

MAXIMS OF A MERCHANT

God has given each reasonable man and woman an individuality and the power to think; it is folly to sacrifice that individuality by using the brain merely to imitate others.

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN The People's Paper Read by Everybody

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew

CHARLOTTETOWN, CANADA, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1926

MAXIMS OF A MERCHANT

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COMMITTEE ASSURED OF SUPPORT

House Will Mete out Punishment to Reluctant Witnesses

(Special to the Guardian) OTTAWA, Feb. 7.—The smug-gling probe committee recently appointed in parliament like all parliamentary committees will have power to summon witnesses and take evidence under oath. The committee itself, however, has no disciplinary powers and if a witness refuses to answer, the committee is powerless to punish him. All it can do is to cite him to the House and he may be called before the bar of the House. If he still refuses to do as he is told, he may be committed to the tower and imprisoned until he becomes more amenable. He may only be kept in the tower, however, as long as the House is in session for in parliament is vested the power to punish him. With the adjournment of the House that power lapses even if a section of parliament in the person of the committee still continue in session. Thus with the House adjourned the committee has no disciplinarian over its witnesses. The last example of a refractory witness being committed to the tower occurred in 1913 when a man named Miller refused to answer questions. He was brought before the bar of the House and sent to the tower. There he remained, stubborn and unrepentant, and still refused to give the information the committee wanted. When the House prorogued however, there was no power to hold him in the tower and he was released. The conservatives fear that as much as criminal charges are involved in the coming investigation more than one witness will refuse to give necessary evidence and should be committed to the tower.

SEVEN NATIONS SEEK ROMANOFF CROWN JEWELS

French British and U. S. Experts Foremost Contenders for World's Rarest Gems.

(Canadian Press) MOSCOW, Feb. 7.—Gem experts of seven nationalities are contending for possession of part of the famous Romanoff crown jewels, which the Soviet government has placed on the market. MOSCOW, Feb. 7.—French and British experts together with Americans are among the foremost. Rudolph Ohlert, representing a syndicate of United States diamond firms today made a bid on the entire collection of unmounted emeralds, which is valued at several million dollars and comprises stones to sixty five karats in weight. Polish representatives also are competing for a part of the gems. It is recalled that arrangements were made last year by the Soviet government to give Poland twenty six million rubles worth of crown jewels in part payment of Russia's obligation to her, but difficulties arose at the last moment and Poland ultimately received only 11,000,000 rubles worth of gems. It was learned today that the Soviet government's diamond fund has been augmented considerably by the confiscation for the state of the great private collections of the Shermestev, Gorolakov, Orlov, Daddov, and other rich Russian families which are appraised at tens of millions of dollars. All the glories of the Romanoff crown jewels comprising 496 separate objects, have been recorded in four elaborate volumes published today by the Jewel Department of the Soviet government. Among the most interesting objects described in these volumes is a solid gold miniature model of the first train that crossed the great trans-Siberian railroad. This was a gift to Czar Nicholas 2, from one of his admirers. Then there are some child-like Easter eggs of pure gold set with diamonds which the late Empress presented to Nicholas shortly before the Romanoffs went to their doom in Siberia.

Three Powers Seek Permanent Representation

(Special to the Guardian) GENEVA, Feb. 7.—The League of Nations officials are worried by the prospect of three nations fighting at a special council meeting next week for a permanent seat at the council table. The three candidates for permanent representation are Spain, Poland and Brazil. Spain's candidature is the oldest in politics aside, the most generally favored.

Wave Causes \$80,000 Damage To Liner

(Special to the Guardian) NEW YORK, Feb. 7.—The Canadian Pacific liner Empress of France, which arrived here today, two days late, from Cherbourg and Southampton, suffered damage estimated at \$80,000 early Sunday morning, when a gigantic wave estimated at 100 feet in height smashed the liner head-on during the Atlantic storm. The baggage aboard was damaged to the extent of \$20,000, it was stated, but no body was injured by the terrific impact, which threw persons from their berths or chairs. "I have been at sea for thirty five years," said Captain E. Griffiths of the liner, "but this is the worst I have ever had." When the wave struck the vessel persons were in bed started to dress, it was stated by passengers and members of the crew; others in public rooms reached for life-preservers. They believed an iceberg or another boat had been struck.

