

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1932

POTATO GROWERS

In times of prosperity governments, public institutions and trading organizations pursue the tenor of their way without much adverse criticism from the man in the street. It is when adverse circumstances set in, and the financing and developing of countries, organizations and other institutions, become difficult that the electors or members of the organization start to ask questions. The Potato Growers Association enjoyed many years of prosperity. Prices were good, markets were abundant, crops were plentiful and the farmer, who was enterprising enough to become a member of the Association, reaped the full fruits of his enterprise. In the past two or three years, however, there has been an economic change, and the Potato Growers Association like other organizations, has come in for its share of depression. Last year, for instance, according to the speakers at the public meeting in Souris, only 40 percent of the anticipated sales were realized, which means that 60 percent of the supply arranged for had to go begging, or lie uncollected and undistributed in storage and warehouse. Because of these happenings it is not unnatural that criticism should be levelled at the management. Adverse critics like to make some specified individuals "the goats", and none more readily are to be found than the directors and management of the organization. So far as can be discovered from the report of the meeting at Souris on Saturday, the chief complaints of the critics are that the New York agent of the association has not discharged the functions of his office satisfactorily, and second, that certain private potato shippers were able to pay more to the farmers for their potatoes than did the association. The first complaint may or may not be justified. That is for the directors of the association to explain at the annual meeting next month. As to the second complaint, it is well known that the private firm referred to entered into a contract with potato growers in the preceding Spring to take their produce at a fixed price, based on the price prevailing in 1930. As luck turned out, the shipping company got the worst of the bargain, and the contracting farmers were in clover. The shoe might have been on the other foot. It was a gamble and, for once, the farmer has had the better of the bet. The fact, however, that there was such a largely attended meeting in Souris indicates that the membership of the Potato Growers Association is not so well informed concerning its affairs as they should be, and, in the present critical times, ought to be. Nothing is to be gained by treating the members with apparent indifference, and running the organization as though it was nobody's business except the directors. The P. E. I. Potato Growers Association is not a private limited liability concern. It is a co-operative organization, and the members should be at frequent, stated intervals fully informed concerning its progress and development. Instead of one annual business meeting in July, (a very awkward time for many farmers) there might be quarterly meetings at which the affairs of the association could be reviewed and discussed by the membership at large. The directors will be well advised, especially in these times, to consider favourably these suggestions, for nothing is to be lost by taking cooperative membership fully into the confidence of the directors regarding marketing conditions and the progress of the association generally. It will be found probably that the greater bulk of the membership will rally to the support of the directors when it realizes confidence is mutual.

FALSE ECONOMY

We are living in changed conditions, and methods and manners of yesterday are not applicable today. This was never more apparent than in the marketing of produce and the employment of labor. There is abundant food stuffs to go around, and yet the big industrial centres cannot purchase them because of lack of means, or rather because of fear that worse times are ahead and, therefore every cent must be hoarded. In a recent issue of Current History, Commander J. M. Kenworthy, the Labor Member for Leith Burghs in the British House of Commons, discusses this very subject and takes the political economists to task. The economies of to-day are taught by the orthodox, he says are out of date because they were meant for a world situation in which famine and scarcity were the normal conditions and in which mankind was engaged in a fierce struggle against the forces of nature. "Men had to save and hoard and put by for a rainy day. But now modern science and industry, with better means of transport and communication, have removed the spectre of famine and want. The need now is to spend, consume and thereby use up the overflowing abundance which every civilized community can produce. "Mass production must be accompanied by mass consumption, otherwise society will either bankrupt itself or seek relief in warfare and destruction. Nevertheless, we continue to urge the practice of thrift and penury, to deflate and restrict credits, when markets, warehouses and granaries are choked with unsaleable goods. "The position is like that of a party of explorers who have crossed a desert. There it was necessary to conserve their water supply, to dole out the precious liquid in daily rations. But now the travellers are in a boat on a great fresh-water lake, and still they dole out their scanty supply of water in little cups and suffer thirst and privation. "The test of whether our present civilization will survive depends upon our solving the modern problem of under-consumption in a world materially richer than ever before. "And it is just on this account that so much is looked for from the coming deliberations at Ottawa, and the subsequent ones in London in November—Democratic leadership is on its trial.

THE TOURIST SEASON

Reference has been made in these columns to the hopeful prospects in the tourist business this year. The Monetary Times offers a few suggestions on this point which are well worth considering. In the first place, prices must be kept at reasonable levels. Incomes are lower with the majority of the people, prices of commodities are lower, and accordingly high rates cannot be looked for. At the same time rates to be charged should be such as to enable those in business to operate on a sound basis. Provided that due consideration is given to these factors, a reasonable amount of business should be done. Many people who have come through a trying business year will regard a holiday as a necessity and accordingly a substantial volume of trade can be developed from this source. Canada's facilities and attractions for the tourist are as great as ever and if properly advertised should attract not only many of our own people but many from the neighboring republic. Holiday seekers from there will be looking for a cheap holiday. The discount on Canadian funds in the United States enables them to save twelve per cent. in actual cash by spending their vacation here.

