THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded 1887)

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink."

FRIDAY, JANUARY, 6, 1939

The Sales Tax

The Ottawa correspondent of the Montreal Gazette predicts that at the coming session of Parliament the King Government, as an election-eve gesture, may reduce the sales tax to 4 per cent. This notwithstanding the unbalanced budget and the millions required to meet the extra liabilities incurred in pegging the price of western wheat. If the Government acts in accord with this prediction it will be running true to form. It will be recalled that the first King Government, after increasing the sales tax from 3 to 6 per cent, and collecting $612,000,000 revenue from this source in the succeeding seven years, sliced the rate to 1 per cent before going to the electors, Liberal efforts to capitalize on this piece of "generosity" in the following election campaign proved a sorry failure. The incoming Conservatives were forced, in 1931, to raise the tax to 4 per cent and in the following year to the former Liberal rate of 6 per cent, the country at that time being in the trough of the world's worst depression, with millions of revenue required to meet unemployment and other emergency problems.

A great hullabaloo was raised by Liberal opposition members at restoration of the 6 per cent rate. It was made a major issue in the subsequent federal campaign of 1935, when the promise was given that this tax would be abolished altogether if the King Government was returned.

We all know the sequel. Mr. King and his followers were victorious, and at the next session of Parliament the sales tax was increased to the all-time high level of 8 per cent, where it has since remained. In the last fiscal year alone, $142,000,000 was collected by the King Government from this source.

Now, according to the Gazette correspondent, we are to see a repetition of the Liberal trick of sales tax reduction before facing the electors, with no guarantee, of course, that the existing exoribtant rate will not be restored in the event of another Liberal victory. It reminds one of the old adage:

"The devil was sick, the devil a saint would be;
The devil was well, the devil a saint was he."

A Stern Warning

It is a far cry from the traditional isolationist policy of the United States of a few months ago to the speech which President Roosevelt delivered this week before the session of Congress. No nation, the President declared, can be safe today in its "will to peace" so long as any other single powerful nation refuses to settle its grievances at the council table. "We have learned that survival can not be guaranteed by arming after the attack begins . . . We have learned that long before any overt military act, aggression begins with preliminaries of propaganda, subsidized penetration, the loosening of ties of good will, the stirring of prejudice and the incitement to disunion."

No better summing up has been made of the activities of Germany under Nazi rule. The fact that the German ambassador was present during the President's speech to Congress added emphasis to this pointed warning. Moreover, said Mr. Roosevelt, "we have learned that God-fearing democracies of the world which observe the sancitity of treaties and good faith in their dealings with other nations can not safely be indifferent to international lawlessness anywhere. They can not forever let pass, without effective protest, acts of aggression against sister nations—acts which automatically undermine all of us."

It is impossible, of course, to estimate the effect of the President's speech in the totalitarian countries where independent expression of opinion is prohibited. In France and England, however, it has been construed as indicating a marked change in United States foreign policy, bringing Washington into closer alignment with European democracies.

Quebec's Example

Publicity was recently given through the Canadian Press to the Quebec Government's farm colonization scheme, based, it is stated, on the Government's "firm conviction that the province will not prosper if agriculture, its basic industry, does not."

Started in 1936, when the Duplessis Government came into power, the scheme is primarily for the purpose of colonizing rich but undeveloped sections in the northern counties of Temiskaming and Abitibi, but it also includes the rehabilitation of abandoned farm properties in old parishes. Already more than 20,000 persons, including unemployed and their families, debt-burdened farmers and their sons, have been settled in groups of 20 to 50. Roads, churches and schools were built immediately a new community was formed. If the colonists are new to farming and land-clearing, specially organized schools teach them how it is done.

In this Province we have no virgin areas to be cleared. No pioneering labour at all is required, only Government initiative in establishing a colonization bureau to supervise and assist in the work of rehabilitating the once flourishing farms, numbering over 500, which are now standing vacant. The example of the Quebec Government shows that this problem can be dealt with in a practical way, under conditions much more difficult than exist in Prince Edward Island.

Editorial Notes

Fall of the old British Empire in France by the loss of Calais, this date, 1558.

* * * *

Students in Hanover, New Hampshire, have bet Herr Hitler $5 that he could not tell the difference between blood samples of four races. That is nothing knew—both Isaac and Little Red Ridinghood failed in somewhat similar tests.

* * * *

Exports of farm implements and machinery i. November totalled $425,012 compared with $340,196 in October and $890,806 last year, while imports amounted to $723,446 compared with $650,660 in October and $925,426 in November, 1937.

