

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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TUESDAY, MAY 22, 1934.

THE RAILWAY QUESTION

The enormous railway indebtedness saddled on the taxpayers of Canada during the Mackenzie King regime, reviewed by Mr. W. Chester S. McLure, M.P. in his trenchant address on the Budget, which was published in yesterday's Guardian, will come as a surprise to many people who are not familiar with the figures. These expenditures in many instances were absolutely unwarranted, and in this connection Mr. McLure's speech was particularly effective, inasmuch as he quoted from the actual findings of the Duff Commission which made a thorough investigation into the whole question of railway financial difficulties. The Duff Commission report shows plainly that there was flagrant political interference under the Liberal government, when legitimate expenditures were ignored and the officials were forced to squander money right and left in order to keep the Liberal political machine running on high gear.

Quoting from the report, Mr. McLure showed, among other things that in 1929 Liberal railway commitments cost the tax payers \$270,000,000; in addition, the ordinary annual supplies for 1929 cost \$132,000,000 and in that year they also purchased branch lines costing over \$40,000,000—lines which were bankrupt, which had never paid and never would pay, and whose operating income would scarcely be sufficient to pay the interest charges. The Duff Commission summed up the situation in reporting: "It is impossible to avoid the conclusion that the directors and management of the Canadian National were amenable to public influences and pressure which it would have been in the public interest to have withstood."

The means by which political pressure was applied to the railway management were also exposed by Mr. McLure. Answering the excuse often given that the railway management and not the Liberal Government was responsible, the Queens County member showed that the late Sir Henry Thornton's contract as general manager expired on April 4, 1929, and was not renewed until September, 1929, — a clear case of holding a political club over the manager's head, and keeping the renewal of his contract in abeyance until he had complied with the extravagant demands of Liberal politicians.

Today the railway management is entirely out of the hands of the government in power. Yet the local Liberal organ brazenly attempts to saddle on the Bennett Government the responsibility for the economies which the railway officials are making, and which have been necessitated by the ruinous expenditures incurred while the management was under the thumb of the Mackenzie King Government. Such line of argument shows to what straits the Opposition press has been reduced. Its partisan attack on Government members in connection with the changes in the railway summer time table—a matter entirely in the hands of the railway officials of the Atlantic Region—reveals not only political bias but absolute disregard of the interest of the people for whom it professes to be speaking. If the Liberal press really were concerned about the transportation service, it would endeavor to assist, rather than embarrass by misstatement and political propaganda, the efforts of those who are working to prevent the present critical condition becoming catastrophic.

TWO ELECTIONS

The general provincial elections in both Ontario and Saskatchewan are set for June 19. This is a somewhat unique coincidence, and will add to the interest which naturally centres about the campaign in each province. In Ontario the membership in the Legislature has been reduced from 112 to 90, while Cabinet ministers will be nine in future instead of eleven. The parties have been the Conservatives, in power since 1923, the regular Liberal opposition, with Progressives, Laborites and United Farmers. There will be some new parties in the coming election, expected to be one of the most bitterly fought in years, but it is conceded that the major battle will be between the old-line Liberal and Conservative parties. At the same time the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation is expected to be a factor, with candidates in many ridings. The Government's appeal is based on its record. Premier George B. Henry has stated his administration is prepared to stand or fall on its platform of "rigid economy and careful administration." The Liberal forces, led by Mr. Mitchell Hepburn, M.P., charge the Government with being "woefully reckless and extravagant"—a charge which

is levelled against every administration, and on the merits of which, at this distance, it is idle to comment. The issues will doubtless be well threshed out before polling day. Mr. Hepburn has been charged with making many rash and unfounded statements, but it will be for the people of Ontario to decide what credence to place in his allegations. The Province, at any rate, has made good progress in weathering the economic depression under Conservative administration.

In Saskatchewan the last general election took place on the 6th of June, 1929, when 28 Liberals, 24 Conservatives, 5 Progressives and 6 Independents were returned. When the Legislature met in September the Liberal Government as led by Hon. James Gardiner, who had succeeded Hon. Chas. Dunning when the latter resigned to accept a seat in the Cabinet of Hon. Mackenzie King at Ottawa, was defeated by a combined vote of Conservatives, Progressives and Independents. Hon. J.T.M. Anderson, Conservative, became Premier and the parties to take part in the election fixed for the 19th of next month are the Conservatives led by Mr. Anderson, the Liberals led by Mr. Gardner, whose Government was defeated in 1929 and the Farmer-Labor party, led by Mr. M. J. Coldwell, who is a new man never yet having had a seat in the Legislature.

