

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 1927

ANOTHER BETRAYAL

The Georgian Bay Canal Bill better known as the Sifton interests bill passed its second reading in the House of Commons the other day. It will be remembered that the legislatures of Quebec and Ontario passed unanimous resolutions protesting against the granting of a charter for this Canal as it was known that the "Canal" was intended for power purposes and for the export of power. Notwithstanding this protest by their provincial legislatures every Liberal member from those two provinces supported the bill as well as the three from our own Province. Their action while most inconsistent shows the strength and influence of the Liberal machine and its ability to whip its following into line.

The Ottawa correspondent of The Mail and Empire commenting on the incident says:

So powerful was the Government demand to stand by the Sifton interests that even Hon. W. D. Euler discarded his public ownership principles. Not a member of Parliament except E. R. Chertier, Ottawa, in charge of the bill, even suggested it was anything but a power scheme, yet the Government whipped its following into line to vote for this power steal under the guise of a canal charter. For a time the Government was so nervous that word was passed round for its supporters to break their pairs on the ground this was a private bill. Thus while paired Conservatives were abstaining from voting Liberals who had paired voted.

It is expected that the bill will be thrown out by the Senate and if even there was justification for a second chamber it is to be found in this instance.

A FILM PROBLEM.

THE complaint is frequently voiced that the Americans monopolize the moving picture business of the world. In Canada we see nothing in this line except the American product. Even in Great Britain the American film predominates, indeed British-made films are almost unknown there.

A movement recently set on foot by English artists and authors promises to revolutionize the film business and to give British films the place they should occupy in the British Empire.

The matter had been brought up in the House of Commons and the proposal made that theatres be obliged to exhibit at every performance a certain percentage of British-made films. This was strenuously opposed by the Liberal and Labor parties and no decision was reached.

In the meantime it was publicly announced that a strong company of well-known capitalists and authors had been organized to produce all-British films and it is assumed that this company is to proceed at once with the undertaking. Among the most prominent men in the new company are John Galsworthy, Hall Cain, Arnold Bennett, Conan Doyle and some others. These well-known authors will write scenarios. The old exhibition hall and grounds at Wembley will be used as a studio.

That the British authors mentioned and others who might be named are a match for any American writers will not be questioned. That they can descend to the level of sensationalism reached by American film-producers, may well be questioned. Also, it may be seriously asked if the general movie public—in Canada, say—will be content with real, solid, British shows of the sober and edifying class of pictures that the British public are hoping for in this new film industry. It cannot be doubted that the

tone of public opinion has been lowered by much of the sensational American productions which in recent years has captivated Canadian movie fans. Can they rise to the "strong meat" of such writers as those mentioned above?

POTENTIAL INDUSTRIES.

THERE are in the province of Nova Scotia, coal mines and potential steel industry second to none on the American continent. Yet these sources of provincial wealth and employment are starved to death. This starvation process is due to one of two causes: mismanagement or unpardonable selfishness on the part of those in control or the refusal of the federal government, contrary to the best judgment of those in a position to know, to give necessary protection to these two industries. A petition has been presented to the courts for a winding up order and this matter will probably be settled this week.

In the matter of granting protection by means of a customs tariff, the government, held by the low tariff wing, is divided. Reciprocity, that cheap Liberal slogan, is again being talked up by Mr. Mackenzie King, and some of his colleagues and, pending further light on this subject, if further light were needed, the government is delaying action.

The sooner the Liberal party forgets reciprocity the better it will be for the party and for the country. This country of ours can gain nothing from any general reciprocal arrangements with the United States. We have all the raw material and natural resources needed by any country, and what is most needed to make Canada the great country it has a right and the possibility to become is to protect its industries against unfair foreign competition. The United States is an old country as compared with Canada; its industries are established and capable of mass production. Can we with our newly established industries, notwithstanding our wealth in raw material, hope to compete successfully with the larger concerns of our neighbor? Can we hope to throw our trade doors open to the mass production of the United States without injury to our own?