Death of Dr. Alexander McNeil Summerside

SUMMERSIDE, Feb. 7.—Today Summerside and the province generally mourns the loss of one of its finest sons in the demise of Dr. Alexander McNeil who passed away last evening at 6:30 o'clock at his residence in Summerside. The late Dr. McNeil was born at Canoe Cove, Queens County on Feb. 1, 1853. His first attendance of P. W. College and then took his medical course at McGill from where he graduated with honors in 1883. He first practised at Kensington for 15 years then went to Charlottetown for one year and came to Summerside two years ago. He was a past President of the P. E. I. Medical Association and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons a conference of which he attended in Philadelphia in October last. He has served in Summerside Town Council and was identified with civic affairs in various capacities. The deceased was a senior member of the P. C. Hospital Staff and one of the fathers of this worthy institution and his place on the medical board of the hospital will be hard to fill. He was a past Grand Master A. F. and A. M. being a member of King Hyam Lodge, Summerside and will be buried with full Masonic honors. He was married to Miss Emma Bowness daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Bowness Kensington. Dr. McNeil took sick December 14th last and left here immediately afterwards for Montreal where he underwent an operation which it was hoped would restore him to his former good health. He returned home about three weeks ago and kept gradually weakening until the end came last evening. Dr. Alex as he was familiarly known by a host of friends was revered not only as an eminent physician and surgeon but also as a great citizen and kind friend. He will be missed not only in his own home but in a multitude of homes where his cheerful manner and great skill always brought kindness and relief. Dr. Alex is a name that will go down as one of the island's greatest doctors and one of the most worthy men of the province. He leaves to mourn the loss of a kind and loving husband and father his wife, one daughter Miss Jean at home, one son Frank Summerside and one grandson Master Alexander Stewart McNeil, Summerside also one sister and five brothers. The brothers are Dr. J. F. McNeil, Summerside, Dr. J. W. McNeil, Battledore, Sask.; Rev. Dr. N. A. McNeill Marysville, N. B.; Messrs D. K. McNeill, Outlook, Sask.; and B. Cecil McNeill, Winnipeg, Mrs. C. R. Marsh, India, is a sister. The funeral takes place Tuesday at 2 p. m. to Presbyterian Church, Summerside, thence to Peoples Cemetery. The Guardian joins with the whole community in extending sincere sympathy to the bereaved.

LATEST FROM THE CAPITAL

Other Amendments to Speech from Throne Forecasted.

(Special to the Guardian) OTTAWA, Feb. 7.—Observers forecast other amendments to the speech from the Throne pursuant to the defeat of the Stevens amendment Friday last and the adoption of the Lapointe motion. The motion for the adjournment carried in the House of Commons by a majority of eight after a stubborn fight from the Conservative opposition and there remains now the formal motion for address in reply to the speech from the Throne to be disposed of before the adjournment can take place and the cabinet reorganization be proceeded with. There has already been an exhaustive debate on the address in reply and at first it was not thought likely that it would be prolonged much further. Recent developments however have changed the attitude of the Conservative party towards the adoption of the address. There are a number of Conservative speakers on the motion still on the list. The progressives will likely put up several and the government may advance one or two. Before it reaches the final stage there will be some other Conservative amendments to the address. The next amendment is not yet known and has not been definitely decided on. It probably will be moved by Mr. Donald Sutherland, Conservative of South Oxford. Though Mr. Frank Cahill Liberal of Pointe-au-Lac has qualified the Conservative attitude towards the adoption of the address, the fact remains that Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen and his party are strongly opposed to an adjournment to March 16th, and they will naturally take every possible means to keep the House in session till that date. The main reason for this adjournment is to allow cabinet reconstruction. Several Liberal members will resign in order to make way for the new ministers. If the House were in session, this would of course reduce the already small Liberal majority and the government could not carry on. The Premier will likely be elected in Prince Albert, Sask., but the other ministers who will seek re-election are not so sure of coming back to the House and sit on the treasury benches. Another reason which has not been disclosed is that this adjournment will enable the government and especially the Customs Department to prepare for the parliamentary investigation in connection with the charges made by Hon. H. H. Stevens. Like all similar committees appointed by the House of Commons to inquire in certain cases, this one will offer no practical results. Specimens are to be issued shortly calling different witnesses to appear before this parliamentary committee.