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Miami Beach is one of the few major cities of the United States which has no industries. The one exception, if it could be called that, is tourists. But city ordinances prohibit operation of any sort of manufacturing plants within the city limits.

* * * *

Christian ethics can never be reduced to a legal system, according to Lord Stamp, British economist, who in a lecture a few days ago at London University held that the religious factor and economics must always be a "blend," and, as the vital force in advancing civilization must have to do with motives rather than the mere mechanics of the economic order, the function of the Church lies in changing men and women and not in advocating schemes of changed society.

* * * *

The value of the living animals exported in November was $1,358,427 compared with $1,-039,332 in October and $781,471 a year ago. Most of the exports went to the United States, there being 854 cattle for the improvement of stock sent to that country, along with three to New Zealand and eight to Newfoundland. Imports amounted to $391,087 as against $101,385 in the previous month and $398,013 in November, 1937.

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The accoustics in both Chambers of Parliament at Ottawa are defective, and endeavours to rectify it by introducing wires and loudspeakers have been frustrated by the "Elder Statesmen" and a section of the newspapermen. The objection on the part of the Elder Statesmen has not been explained, but in the opinion of the Parliamentary Press gallery "improvement" would mean merely that a lot of speeches not worth delivering or hearing would be thrust upon unwilling ears. "The political reporters," we are told, "would appreciate such a thing when good speeches are being made but, unfortunately, a great deal of chaff is mixed with the straw."

* * * *

The British Columbia Government has agreed to make a grant of $3,000 toward holding the Imperial Press Conference in Canada in 1940. The conference will sit in various parts of the Dominion, delegates visiting all the provinces. The federal Government and other provincial governments have been approached for grants, Mr. Pattullo said. A total of $75,000 is being sought for the conference, with the Dominion providing $50,000. It is to be hoped our own Provincial Government will make substantial contribution, for a visit from the Empire Press will be the biggest boost the Province is ever likely to get.

* * * *

Some people have all the luck. Oil was discovered the other day on the 100 acre farm of Mr. Edward Smith, St. Elmo, Ill., and he sold a lease of it to an oil company for $50,000 and a better-than-average royalty on the oil that it produces. Immediately Mr. Smith bought six cars as Christmas presents for each of six children and a seventh car for Mrs. Smith and himself. The only member of the family left without a car was a minor child, who received a bank account providing enough to buy a car when he reaches the age of 18.

* * * *

The November export of Canadian cheese amounted to 125,357 cwt. valued at $1,801,104 compared with 121,653 worth $1,779,844 in the previous month and 147,612 at $2,158,655 in the corresponding month last year. The total to the United Kingdom was 120,332 cwt. The imports of cheese in November totalled 189,774 cwt. at $45,575 against 146,442 worth $34,139 in October and 223,806 at $54,847 in November, 1937. The amount from France was 54,-365 cwt., Italy 39,251, Switzerland 39,120, Denmark 14,664 and the United States 13,846.

* * * *

According to Rev. George W. Webber, Secretary of the Lord's Day Alliance, Ontario Provincial Government is tending towards the recognition of professional Sunday sports. Provincial Attorney-General Gordon Conant said there should be modification of Sunday "Blue Laws." "There is nothing in the Lord's Day Act of 1906 to forbid personal recreation," Mr. Webber said. "Any ban on personal recreation to which objection is taken, is wholly due to the act of 1845. The 1906 Federal act does not forbid Sunday recreation; it forbids the business of sport on Sundays. There is nothing in the act that I know of to stop people from playing baseball or like games, so long as they are not commercial in any way." In supporting the attorney-general Mr. Hepburn said: "Certain games and shows are permitted in other provinces and states on Sundays and I cannot see that Ontario's morals are very much superior."

* * * *

Mussolini would like, no doubt, to follow Hitler in purging Italy of its Jewish population, but his undertaking would be much more upsetting that that of his "blood brother" in Germany. In Italy's army, eleven generals are Jewish. Three hundred university professors, 14 Senators are Jewish and at least seven leading medical schools are directed by Jewish scientists. In the field of law, Minister of State Lodovico Mortara, former Presiding Judge of the Supreme Court, is Jewish. Professor Vivante, who wrote Italy's commercial code and Federico Cammeo, who drafted the conciliation treaty between the Vatican and overwhelmingly Catholic Italy, are Jewish. Just before the World War Italy had General Luigi Luzzatti, a Jew, as Prime Minister. During the war the Minister of War, General Guiseppe Ottolenghi was in the cabinet.

NOTES BY THE WAY

General Lord Gort, chief of the Imperial General Staff, says that recent and present wars prove that the lion's share of the fighting must still be done by the infantry. Bombers may fly overhead and cavalry gallop about in tanks, but the rifleman must foot it and dig in, now as ever. —Montreal Gazette.

