack of vitamins and minerals in the average diet by building up our meals around five essential articles of food—namely, milk to supply calcium lime) and protein (the body building food); meat to supply more protein; eggs to supply still more protein, vitamins and iron; and vegetables and fruit to supply minerals and vitamins. The remaining calories or food units can be readily supplied by the refined sugar and cereal products.

In other words then these high authorities suggest that we continue the regular use of sugar and cereals but make sure that every day we eat these other everyday foods. Most of us eat enough meat, eggs, and milk but we may not eat enough fruit and vegetables.

And in these days fruits and vegetables can be obtained all the year round.

## Gift House For The King

(Manchester Guardian)

Many people will be interested in the news that the King is to have an "ideal home" presented to him as part of next year's celebrations of the twenty-fifth year of his reign, for the pursuit of the perfect dewlling-house is a form of ambition which attracts all those who have ever been struck by the difference between the ideal and the actual in household arrangements. And the King's interest, like theirs, will be mainly a matter of seeing and approving the good, for it is not intended that the house which the Royal Warrant Holders' Association is to build, furnish, and endow shall be occupied by a royal tenant. The King is to select its occupier from people who have rendered distinguished service to the country, as is done in the case of other "grace and favor" houses or apartments in places like St. James Palace, Kensington Palace, and Hampton Court. In those cases the chosen tenants are surrounded by an atmosphere of the past; in this the Association of some one thousand five hundred tradesmen who serve the royal household intends to create a gift that will belong to this age and no other. The Royal Institute of British Architects and its president, Sir Giles Scott, are to see to the selection of possible designs, and apparently a delightful site that is at present a secret has already been secured for the erection of this promised domestic masterpiece. One does not see much chance of the secret's being long preserved, though it would add to the fairy-tale flavor of the campaign for the perfect house if it could be displayed for public attention with something like the wave of a magician's wand. Will the design be copyright or will imitation, with the King's house as with the Princess's hat, become the sincerest form of flattery?

## King George Among The Longer Reigned Kings

(Exchange)

King George has now become one of the small group of longer reigned soverigns of Great Britain and one of the elder monarchs of the world. Since 1066 only eleven other English kings had sufficient years to mark a silver jubilee, and only 13 since Egbert of Wessex became the first to hold sway over all England. Alfred the Great is the first king whose age is recorded, and since his accession only five sovereigns have lived to the age of King George.

Since William the Conqueror came to the throne in 1066 the average reign of 36 sovereigns has been less than 24 years, ranging from the few months of the murdered boy Edward V to the 63 years of Victoria.

If omens of the past hold true, His Majesty may look forward to many more years. All those who passed their silver jubilees went on to much longer reigns. In order of length they are: George II, 33 years (1727-1760);. Henry I, 35 years (1100-1135); Henry II, 35 years 1154-1189); Edward I, 35 years (1272-1307); Henry VIII, 38 years (1509-1547); Henry VI, 39 years (1442-1461) Elizabeth, 44 eyars (1558-1603); Edward III, 50 yeares (1327-1337); Henry III, 56 years (1216-1272); George III, 59 years (1760-1820); Victoria, 63 years (1837-1901).

Of the Anglo - Saxon Kings, Alfred the Great reigned 30 years and Ethelred 11, 37 years.

Henry should be a popular name at royal christenings, for the eight kings of that name ruled 249 years. The seven Edwards accounted for 142 years, and the five Georges to date, for 140 years. A Henry, Edward or George has sat on the English throne for 531 of the 869 years since 1066, or nearly two-thirds of the period.

Thirty-six rulers since the conquest have lived an average of 54 years. The only five who lived to the present age of King George are Elizabeth, 70; George II, 77; George III, 81: William IV, 71; and Victoria, 81. But in the 221 years since the accession of George I longevity has been marked as compared with earlier monarchs. Only George I, 67, George IV, 67, and Edward VII, 68, fell below the three score and ten.

## New Star In The Sky

(Exchange)

The new star, Nova Hercules, which has appeared in the constellation Hercules, will no doubt be of interest to many who are not astronomers if they realize they can easily find it. After sunset the brightest star in the northwest is Vega, about 30 degrees above the horizon, and is readily distinguished by any one. The new star is the next star visible on the right of Vega, and forms an obtuse triangle with two other stars of similar magnitude, which are Beta and Gamma of Draco. Two weeks ago there was no triangle—only a pair of stars. The scene that is laid tonight may be expected to fade gradually, so that in two or three months the triangle will lose its third member. Meanwhile a rare celestial drama goes on before the eyes.

The star which has leaped into sudden visibility has had one of three things happen to it: It has collided with another heavenly body, it has had a great gas explosion from beneath an unstable surface, or it has entered a region of star dust or nebulous material which has brought about a conflagration by friction, as in the case of meteors. The last new star to appear in the northern hemisphere was in 1920, so that such events are rather infrequent.

Several features are worthy of note about this new star. It is near enough to the North star so that it never sets, and will be visible at any hour on a clear night. It is perhaps 15 degrees removed from the Milky Way, whereas only one new star before this has been noted which has not been in the Milky Way or very close to it. Also this star is so placed among others that its magnitude can readily be compared if it changes from night to night. Vega is of the first magnitude, Gamma Draconis of the second, and Beta Draconis of the third. At present the new star seems to be intermediate in brilliance between the latter two.