Rome Puts Ban On Taxicab "Petting Parties"

(Canadian Press) ROME, Feb. 7.—Taxicab "petting parties" have been banished in the Eternal City by the latest edict in the nation's campaign against the growing influence of the jazz age. All taxicabs equipped with shades which may be drawn across the windows have had these shades fastened shut by means of tiny locks. Each of the locks bears the seal of the Rome prefect so that a chauffeur who permits a client to break a seal to shut himself off from public view can easily be caught. A fine is the penalty.

Canadian Railway Men Seek Wage Increase

(Canadian Press) TORONTO, Feb. 7.—Executive officers of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen and Conductors have, on behalf of 18,000 members in Canada, presented a demand on the Canadian National Pacific and Canadian National Railways, for wage increases of an average of 15 per cent. A. McGovern, General Chairman of the brotherhood, has asked for a reply from the employing companies by March 2nd next. Early this week the brotherhood employees on the lines in the United States east of Chicago and North of the Chesapeake and Ohio Rivers, made demands, and by a joint arrangement the executives of the Canadian Railways were approached yesterday with petitions for increases. In the United States the demands made call for advances of from \$1 to \$1.50 per day.

Changes in U. S. Volstead Act

(Canadian Press) WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—The Treasury has drafted recommendations for a series of changes in the Volstead Act and other statutes having to do with enforcement of prohibition, in order to meet new conditions. The proposed changes were drafted by Assistant Secretary Andrews in the light of his experiences as chief enforcement officer and have been approved by Secretary Mellon. They will be submitted to Congress immediately. The character of the changes desired was not disclosed at the Treasury today but there were indications that the programme included application of a graduated scale of penalties to differentiate between wholesale violations and help pocket offenses.

Canadian Immigration Figures

(Special to the Guardian) OTTAWA, Feb. 7.—In the month of December, 1925, a total of 7,423 Canadians who had been living in the United States for six months or longer returned to the Dominion, according to a statement of the Department of Immigration and Colonization. For the first nine months of the present fiscal year the total is 53,529. The total immigration to Canada for nine months of the fiscal year ended Dec. 31st was 74,115. Of this number 31,004 were British, 14,988 from the United States and 28,128 from other countries.

TRAGIC DEATH ITALIAN PRINCESS OF RUSSIAN TALKS PLAINLY TO GERMANY

Found Murdered in Moscow Street—Pathetic Story Behind Warning Regarded as Almost Equal to Declaration of War.

(Canadian Press) MOSCOW, Feb. 7.—Princess Obolonsky, 23 years old, a member of one of the oldest families in Russia was found murdered today in the snow outside a bath house in one of Moscow's principal streets. Police say the murderer is the janitor of an adjacent house, and that he already has confessed his guilt. Behind the crime is a story of one of the most pathetic tragedies of Russia's great social upheaval, going back to the revolution of 1917 before which the girl's family was one of the proudest of the Czarist regime. When the bolsheviks seized power it is said that the Young Princess governess, in whose care she had been placed, deserted her and escaped abroad. Helpless, destitute and alone, the Princess Obolonsky, several of whose relatives had found refuge in other lands, took shelter in one of Moscow's numerous night asylums for beggars. Later she drifted into a life of the streets, seeking support from any one who would give her food and lodging. The house of Obolonsky traces its ancestry to Rurik, one of three daughters to whom legend attributes the foundation of the Russian dynasty about 882 A. D.

Chinese Seize Presbyterian Mission Property

(Canadian Press) PEKING, Feb. 7.—Excess against British missionaries is reported in Eastern Kwantung Province. Chinese troops are said to have seized property belonging to the English Presbyterian mission at Choochow and to have damaged some of the missionaries' houses. At Swatow on the coast Chinese Communist students drove authorities out of the Anglo Chinese College which belongs to the English Presbyterian Mission.