If Canada is even to grow up, ever to become the great country its natural resources entitle it to be we must give our industries at least a living chance in our own markets. We have been selling our raw material with a recklessness unworthy of sane business men; we have been permitting our sons and daughters to follow our raw material to the United States to manufacture our own raw material and we have been buying the finished product and boasting of our increased trade, export and import. As stated by the Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, the farmer who sells a ten acre field every year and boasts of his increasing wealth will very shortly find himself at the end of his resources and without a farm.

This is what we have been doing in Canada for many years, thanks to the cheap argument that a higher tariff means higher taxes and higher cost of living. A higher tariff sufficient high to give us a change in our market against foreign competition will mean not higher cost of living but a chance for our sons and daughters to earn their living at home, will mean large industrial centres and a larger home market for our agricultural and other products.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Premier Stewart's Budget Speech the other night fell like a bomb shell in the Liberal camp, and the Liberal road ahead has a lonely look because of it.

Notes by the Way

The use of "the axe" in dismissing officials has been strongly denounced by Mr. Saunders in the Legislature and by the local newspaper organ of the Kings government from time to time. It now appears that at Ottawa the Government has been "wielding the axe" with deadly effect. Mr. Garland a member from Alberta, who inquired about it, was told that since the middle of September last, six and a half months ago, 159 postmasters had been decapitated. That is at the rate of five a week and something over for good measure. And these executions were among postmasters alone, who are not a numerous class.

"Some of our blessings," supplies

a theme for the Maritime Merchant and it is well for the individual and the Province to take stock of their blessings and advantages from time to time. There is the lobster fishery just started for the season. Later on will come the run of spring mackerel and later still the run of summer and fall mackerel and of cod and other fish off shore. Money comes to Halifax or Saint John for repairs and coal for ships. These advantages are not enjoyed to the same extent, or not at all by the interior Provinces. The Maritimes are also nearer to the British and European markets than any other Provinces of the Dominion are.

Toronto Saturday Night, which has been hostile to Maritime claims for justice, is apparently more disgruntled than it was before, now that the Government has decided to give effect to the Duncan Report and almost the entire press of the Dominion is heartily supporting that course. Its Ottawa correspondent is lavish in the use of such sneering epithets as "growlers and grumblers," "agitators," "hungry and anxious patriots," in describing the people of the Maritimes. That sort of thing is mere mad-throwing in the hope that some of it will stick.

There is need for a Canadian

War History and somebody should write and publish it. As the Telegraph-Journal remarks: "Are Canadian school children to grow up and become the citizens of tomorrow without a real and moving knowledge of the meaning of the war monuments about them? It is at once an astonishing and a humiliating circumstance that when they ask why there is not a proper history of Canada's imperishable war achievements the reply of the educational authorities is that no Canadian has written one, and that we must depend upon a few re-written and confessedly inadequate pages from a general work which is accepted perforce, in place of the glowing and inspiring Canadian history we should have."

Newfoundland had a notable

snowstorm on March 26. The St. John's Telegram states that "on Saturday last the worst snow storm of the season prevailed along the railway, and in most sections snow fell to a depth of five feet. After the snow storm abated Sunday afternoon the rotary plow left Gaspereau and cleaned up a section of the line as far as Mary March and the east bound express, which was in waiting passed through with a push-plow attached." No single snow storm in Prince Edward Island ever gave down five feet of snow, so far as has been recorded, and very rarely has one foot of snow fallen in that way. But our point is this: Prince Edward Island has been united with Canada for more than fifty years and during that period has had a narrow gauge Railway of the same gauge as the Newfoundland railway, but has never yet had a snow plow of that gauge.

Who is the greatest living Canadian?

The question is asked by MacLean's Magazine and we repeat it here in order that members of the learned profession, politicians or others who aspire to be considered great may file their claims forthwith. If Prince Edward Island is the home of Canada's greatest man the fact should be made known and this year of Jubilee would be a fitting time to have it proclaimed. And think of how it would boost the tourist trade. Thousands would want to come and see the Dominion's greatest man.