Protesting the folly of hemispherical isolation, Sir George Parish warns Washington that Uncle Sam may yet need the help of Great Britain to fight off the combined forces of Germany. Italy and Spain in which event Unc would certainly need the help of somebody—and who better able to give it than old John Bull? —Windsor Daily Star.

People living in the neighborhood of piggeries established hereabouts will know how to sympathize with the residents of Cooksville, Ont., who are protesting against the establishment there of a second piggery making use of garbage on the ground that they need gasmasks in order to sleep anywhere in the vicinity of the existing plant. —Brockville Recorder and Times.

Self-Discipline, voluntarily practised by the individual, and self-discipline imposed through those whom we freely elect to high office of government, are essential if the Democracies are to meet successfully the challenge of the newer forms of political theory which are all making a bid for the support of youth. —Napanee Beaver.

Canada produced 110 air liners in 1937. That is the beginning of a huge output of planes for commercial and military use. Only Russia surpasses Canada in its use of airplanes for essential freight services, but Canadian air progress has been made almost entirely as a commercial enterprise without government aid to date. —Brantford Expositor.

Commenting on the advice that Canadians eat more butter to use up the surplus, the New York Herald Tribune says: "Field Mashall General Hermann Wilhelm Goering, Adolf Hitler's aide, has told Germans, who have to stand in queues and buy butter on rations, that it is more important to have cannon than butter, explaining that cannon make a nation strong, but butter only makes it fat." — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Some people have a tendency to drink the country out of debt, and themselves into the grave, but from figures in the Financial Post this week there are a lot of Canadians smoking the country out of the red. The Dominion Government takes $40,000,000 a year in excise and sales tax on tobacco products and it would take the great Lake Shore Mine nearly 2 1-2 years to produce that much gold. Nearly 7,000,000,000 cigarettes are marketed in Canada during the year. —St. Catharines Standard.

Agriculturists in Ontario send more children to the University of Western Ontario than any other group of parents following one occupation, according to a report of the president of the university presented to the board of governors recently. The farmers lead all other occupations, with 534 students at "Western," which speaks well for the agriculturists of the finest farming area in the world. —Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Since his retirement from office Captain Eden has shown praiseworthy sportsmanship and restraint. In reply to a query by a New York reporter, he declared, for instance, that he had said all he had to say about Munich in the British House of Commons. And he has by no means hurt his personal prestige by that attitude. There are a large and growing number of Englishmen who are coming to believe that his foreign policy is the only one possible after all. — Quebec Chronicle - Telegraph.

Robert Robertson, we gather, has been a member of the Big Arm municipal council for 21 years without a break. He has been reeve since 1921 and has just been re-elected to that post. He has yet to miss a council meeting and he has attended hundreds of them. Since 1917 he has travelled 30,000 miles on municipal business. Big Arm municipality has no bonded indebtedness and barely any indebtedness of any kind, suggesting that Reeve Robertson has been a careful pilot of the municipal ship. —Regina Leader-Post.

The greatest war of words the world has ever known is being fought today by antagonistic newspapers. And yet it is a wholesome sign. The more we talk, the less we actually fight. The more we call names, the less likely we are to actually indulge in physical violence. This war of words is providing an amazing outlet to international hysteria which might otherwise have long since translated itself into grimmer action. —Vancouver Sun.

When Hugo Blechschmidt conducted a Los Angeles performance of "Salome" some seasons ago he noted in his reading of the score that Strauss had written in a part for an instrument known as the Heckelphone. This isn't something you razz political candidates with. It's an oboe-like affair but pitched one octave lower. L. A. had never heard of a Heckelphone. None was to be found locally. It had to be sent by air. Then the sole services of one man alone were required to give it but two toots during the entire opera—and muted toots at that!—Harrison in Windsor Star.

Most important event of the Metropolitan's week was the revival, after 14 years, of Verdi's Falstaff. To sign its title role, Baritone Lawrence Tibbett donned a five-bushel stuffed stomach and so plastered his face with makeup that only his lips and eyeballs could move. Getting him into his costume took four men an hour and forty-five minutes. Tibbett himself sweated away five pounds during the performance. The audience, delighted by the ingratiating and sophisticated Verdi score, thought the effort worthwhile. —Time.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

INSULIN AN ADVANCE IN TREATMENT OF MENTAL PATIENTS

One of the stories we used to hear when in our teens was of the patient in the mental hospital who watched workmen digging in some hard clay. He questioned one of the workmen as to the amount of wages he received, how many hours he worked, and as to the quantity and quality of the food he ate. After learning this and comparing it with his own life in the institution, he laughed and said, "And I am supposed to be crazy."