Think U. S. Will Have Right To Claim Land

(Special to the Guardian) DETROIT, Feb. 7.—Although the question of whether the Detroit Arctic expedition, members of which left here yesterday, could claim land discovered in the name of the United States was raised by Wade Mills, President of the Michigan Bar Association, members of the Detroit Aviation Society sponsoring the expedition expressed no such fears. Mills brought up the fact that Captain George H. Wilkins, commander of the expedition, is an Australian and a British subject but admitted in his letter to Edwin Denby, former Secretary of the Navy and Honorary President of the Detroit Aviation Society, that he did not know the legal aspects of the question. Promoters of the expedition explained that Major Thomas G. Lampher, commander of the first pursuit group, United States Army, will accompany Captain Wilkins and will officially claim for United States any land discovered.

Mr. J. A. Messervey And Railway Block

URGES ACTION BY MANAGEMENT OF RAILWAY The following telegram was received from Ottawa Saturday afternoon: "Interviewed Deputy Minister of Railways who is arranging quick action clearing railway lines or island. I urge great necessity of using two new first class rotary ploughs between Borden and Tignish and Borden and Charlottetown. Wire if this is being carried out. Write conditions of line Tormentine to Sackville. J. A. MESSERVEY

THE TRAINS

After two days of strenuous fighting with the snow drifts, the Prince Edward Island Railway again beginning to resume its normal service, the lines being already cleared between Souris, Charlottetown and Borden, with snow fighting trains and crews at work on the remaining branches.

The new rotary plough, which arrived in the city just a day before the storm that has tied up the service started, has been working steadily on the Borden line since Saturday morning, and reached Emerald Junction at 4:30 a. m. on Sunday. There it was met by another train working from Borden, thus completely clearing the Borden-Charlottetown branches. The rotary which is progressing at a rate of about two miles an hour, is being propelled by three engines and when last heard from was a mile out of Summerside. It will continue until the line has been cleared right to Tignish. Fair progress is also being made on the eastern and southern lines, a train working from Charlottetown reaching Souris at 4:20 yesterday afternoon. A train from Georgetown has reached Montague, and another snow fighter will go to her aid from the city this morning. The Murray Harbor train had reached Wood Islands at 6:30 last night. The mails and fifty passengers from the mainland arrived in the city at half past two yesterday afternoon. While some of the passengers have been storm stayed at Sackville since the blockade began on Thursday, the greater number were not detained for the full time it lasted. Among the more unfortunate passengers were the hockey team from Sydney, who have been four days getting to their destination. Many of the railway cuttings, the worst being on the Murray Harbor line, are in the vicinity of twenty feet in height. One of the deepest cuttings is at Kelvin, where the Summerside train stalled on Thursday. The passengers on this train were transferred to Kensington by team on Saturday morning.

LABOR LEANS TOWARD LLOYD GEORGE

Snowden's Approval of Land Policy Taken as Significant

LONDON, Feb. 7.—The gesture of Philip Snowden, former Chancellor of the Exchequer, praising Lloyd George's land policy, with a bow and a smile in the direction of the former Premier in the House of Commons last night, and the latter's animated discussion with Snowden on the front opposition bench, after which the little Welshman left the House with a happy smile, is regarded significantly by those who watched the very small straws to see which way the political wind is blowing. The encounter was taken generally to mean that Lloyd George's approach to the Laborites is gaining favor in some quarters and already there is talk of coalition. It is recalled that the war Premier recently said that he was determined that some party should adopt his land policy which is said to be in general accord with labor principles and which has been denounced by the Tories as socialistic. This is the second occasion in which Snowden has made a gesture of friendliness within 10 days. The rank and file of labor however are still hostile to any such a move. The Manchester Guardian, Liberal, takes the view that as Lloyd George's complete land scheme rests fundamentally upon the resumption by the Crown of the ownership of the land, it will obviously earn the approval of all Socialists. "Mr. Snowden certainly meant no more than that—if so much," the Guardian adds, "his remark was by the way and was not a political gesture of any sort."