Miss Donald Dickie, author of

Dents' series of Canadian History Books, is now on her way to England. She is a native of Ontario, a graduate of Queen's University and is about to take a post-graduate course at Oxford. She has travelled

The Origins Of The War

1. Ich Suche die Wahrheit! Ein Buch zur Kriegsschuldfrage. Von Wilhelm Kromprinz. Stuttgart und Berlin: Cotta, 1925.

2. Isolsky and the World War. Published by the German Foreign Office. By Friedrich Stieve. Translated by E. W. Dickes. Allen & Unwin, 1926.

3. The Case for the Central Powers, an Impachment of the Versailles Verdict. By Count Max Montgelas. Translated by Constant Vesey. Allen & Unwin, 1925.

4. The Genesis of the World War, an Introduction to the Problem of War Guilt. By Harry Elmer Barnes. New York: Knopf, 1925.

5. Les Criminels. By Victor Margueritte. Paris: Flammarion, 1926.

And other books.

Some of the American writers present a more difficult problem. There is among them a growing school who have committed themselves to support the more extreme German case in which they even out-herod their masters and instructors. They differ from the French in this, that the object of the latter is not to exculpate Germany, but to incriminate M. Poincaré. M. Victor Margueritte, M. Fabre Luce, M. Dupin, only aim at showing that the Germans, as wicked as the Maritimes, the new American writers see all dark on one side and all bright on the other. To them Germany was an immaculate and pacific State, which at the worst, in its ardent desire to maintain the peace of Europe, made some false moves.

In reading these American books one gets a curious feeling of unreality. One quickly gets to see that their discussions and arguments are purely what we may call "paper" they never get behind the actual words and phrases of the despatches and other documents. They have no instinctive feeling of what was possible, of the European atmosphere. As we read them we come to feel as one may imagine an ancient Greek would feel if he read modern discussions, and explanations of Greek political life, Greek literature, and Greek thought. He would doubtless admire the ingenuity which is displayed, but would all the time feel that the whole thing was completely unreal, and would be inclined to say: "Of course this is not a true and living picture—they do not understand. As a flagrant illustration of this we may refer to a point made by Senator Owen, who, for some reason incomprehensible to a mere Englishman, was allowed to inflict upon the Senate a speech of five hours in duration in which he exposed the case of Germany and her meddling against France and Russia. Misled by some telegrams the obvious meaning of which he completely misunderstood, he propounded the proposition that Belgium secretly mobilised her forces on July 24 and which they mobilised for a week without any one knowing anything about it. A man who can put forward a theory of this kind is obviously ignorant of the fundamental conditions of the matter with which he deals, that we at once feel that everything else is disregarded. And then we have Mr. Bausmann, who constantly refers to decisions of the German Cabinet. It is a mistake which no one could make who had an elementary acquaintance with the workings of the German Government, for it is

an essential point in the whole development of the situation that there was no Cabinet in Berlin. Had there been a Cabinet to which the Chancellor had to explain and justify his policy, a Cabinet which exercised control over the army, the war would almost certainly not have taken place. By itself it is sufficient to show that he has no real knowledge; it is a blunder which if made in an examination paper would be sufficient to plough the candidate.

Among these writers at the moment the most conspicuous is the Prof. Barnes; but I have already dealt with his book elsewhere, and it has been adequately criticised by writers such as Prof. Bernadotte Schmitt and Mr. Lewis Dickinson in the American Press.

These are, however, mere eccentrics; their books and articles, singularly lifeless in style, are of no help to the honest inquirer. They are a mere impediment in the way of the extraordinary and interesting and complicated problem with which they deal. If we turn away from them, it may, throughout the Dominion, searching historical record, gaining a first-hand knowledge of the country while preparing the text and many of the illustrations are from photographs taken by herself, Royal Edward Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire have ordered nine complete sets of Dents' History and intend to present them to each of the city schools on Empire Day, and also to donate one set to the Public Library in this city.

Sorrow and regret will be widely

felt and expressed throughout this Province, on learning of the death of James McIsaac, ex M. P. His noteworthy endowments as a public speaker and writer, and his constant patriotic efforts to promote the welfare of the Province and the Dominion will be long remembered gratefully by thousands who knew him while he lived.

J. W. HEADLAM MORLEY.

(The End.)

Prohibition

The Prohibition Situation. The Department of Research and Education of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, New York, 1925.