It is these "satisfied" mental patients that form the largest single group of patients in our mental hospitals. They are called schizophrenics or dementia praecox patients, who live in a 'persistent dream state' in which they believe or have made themselves believe that they are important individuals—kings, emperors, wealthy business men. Naturally, this is a more satisfying life than being out in the world where their kingly position or huge wealth means nothing and they have to work and obey like other men.

What is the result?

Because of their contentment with the protected life in the mental institution they live a long time. And because they do live a long time it is estimated that not less than 25 to 50 percent of all the inmates of mental hospitals belong to this class—dementia praecox.

Fortunately it is in this very large percentage of mental patients that the new treatment of insulin shock has given brilliant results. Just why this treatment gives results is as yet unknown. Some research workers think that the deep sleep or unconsciousness enables the patient to forget or get completely away from the cause which disturbed his mental balance.

Before the insulin treatment was known, a large number of these dementia praecox patients recovered under the usual methods of treatment, so the question arises as to whether the insulin treatment is really a better method.

Dr. Norman L. Easton, Director of Research, Ontario Hospital, New Toronto, Canada, compared two groups who received the same food, same amount of rest, same medical attention except that one group received insulin and the other did not. The results showed that while 65 percent of those taking insulin were able to leave hospital, just 40 percent of those not taking the insulin recovered. Dr. Easton states that he is firmly convinced that more can be done for schizophrenics with insulin than without it.

Needn't Pity The Oyster

(Australian Press Bureau)

Sympathy for oysters eaten alive is wasted sympathy, according to T. Ireland, F.R.Z.S., Australian Museum Conchologist.

He laughed at a statement of the president of the New South Wales Gun Club (Captain J. R. Patrick) that "sticking forks in live oysters and eating them was the cruellest thing he knew."

Ireland spends his life among fish and shells.

"You can cut an oyster into 50 bites, and it will feel no pain," said Mr. Ireland joyfully.

"It's about as sensitive as the sole of my boot."

The Poets' Corner

EXPERIMENT

Some believe the slumber
Of trees is in December
When timber's naked under sky
And squirrel keeps his chamber.

But I believe their fibres
Awake to life and labour
When turbulence comes roaring up
The land in loud October,

And plunders woods and sunders
And sends the leaves to wander,
And undisguise prickly shapes
Beneath the golden splendor.

Form returns. In warmer,
Seductive days, disarming
Its firmer will, the wood grows soft
And spreads its dreams to murmur.

Into earnest winter,
Like souls awaked, it enters;
The hunter Frost and the cold light
Have quelled the green enchanter.

O. S. Lewis.

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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.

HYGIENIC EXPLANATION

Sir,—Please grant me the privilege of using your Paper to inform the Public of the method used in the disposal of the contents of the sputum cups, etc., removed from the Provincial Sanatorium by our trucks.

Our orders to the truck drivers are as follows, and always have been:

All bags containing the cups, etc., are to be placed into special metal containers and said containers brought to the dump and then emptied into the Incinerator and immediately burned. The container is then burned on the inside and disinfected, taken to the Sanatorium the next day, and exchanged for the full ones.

Unfortunately I have been out of the Province for about a month and have only just returned. During my absence the Incinerator has been out of action owing to burnt out fire bars and the men have been burning the refuse in the open. We assure everyone concerned that all garbage of this nature is now burned in the Incinerator.

We are quite sure that Mr. H. W. MacLean was actuated by the same ideal that was in the writer's mind when I formed the Hygienic Service Company Limited, i. e., "Service to the Public." I want to thank him for calling our attention to this matter, although I think it could have been remedied even more promptly if he had phoned our office.

I am, Sir, etc.,
JOHN HEARN,
Hygienic Service Company Ltd.