B. C. to Appeal For Return of Territory

(Canadian Press) VANCOUVER, B. C., Feb. 7.—While maintaining that the principles of confederation were right, British Columbia's experience in the Dominion has not been fully satisfactory, and the union of the provinces as a whole has not been fully successful, Hon. John Oliver, Premier of British Columbia told a meeting of the Canadian Club here last night. The Premier disclosed some of the forgotten incidents of the history of the province, and declared that by a remarkable piece of legislation which could not have been understood by the members of the legislature, the terms of union by which the province had entered confederation had been altered and the Dominion had gained more than nine million acres of land than was contemplated by the terms of union in 1871. These facts, the Premier intimated, would be the basis of the appeal being made to Ottawa for a return of the Peace River Block.

Mother of Film Star Killed In Auto Crash

(Canadian Press) LOS ANGELES, Feb. 7.—Mrs. H. Prevost, mother of Marie Prevost, the film star, was killed and Al Christie, screen comedy producer, and Vera Steedman, motion picture actress, were injured in an automobile accident last night.

Announcements, Coming Events, Meetings, Etc.

- **Queen's County L. O. L. meets in Kingston Hall, Tuesday, Feb. 9th at 10 a. m. 7587 S. 21. **Dance at Corran Ban Hall, Thursday night Feb. 11. If stormy first night. 7586 S. 21. **Best concert of the year. A wonderful variety of talent of the very choicest vocal numbers unexcelled, violin solos unsurpassed, readings and monologues with a dash of jazz and comedy to make the laugh, dancing features and specialty acts to please all. Come and enjoy it and help the Charlottetown Hospital. Strand theatre, Feb. 9th. Watch for program. 7560-25-31

OTTAWA, Feb. 7.—The committee appointed to probe H. H. Stevens smuggling charges will probably meet for organization and determination of procedure early next week. The committee may testify as desired at the House adjournment when the House adjourns. The probability is that when its sessions start they will be continuous. The question of whether the committee will be handicapped by inability to compel witnesses to testify was answered by Hon. G. H. Boulton in the House today when he pointed out that the committee's enquiry will probably continue until after the House resumes when the full authority of parliament can be invoked to punish reluctant witnesses.

Dr. Alexander Ross Dies in Vancouver

Mr. K. J. Martin, Stipendiary Magistrate, Charlottetown, received a telegram yesterday bringing the sad news of the death of Dr. Alexander Ross, which occurred yesterday in Vancouver. No particulars have been received. Dr. Ross left Charlottetown some two years ago for British Columbia, where he has since resided. The heartfelt sympathy of the whole Province will go out to Mrs. Ross and family in their sad bereavement. It is understood from the telegram that interment will take place in Vancouver.

Books Wanted In Fruit Plot Trial Burned

VANCOUVER, Feb. 7.—Harold Bentley, superintendent of the Calgary incinerator, testifying yesterday afternoon in the trial here in assize court of the Nash Fruit conspiracy case, stated that books and papers of the Mitchell Fruit Company, Calgary, in April last, were destroyed in that city's incinerator. The Mitchell Fruit Company is a defendant.

HAS LOWEST BIRTH RATE

LONDON, Feb. 7.—Britain has the lowest birth rate in the world, according to figures just published. Even the French low record is being passed, and there has been a 25 per cent reduction in the size of families recently. These revelations are made known in the provisional figures issued by the Registrar General. During last year the birth rate in England and Wales fell to 18.3 per 1,000, which compares with Russia with a 46.2 per thousand, and France 18.7. While the birth rate dropped from 24.1 in 1913 the marriage rate is the same as during that year. Thus the number of children per marriage decreased by one quarter. This is allegedly attributable to insufficient nourishment, wrong living conditions, and birth control. The death rate was 12.2 in England and Wales last year.

Condensed Specials

RATE—4c. per word, net each insertion in this column. *RUMMAGE SALE, MARKET Building, Tuesday, Feb. 9th, at 9:30 a. m. 7586. *WANTED—EXPERIENCED MAID Apply at 144 Pownall Street, 7588 S. 31. *SAUBAGES—50c lb. Sausages, Newsworld Co. 23-9-5m. *YOU WANT GOOD ENVELOPES Prices 50 to 20c, 150 to 1,500. 350 to 55c, 500 to \$1.00, 3,500 to \$1.50. Postpaid. Guardian Office. *JOB PRINTING OF EVERY description, cheaply and expeditiously executed. Guardian Central Job Printing, Phone 132.

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