IMPORTANT MEETING

No institutions are more worthy of support and encouragement than the hospitals of this Province. This is generally admitted, but only those intimately associated with hospital activities are aware of the wonderful work which is being accomplished, under exceedingly difficult financial circumstances, especially during the past few years.

This evening, in St. Paul's Parish Hall, the annual meeting of the Prince Edward Island Hospital takes place. Important business will be transacted, including the election of trustees, and in addition reports will be submitted covering every phase of the hospital's activities. All interested in the work of this splendid organization should make it a point to be present tonight, and obtain the first hand information of what is being done, and of the plans and problems of the immediate future.

AS OTHERS SEE US

The "Daily Express" of London, England, recently published an article entitled "Vast Achievements," which tells of the progress made by Canada toward economic recovery. The article states that "from east to west she (Canada) has accelerated all the movements toward complete recovery." It is (says the Canadian Underwriter in republishing this comment) when we read the following extract that we realize that we are better off than we thought:

"Listen to this, all ye who are wringing pessimistic hands—Since the last snows melted Canada has: "Struck 200,000 off her unemployment roll. "Increased her total trade by 15 per cent. "Ensured a favorable balance of something like \$20,000,000. "Taken 1,200,000 tons of our anthracite. "Brought her total hydro-electric installations up to 7,000,000 horsepower. "Raised internal and external loans for many millions in a few minutes. "Proved that the Ottawa Agreements meant something by sending Britain goods to the value of \$5,000,000 more than the previous year. "Bought 20 per cent. more from us. "Broken all monthly building records since 1930 by placing contracts to the value of \$3,000,000 during October. "Set up a record of \$18,000,000 in gold production. "Also, her railways' receipts have climbed steadily during the last few months for the first time in two years, and "Her ports have done splendid business."

This magnificent record, as seen by a London journal, is certainly a refreshing contrast to the blue-ruin statements of Liberal politicians, who profess to believe that all signs and portents mean "stagnation," rather than sound trade recovery.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Catch from the sea fisheries increased on both coasts of the Dominion in March, 1933, says the Fisheries News Bulletin. The return to the fishermen in landed

Notes By The Way

Washington Post: News that North Atlantic shipping lanes have been moved 60 miles south because of the prevalence of icebergs recalls that 22 years ago (On April 15) newsmen were frantically trying to round up the story of the sinking of the steamer Titanic. Experts in shipping circles and in the Coast Guard report that not for nearly a score of years has so much ice started its flow toward the traffic lanes over which the great liners pass to and fro. The ice patrol, maintained by the Government, is watching day and night for the approach of the huge bergs that travel so softly, enshrouded in mist of their own making.

The world should be bettered, yes. But it should not be bettered by tearing down all the things that have been achieved slowly through the course of the centuries. The order of the day in the economic world and in industry is to retain that which has been proven sound by long experience—and to eliminate and reject that which is unsound, and to add to that which is sound betterments which science and evolution of thought and experiment show to be real improvement. There is no rhyme or reason in any scheme which is based on the supposition that what has been gained in economic development, and destroying the whole structure, while offering nothing as a substitute which has been time-tested.

It would, for instance, be legitimate to point out, says the London Morning Post, that in 1933-34 the payments to the sinking fund and to America were only nominal and that had these liabilities stood at their usual level the surplus would have been converted into a deficit of about similar dimensions. Even so, the surplus, however achieved, is a sufficiently gratifying view alike of the stress of the times and of the contemporary experience of most other countries. It is the result partly of the rigorous pruning of expenditure since 1931, partly of the improvement in trade during the past twelve months, and, above all, of the grim sacrifices which all sections of our community have borne with characteristic cheerfulness and restraint. At long last the time has come when the nation can look forward with confidence to the gradual relaxation of its burdens.

Chancellor Dollfus of Austria is getting so accustomed to being shot at and bombed that he scarcely lifts his eyebrows when another attempt is made to scatter him all over the place. He is small but has a certain amount of courage that even his enemies must admire.