BRIGHTON BRIDGE PROJECT

Sir:—A few days ago, a correspondent in a local paper wrote in a rather critical manner regarding the proposed Brighton Bridge project and insinuated that this project in comparison with many others that might be mentioned was one of rather slight concern. In this instance, it is quite apparent that the writer, who in some instances at least, is extremely solicitous of farmer interests, has in this case forgotten that this Bridge affects not a few people but some thousands of farmers in the finest farming community to be found anywhere in Canada, a community extending from Rocky Point and North River on one end to Cape Traverse and Tryon on the other. This community is without boat or rail services and without permanent highway facilities, a fact that is a disgrace to both political parties in the Province. The deepening of Charlottetown Harbor to eighty feet and the establishment of a row of wharves that would accommodate the the merchant marine of the world is not as important to the farmers of this district in spring and fall when roads are bad as is a permanent highway to Charlottetown and the cutting off of four miles in distance by the construction of the Brighton Bridge. From the standpoint of work for the laboring men and release of added capital, the Brighton Bridge is not a smal. matter for Charlottetown labor and business, neither is it going to be a small thing for business interests in Charlottetown to become more directly connected with this fine farming district and its trade possibilities, which, through lack of facilities, is now going to a large extent to the mail order houses and in other directions. From a tourist standpoint, the Brighton Bridge is exceedingly important bringing the tourist from the boat to Charlottetown in one half hour over a country-side of remarkable scenic attractions and approaching the capital over a bridge that enhances the beauty of City, Harbor and surrounding landscape. The Brighton Bridge will also shorten and make more easy winter traffic for it has been now proved that the South Shore route may very easily be kept open for winter traffic and also for the traffic to Summerside and points west. The people of Charlottetown and points east will also find the Brighton-South Shore route, both winter and summer, one of rare convenience in coming from and going to the mainland.

The Brighton Bridge project instead of being of secondary consideration is a project of outstanding importance to all the people of this Province and should from the standpoint of importance to our people receive immediate and prompt consideration.

I am Sir, etc.,
ULYSSES.

FERTILIZER BOAT

Sir,—The executive of L. P. U. wish to express their thanks and apreciation to Capt. Kelly and his crew of the S. S. Brant and also to Wallace McDonald, Port Pilot for bringing the S. S. Kamroy to this port on New Year's Day. Those men did splendid work under adverse weather and ice conditions without any buoys to guide them on their course. They also wish to sincerely recommend and thank all the members of the L. P. U. for their untiring efforts during day and night to unload the cargo of fertilizer in record time The boat arrived on New Year's morning well coated with snow and ice. At sharp one o'clock that day while most of our citizens were enjoying the festival season the longshoremen rigged with winter clothing, commenced the task of unloading that dirty cargo which was settled and baked unusually hard in the holds. The work was continued until 2 A. M. on Monday morning. Work was again commenced on Monday, a holiday, at 8 A. M..

This work was kept going from 8 A. M. until 2 A. M. each day and night with the temperature around the zero point especially during the night hours. During many of those hours after 8 P. M. it was not fit for men to expose themselves to the wind and weather that prevailed. As a general rule the weather and temperature on the waterfront is far more severe than it is in the sheltered parts of the city, especially so in the month of January.

The longshoremen were advised that an ice-breaker was speeding to this port to take the Kamroy out as soon as the cargo was dicharged. On receipt of this information every union man was put to work with hoes, picks and shovels, and as stated, continued for sixteen hours each day. Representatives of the Board of Trade advised 24 hours work each day without consideration of the hardships our men were enduring for sixteen hours. Now the boat is discharged and no sign of that ice breaker.

The rate of pay for discharging fertilizer in this port is seventy five cents per hour or eighty five cents per ton. In Saint John, N. B., the rate is ninety cents per hour and on Sundays and holidays such as last Sunday and Monday the rate in Halifax and Saint John is $1.80 per hour. Our men had to be content with only 70 cents per hour, as that was the rate averaged per contract.

The Union executive would like to have better co-operation from the Board of Trade and others who can help out in a time like this. The Union men are willing and ready to work day and night to relieve any emergency that may arise on the waterfront. Now that the weather is mild and no ice breaker for the next two days, why not load this boat with part of her cargo in this port?

We are Sir, etc.,
EXECUTIVE L. P. U.

"WORN OUT" AND WORRIED

Dragging around each day unable to do housework — cranky with the children — feeling miserable. Blaming it on "nerves" when the kidneys may be out of order. When kidneys fail the system clogs with impurities. Headaches — backache, frequently follow. Dodd's Kidney Pills help clear the system, giving nature a chance to restore health and energy. Easy to take. Safe. 116

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A Chair Of Entomology

(Winnipeg Free Press)

New Brunswick is demonstrating that the older provinces are not necessarily unprogressive. Forests are to her what fertile soil is to the Prairie Provinces, and the care of the forests and promotion of forest industries are so important to her that the University of New Brunswick has long had a department which is one of the best teaching centres of scientific forestry on the continent. Another step forward will be taken next year with the establishment in that department of a chair of Entomology, the first in any Canadian university. This is in recognition of the very heavy loss caused to the forests by insects of different kinds.

When the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association granted three scholarships this year for the study of forest entomology, it was necessary to send the students out of Canada to obtain instruction. Next year that will not be necessary, with the progressive spirit being shown by the New Brunswick government and its university.

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