But, contrary to what we are often told, employers of labour are by no means generally in favour of prohibition. The Research Department issued a questionnaire to a thousand or more business men, directors of important companies chosen at random; and we are assured that the replies "yielded a predominantly 'wet' result."

In discussing the effect of prohibition upon crime the Bulletin seems to make an unjustified concession to the prohibitionists. It says that "the post-war period would be expected to be marked by an increase in crime." That expectation was entertained in this country during the war, but the criminal records of the post-war period have not justified it, notwithstanding that war influences must have entered much more into our life than into America's, and notwithstanding that our unemployment condition is also of an acute nature.

Crime in this country is not above the level of pre-war years. In America crime fell (as is hid here) during the war; and kept down during the early days of Prohibition; now it is rising, and by 1923 the prison population was nearly up to pre-war level. (The 1924 figures are not given.) Figures for various cities are quoted in the Bulletin, which indicate substantial increases in all sorts of offenses since the coming of prohibition, particularly in drunkenness and disorderly conduct. The Bulletin, however, refuses to hold Prohibition responsible, and thinks these "crime statistics of crime" do not warrant a stronger assertion than that "prohibition has thus far not prevented an increase—a very oblique kind of praise. The writers of the Bulletin would like to think that the increase in the already appalling amount of crime in America would have been greater but for the prohibiting law. They will not commit themselves further than to state that such retardation is a possibility.

think he said that there is gradually being formed a general consensus of opinion. It does not mean that there will ever be a complete agreement between English, French and German writers; for every one must approach the subject from the point of view of his own country. On the other hand, there is a general condemnation of the manner in which the foreign policy of the German Empire was conducted after the fall of Bismarck, a condemnation which was frankly endorsed by many German writers. By their tortuous and dishonest diplomacy, Bulow and Holstein succeeded in losing the confidence of and alienating at the same time England and Russia, and left their country without a single reliable friend on the continent of Europe, except Austria; while at the same time they forced upon Europe a series of acute diplomatic crises. It is argued that on no occasion did they really and deliberately desire war; and that the less remains true that the chief weapon in their armoury was the threat of war. It is this which they used in 1904-5, in 1911, in 1912. But it is impossible to enjoy and to deserve the reputation of peacefulness and moderation if one repeatedly tries to attain one's ends by the threat, if not the use, of violence. At the same time the flamboyant speeches of the Emperor and the inconsistency of his policy kept Europe in a constant state of apprehension.

When we come to the final crisis we find that the German Government once more resorted to its familiar methods. It was, after all, they and they alone, who were responsible for dealing with the difficult situation presented by the murder of the Archduke in such a way as to make war almost inevitable from the beginning. It is impossible even now to read again the story as told by themselves, of the secret conspiracy which, together with the Austrians, they engineered against the Entente, without profound indignation. Above all, must this be felt by an Englishman. Let us recollect that on June 24 the German Chancellor sent a message to Sir Edward Grey in which, anticipating some dangerous episode in the Balkans, he said that in order to avoid war arising out of it, it was necessary that England and Germany should work together as they had within a week a very serious crisis arose. Had the German Chancellor acted as he had promised to do, had he taken the British Government into his confidence and consulted with them as to the manner in which Austria might get the security which she justly demanded, without at the same time incurring the danger of bringing about a European war, there can be little doubt that the war would have been avoided. His actions in the present crisis are completely different; he had what he had to do, and by every means in his power, the German Government kept the British Government in the dark as to the policy they were pursuing, and with the most hasty consideration embarked on a course of action which must almost inevitably lead to war, and would certainly have been condemned by every impartial and candid critic. We cannot get over this, and surely a consideration of the action of the German Government between June 28 and July 28 justifies the conclusion that it is they on whom, together with their real blame rests for the outbreak of the war.

(To be continued)

The Bulletin handles the much-

canvassed question of drinking among young people in almost as cautious a manner as it does the question of crime.

"Reports of school administration officials and of teachers who have made extensive studies of moral problems in the school give little support to the theory that prohibition is in itself a cause of moral breakdown. It may perhaps just as truly be said that it does not appear to be a great asset." (p. 39.)