Chicago Tribune: Under a new decree signed by President Mendelsohn in Cuba must send to the Supreme Court of the island government five copies of each communication. To the court is assigned the task of maintaining strict censorship over every line of news or other matter printed in Cuba. Fines of \$100 to \$1,000 and prison terms for those held enough to risk the wrath of the administration. Foreign newspaper correspondents are liable to deportation if they write articles unfavorable to the Mendelsohn government. Any criticism of the administration which can be classified as unwarranted will fall under the provisions of the decree. Presumably the court will decide what is warranted and what is unwarranted.

Illustrations of the fine art of bookmaking as it was practiced in Persia from 250 to 300 years ago may be seen in the Syracuse Forum of Fine Arts. About a dozen Korans written and illustrated by hand, are on display. Each of these books was made by one man. He raised his own herds to get leather for the cover, mined his own gold to buy the dyes, and painted with which to illustrate it and penned the manuscript himself.

OH has been struck in Sussex, the first find on English soil. If it proves to be gusher it will make a sensation in Great Britain. Oil is one great essential of industry and shipping which she lacks. The navy uses oil made from British coal, but it is not yet a commercially profitable process.

You intricate a civilization is apt to destroy itself in time. That has been the history of mankind. Back to nature and back to the simple things have more saving glory to them than all the schemes and devices of the learned. "Pet ideas" are usually no more useful than pet cats or dogs.

As N.R.A. says an exchange, in the United States approaches the end of its first year it faces a two-fold test—a test which will determine how much of it is to be retained as a part of the nation's life. It is confronted, on the one hand, with internal problems as it moves from the stage of organization to that of administration and enforcement; and on the other hand with a barrage of criticism that daily becomes bolder and fiercer as a basis in the faults of a structure admittedly far from perfect. N.R.A. is limited by law to one more year. The first stage of its work is completed, and its future will depend on its record in the second year.

One journalistic observer of the League of Nations palatial building at Geneva says it is "an ominous, clean, quiet, somnolent place," which shows that peace headquarters is at least practicing what it preaches.

That Body of Hours

By James W. Burton, M.D.

MENTAL ILLMENTS OFTEN GET AN EARLY START

If you have a pain in the abdomen or in the head; if you feel dizzy; if your hearing is failing; if you get out of breath easily, or any other condition which is not normal you try to learn what is wrong, either by your own efforts or by the help of a physician. This is simply common sense and you would never think of doing anything else when that body of yours isn't behaving just right. However, you find yourself irritable; find that your ideas are entirely different to what they were and different from those about you, that your feeling of affection for loved ones has changed almost to hate, that you forget readily; that you do foolish things but don't think they are foolish. What do you do under these circumstances? or what do you do if you find a loved one acting in the above manner; in a manner so different from his or her normal self?

You may feel that the condition is a "mental" one and so little or nothing can be done for you or for your loved one. It was this idea that a mental ailment was something "supernatural" as Dr. W. T. B. Mitchell of Montreal pointed out some time ago, that has hindered progress in the treatment of mental ailments. That every bit of human behavior can be "explained," in just the same manner as a pain, ache, attack of dizziness, or shortness of breath in the body.

Thus when a boy or girl in their teens, or young adults begin to "behave" differently; to want to do things that are not the right or proper things for them to do; things that make it hard for them to make any progress themselves or which makes them want to interfere with the rights or progress of others, then some cause for their strange with, or inability to get along with those of the household or community should be sought. As many of these behaviour tendencies got their start just before the school age, the need for parents to be kind but firm in handling their children at this time is most apparent. By watching and attempting to correct the tendencies of their children to be "overshy," to not want to play, to want their own way always, to being "too obedient" or afraid of their parents and others, parents will have the reward of seeing their children keep normal mentally, taking their natural place and responsibility in the community.

The fourth class, those who are almost always drunk, are after all not a measurable factor. Most of them are not of the monied type who can afford to live in luxury. Whatever they can scrape up in usual dollars they invest in booze. The few who can afford to both drink and travel are not the kind of tourists that any but a saloon infested country would care for. The drunken driver, whether of a local character or of a tourist stripe, is not an object of worship in any sober and right-minded community, and not of the kind that we break our necks to entice to our shores. His presence could not be an attraction to the better and greater mass of desirable visitors whom sobriety and temperance and law abiding surrounding are likely to encourage to our shores. And this is the one Province in Canada that can offer these inducements.