## Unprofitable Hours

(Exchange)

**It has been calculated that in** Great Britain 40,000 years of time are lost every year to motorists by delays at railway crossings. The Yorkshire Post says that in Lincolnshire there is an eleven-mile stretch of road with nine level crossings, and that in another 35 miles there are 26 crossings. The real evil is the possible loss of life. We decline to be horrified by the waste of time, even 40,000 years, though it is inconvenient. The right use or waste of time, is too large a subject to be treated in that way. The time spent in motoring may be used or unused. The hours spent in the breadwinning occupation may be profitably or unprofitably used; the work may be for the service of mankind or not. If our present troubles are caused by overproduction the time spent in producing the unwanted surplus must be regarded as wasted. We must consider also the occupation of the chemist or other scientist inventing new means of destruction for the human race. A man may be extremely busy without doing any good to himself or anybody else. It would be well if all were employed usefully, that is in beneficent human service. But even an industrious man may be wasting time without any fault of his own. Thoreau tells how he admired the industry of a teamster whom he saw carrying load after load of stone in his neighborhood, till he found that the stone was to be used to build a useless wall around a vast country estate. It gave the teamster a living and that was all.

Then there is leisure time, which has been so much increased by labor-saving inventions. Few of us have thought out any systematic and comprehensive plan for spending these hours. There is plenty of leisure for reading, for learning to sing or play on some musical instrument, to make pictures, to acquire new languages, to study science, to think consecutively, to converse with profit on subjects of real importance. Many of us have no plan at all. We just drift. If our leisure occupations were really planned, the intellectual development of the human race would be incalcuable. It is not requisite that every scrap of time should be so used. Leisure spent in reading a detective story or watching a hockey game or an amusing play, or in friendly chat with no definite aim is not necessarily wasted. Relaxation is needful for mind as well as body. Mental strain may be relieved, worries forgotten, care chased away, by diversions which cannot be fitted into any definite scheme or program. Seriousness need not degenerate into priggishness. The vast possibilities of human development opened up by increased leisure ought always to be kept in mind. But mourning over wasted minutes while careless about wasted hours and days is like being penny-wise and pound-foolish.

## Giving Ottawa A Chance

Speaking in London recently, Dr. E. L. Burgin, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, said—

"My visit to Canada this year has convinced me that the Ottawa Agreements are fundamentally sound. In Canada, as in Great Britain, one finds adverse critics of the Agreements, but their objections apply to details in the practical working out of the plan rather than to the general principal upon which it is based. No one whom I met during my visit suggested for a moment that the principle endorsed at Ottawa, namely, that of developing inter-Empire trade by preferential treatment as between the various members of the British Commonwealth, was one upon which any of us could afford to go back.

"Inevitably, in applying the principle, difficulties arise. After all, we are changing methods and habits which have grown up through generations of trading. We are digging new channels for trade and are re-directing a vast stream which has flowed without much conscious direction for very many years. My visit to Canada, however, convinces me that present difficulties will be overcome.

"The first essential is goodwill, and that certainly exists in Canada. I should like to appeal to British manufacturers, and to others who are particularly conscious of the difficulties, to give Ottawa a reasonable chance. Rome was not built in a day and you cannot expect the British Commonwealth to be welded into one co-ordinated economic unit in the short space of two years.

"It is undoubted fact that many orders which formerly went to the United States are now coming to the United Kingdom. Canadians, too, are giving increasing support to the British Industries Fair, at which in the last two years Canadian products have been better and more fully represented, while the United Kingdom exhibits have attracted many Canadian buyers.

"Next year's Fair is to be bigger than ever and it is to have a bigger display of Canadian and other Empire goods. Several Canadian buyers told me that they had learned useful lessons at the Fair. In particular they considered that it served a most valuable purpose in bringing them in first-hand contact with United Kingdom manufacturers.

"Canadian buyers whom I met assured me that they had been especially impressed during recent visits to the Fair with the realization that manufacturers in Great Britain are making new efforts to adapt their products to overseas requirements. Thanks to the Fair, much has been done to explode the old idea that our manufacturers are too fixed in their ways to trouble to find out what their customers want, and to overhaul their methods with a view to supplying it."

## The Poets' Corner

### HOMESICKNESS

Ah, memory, like a silver spear
Piercing this aching heart of mine,
Why dream of things no longer here?
Why worship at an empty shrine.

Yet, all unhidden comes again
The windswept hill, the sea-tanged air,
The rainbow shining through the rain,
The little house, the welcome there.

When wandering feet again returned
Home, magic words: somehow I know
When all life's lessons have been learned
I'll find again that heart-fire glow.

I'll find a quiet evensong,
A smile, a gladly opened door,
The sound of voices silent long,
And want just that and nothing more.

—Alice McKay,
in "An Acadian Sheaf," 1934.


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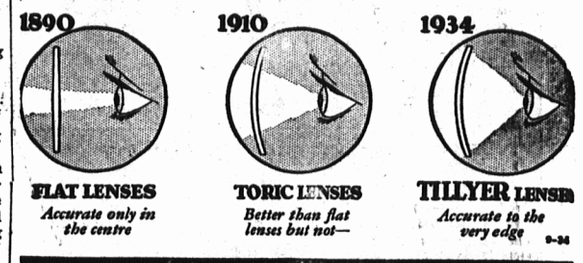


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