And in all this (including a story of a student in a "denominational" college, who defrayed his expenses by bootlegging) the Bulletin finds "food for earnest thought." The training of the young mind in ignorance of alcohol upon which prohibitionists rely so heavily for ultimate success does not appear to be making marked progress.

Immediate success is certainly not apparent. The Bulletin devotes a pessimistic chapter to "Prohibition Enforcement." To what extent it is enforced it is impossible to say, but, as we are reminded, "no statistics are necessary to warrant the assumption that with scores of thousands of saloons closed...the liquor traffic has been enormously reduced." The supporters of prohibitions can claim success to that extent; yet how far short of reasonably complete success this leaves them the Bulletin is at no pains to hide. Its writers quote from the Anti-Saloon League itself. The Iowa branch of this body issued a statement in May last, giving the result of its new bureau's survey in Dubuque and four other towns:

"Rampant lawlessness, increasing by leaps and bounds, is forcing Iowa to face the problem of either demanding strict enforcement of the present prohibition laws or else of modifying these laws to permit the sale of light wines and beer...The laws of the State and nation are now held in greater contempt in these cities than ever before...Dubuque boasts of 41,000 citizens and 1000 bootleggers, not to mention the countless moonshiners who operate in the city and vicinity...The islands and bluffs are swarming with stills, some of which turn out huge quantities of liquor each week." (p. 43.)

And, if this is the case in small inland towns, what of New York and its millions of population? It is stated on the highest authority that complaints of violation of the Volstead Act have been coming before the United States Commissioner from the police department at the rate of 15,000 a month (p. 44).

Yet the Bulletin adds that New York is no "wetter" than most other cities; indeed, that there is reason to think that the reverse is true. It should be said, however, that a more satisfactory picture (from a prohibitionist standpoint) is drawn of "bone-dry" Indiana—though the dryness even of that State (which has a special law, going beyond the Volstead Act) is dampened by troublesome importations from outside. In connexion with illicit liquor the Bulletin enforces the point which the American Government has somewhat obscured—viz, that a relatively small amount of illicit liquor in the United States is smuggled over its borders. The manufacture of alcoholic beverage is a universally spread-out, local, and even domestic industry; and the authorities cannot destroy it, notwithstanding efforts which become yearly more costly, the Federal Government's expenditure (apart from the heavy cost of coastguard work) having risen from \$2,000,000 in 1920 to \$7,500,000 in 1924 and to \$6,000,000 for the first nine months of 1925.

FOR THE SCRAPER BOOK

A SERIES OF LITERARY QUOTATIONS FOR BOOK LOVERS

Tuesday April 5

"April was quick in Nature like green flame." —MASEFIELD

Underneath the growing grass, Underneath the living flowers, Deeper than the sound of showers, By the shadows as they pass,

Youth and health will be but vain, Beauty reckoned of no worth; There a very little girl Can hold round what once the earth Seem'd too narrow to contain.

—C. G. Rossetti.

The complete Sceptic—The analysis of matter in the last quarter of a century has reached a point where it has ceased to be in any human sense wonderful. It is incomprehensible. Every statement is a paradox; every formula is an outrage on common sense. One is left baffled as by the hieroglyphics of an insane scribbler...

Words often misused: Don't say "when they entered into the store." Omit "into." OFTEN MISPRONOUNCED: sovereign. Pronounce sov-er-in, o-s-in "oil" preferred. OFTEN MISFEELLED: Teutonic; note the eu. SYNONYMS: tender, soft, pliable, limber, flexible, pliant, supple, yielding. WORD STUDY: "Use a word three times and it is yours." Let us increase our vocabulary by mastering one word each day. Today's word: LAUDABLE; commendable; worthy of approval. "His speech awakened laudable enthusiasm."

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good as the other when all direction is lost, I find my mind sitting down at last exhausted of effort in much the mood of Albrecht Duerer's "Melancholia." I have gone far along that way, and I can go no farther into that wilderness of vanishing forms and puff of energy in a quasi-dimensional field of force. H. G. Wells (in 1926).

DAILY LESSONS IN ENGLISH

By W. L. Gordon

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