The Poet's Corner

GARDEN

In this bright, fecund place she is supreme; All the crown earth lies under her. An empire held in fief to bird and bee Wherein to build reality from a dream. She stands bemused before the lovely scheme To which her skillful fingers hold the key— Visions of fragrant landscapes still to be, Invisible at present, but which seem To appear before her vivid and complete. This is the life which long ago she chose, This is her daily bread, her wine and meat. And still her ultimate secret no one Are these her slaves which flower at her feet, Or does she kneel in homage to the rose? —Orlans Atkinson.

Most stupid of arguments to escape what he calls my "unfounded plea" is to show from the Public Accounts an overdraft of \$500,000 in 1933 and to reduce from this that in 1930, three years earlier, only \$450,000 was applied to liquidate the Leas Government debt of over a million dollars. To make his argument still more absurd he even traverses to an alleged venture issue of 1934 of \$1,950,000 from the overdraft which only \$450,000 of this was "used to reduce the overdraft left by their Liberal predecessors."

A ten year old school-boy, with a grain of intelligence, or a type in accounting would know from the Public Accounts that every dollar of that Liberal Million Dollar Debt had to be discharged or accounted for by the Conservative administration, and, no matter how disagreeable to the Liberal twister, whatever borrowings have been made since over one million dollars of the amount was absolutely applied to pay off that debt.

He knows very little of banking restrictions when he concludes that the newly installed Conservative Government could go on borrowing to carry on the public service ad infinitum. His 1933 \$550,000 overdraft is nothing more than an idiotic red herring attempt to dodge the hard cold facts. With the extraordinary expense of building Palanwood and Prince of Wales College and providing emergency employment funds, and awaiting a debenture from the Legislature to issue highly creditable for these purposes, it is Government over-draft of \$1,000,000 overdraft in 1930 when there were no such enormous undertakings, and infinitely less reason (a-

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.

TOURISTS AND PROHIBITION

Sir,—It was amused, as any one of common sense would be, to read that Senator McArthur attempted to persuade the Dennis Committee that in this Province prohibition would injuriously affect tourist patronage. He did not expound those views when working for the prohibition party in 1927. In further test of inconsistency which is not normal that there was no difficulty in getting booze either in Charlottetown or Summerside. The assumption is that with booze so plenty the guzzler will not come to our Province for fear of parched throat.

There are others who like Senator McArthur will flippantly ease their chests by like utterances. As usual with propagandist devoid of real arguments he rests his case upon his own unsupported, "I have said it." The evidence of fact, as shown in elections for many years, is that at least half the people in the Eastern States are total abstainers. Another large proportion are of a temperate class, occasionally very rarely taking a drink, who favor any legislation to reduce drinking habits. The third section is of the class of regular drinkers, in receipt as well as practice. The fourth is the perpetual guzzler who is scarcely ever sober to whom drink is his god.

Prohibition has met a number of defeats at the polls, not because of decadence of the electorate, and some easily led abstainers, were caljoly liquor propaganda to imagine that a so called control would be productive of better enforced sobriety. The reaction is setting in, these people are learning their mistake, and they saw the error of their ways, repeal, are declaring that their policy of repeal is already proving a failure.

Now how does this situation influence the tourist trade? I have attended large gatherings from many States wherein speakers openly declared their preference for Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, (N. S. was then under Prohibition) because they could anticipate freedom from drunken brawls, drunken drivers making the roads a danger, and pastoral recreations in a clean, sober atmosphere.

If it is true that a large majority of the people are total abstainers and lovers of sobriety, with Prince Edward Island as the only Prohibition Province in Canada, in what direction are they most likely to travel to reach their ideal conditions? Nor is it reasonable to claim that amongst the moderate drinkers there would be any desire to evade our natural attractions because of scarcity of beverages for which they are only an indifferent taste. And more so, if Senator McArthur's assurance of easy booze is accepted as dependable.

The fourth class, those who are almost always drunk, are after all not a measurable factor. Most of them are not of the monied type who can afford to live in luxury. Whatever they can scrape up in usual dollars they invest in booze. The few who can afford to both drink and travel are not the kind of tourists that any but a saloon infested country would care for. The drunken driver, whether of a local character or of a tourist stripe, is not an object of worship in any sober and right-minded community, and not of the kind that we break our necks to entice to our shores. His presence could not be an attraction to the better and greater mass of desirable visitors whom sobriety and temperance and law abiding surrounding are likely to encourage to our shores. And this is the one Province in Canada that can offer these inducements.

I am, Sir, etc., FOR BETTER TOURISTS.

"BORROWING AND BUNGLING"

Sir,—Under above appropriate heading a Gyrator, signed "Liberal Political Student" attempts to rescue his friends from their serious financial entanglements. A little judgment, had him wise to the fact that impotent struggling only gets them deeper into the mire of their bumbling.

A most stupid of arguments to escape what he calls my "unfounded plea" is to show from the Public Accounts an overdraft of \$500,000 in 1933 and to reduce from this that in 1930, three years earlier, only \$450,000 was applied to liquidate the Leas Government debt of over a million dollars. To make his argument still more absurd he even traverses to an alleged venture issue of 1934 of \$1,950,000 from the overdraft which only \$450,000 of this was "used to reduce the overdraft left by their Liberal predecessors."

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Coast to Coast in Canada NEWFOUNDLAND, JAMAICA, CUBA, PUERTO RICO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, NEW YORK, CHICAGO, BOSTON, LONDON, ENGLAND

part from the squandering effort to carry an election) for so stupendous an increase of floating debt. Again, he has overlooked the fact that the huge deficit of the nation ceased to be regarded as accurate in partisan propaganda, or to pass acceptance as true statement of fact. Where does he find from any public record that \$1,250,000 was borrowed by the present Government "at an exorbitant rate of interest?" Certainly not in the Public Accounts. Part of this was borrowed at what was then a reasonable interest of 5 1/2%. Shortly after the money market firm up, interest rates mounted upwards, lenders were steering shy of government loans and several governments and large municipalities were finding it difficult to get funds at any price. The Leas Government debt of over a Million Dollars had to be liquidated due to the heavy demands of the money market. The Government had no alternative to meet the mounting and procure the funds and debentures amounting to \$1,000,000 (not \$1,250,000 as stated by the Gyrators) was issued at 6% to pay off the Liberal debt.

In 1930 money was easier and cheaper. The Leas Government then borrowed \$248,000. (election year) at 5%. In 1928 they borrowed at 4 1/2%. In 1926 they borrowed at 4%. In 1924 they borrowed at 3 1/2%. In 1922 they borrowed at 3%. In 1920 they borrowed at 2 1/2%. In 1918 they borrowed at 2%. In 1916 they borrowed at 1 1/2%. In 1914 they borrowed at 1%. In 1912 they borrowed at 1/2%. In 1910 they borrowed at 1/2%. In 1908 they borrowed at 1/2%. In 1906 they borrowed at 1/2%. In 1904 they borrowed at 1/2%. In 1902 they borrowed at 1/2%. In 1900 they borrowed at 1/2%.

Then that oft repeated the most reckless statement that this debenture sale involved a loss of over "at least \$250,000 to the Province." Imagine a ten year old child, a baby in figures, any one short of a crooked charlatan or fool trying to stuff the thinking public ear with so flagrant a misrepresentation? Had the Government been able to carry the Liberal million dollar overdraft over for a year or more at 5 1/2% they would have saved the country \$150,000, a total for the 15 years life of the debentures of \$75,000. This is what the crooked Gyrators are exaggerating into "250,000 or over" for the purpose of deliberately deceiving the people.

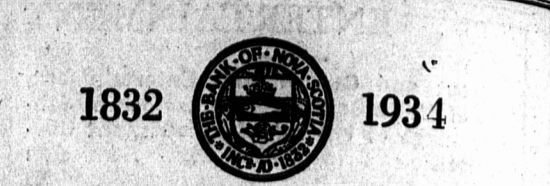
Had the Leas Government funded this debt, as they should have done in 1930, when money was plenty at 5% they would have saved the country \$150,000, a total for the 15 years life of the debentures of \$75,000. This is what the crooked Gyrators are exaggerating into "250,000 or over" for the purpose of deliberately deceiving the people.

And then the gall of it. To magnify the \$75,000 into "250,000 or over" and attempt to saddle this upon their successors! I am, Sir, etc., POLITICAL STUDENT.

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