NOTES BY THE WAY

In connection with the difficulties confronting the Lausanne Conference now in session an exchange says: One direct word is worth more than all the relativly jargon and the bookkeeping devices which have been employed. And Germany has spoken her mind. It is true that the pronouncement made from Berlin is politely phrased and is introduced by a foreword concerning the immediate and paramount need for the spiritual and material renaissance of Germany. This preamble may be digested for whatever it may be worth. But the point to be observed is that Chancellor von Papen has straightly given notice that Germany cannot pay either conditional or unconditional portions of her obligations, and will take no provisions for the discharge of these indemnities nor any renewal of the bond in connection therewith. And in taking this stand the German Chancellor is supported by President Hindenburg and by the public journals and the German people.

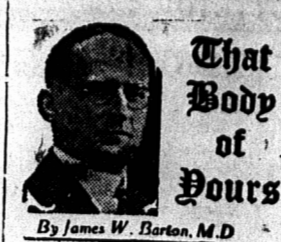
The monthly review of Barclay's bank says: "The issues to be decided at Lausanne are greater than the immediate problems which will then be under consideration. If the prevailing wave of pessimism can be replaced by a spirit of confidence, a recovery in trading activity may be much more rapid than seems possible at the moment. There is, however, little likelihood of confidence being restored until definite evidence is forthcoming that the leading governments are prepared to co-operate to a far greater extent than formerly and to face up to the various international problems, not in any narrow selfish spirit, but with a realization of the fact that in the long run what is best for the world as a whole is best for the individual countries in it. This evidence might be provided at Lausanne and the nations represented at the conference will, therefore, have a grave responsibility and a great opportunity."

It is a tragic fact that, of the twenty old windjammers now taking part in the race from Australia to Europe with grain cargoes, not one flies the British ensign. Hardly less tragic is the fact that, aboard most of these sailing ships, the highest paid man, apart from the skipper, is the sea cook. He often gets 10s a month more than the mate. But even the skipper, highly skilled and expert seaman, average no more than £3 a week. A London bus driver gets more. Yet even so, it is impossible nowadays, with forecastle hands at 10s a month, to make sailing ships pay.

More automobile accidents are caused by nervous bravado than by almost anything else. Take accidents at intersections. A driver pulls up at an intersection where there is a stop sign. If he is a good driver he waits until the through traffic has passed and then proceeds unhurriedly. But not so the driver afflicted by nervous bravado. He sees a short gap between passing cars and suddenly decides to shoot through. Why? Because he is a poor driver and a fool driver at that, and knows it. He is afraid that waiting will stamp him in the eyes of others for what he is. So he wants to show that he really can drive and he shoots ahead. There are screeching brakes, and if an accident is avoided it is avoided by the driver with the right of way. When he feels away unscathed, the poor driver thinks he has indicated his skill. What he has done is to show himself for what he is. One never sees a good driver showing off at intersections, or anywhere else.

Rulers come and go, empires rise and fall, but the laws of supply and demand are unchanging and unchangeable. The fat years always are followed by the lean and, in their turn, these give way to periods of great or greater wealth than peoples ever before had known.

Remember Shapurji Saklatvala, the only person ever to sit as a Communist in the House of Commons in Great Britain. He was defeated in Battersea when seeking re-election three years ago. Saklatvala was a Parsee. They are Indians, whose forefathers migrated from Persia to India about one thousand years ago. Saklatvala's brother, Phiroz D., has just announced in New York City that he has been appointed Persian Consul General of Persia in New York. The new consul used to be active in the oil business. Two years ago he resigned several directorships and went to Persia for an extended trip. As there has not been a Persian Consul in New York for three years the appointment fills a diplomatic vacancy. Some years ago, when Communist Saklat-



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However when the youngster grows older, she is not just so sure of the weekly or monthly gain that should be made, and this uncertainty is a source of worry to some mothers.

Men and women have no difficulty about this, because the weight does not change; the amount of food meeting the needs of the body.

With children there should be an increase in weight although the rate of increase is not the same at all ages, nor is it the same in all children.

What is considered the average number of pounds youngsters should increase at various ages?

Beginning with the second up to the twelfth year the average gain in boys and girls should be about 5 pounds a year.

Beginning with the twelfth year in boys the weight increase is almost twice as much, that is 10 pounds during the twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth year, and as much as 15 pounds during the fifteenth and sixteenth years.

For girls the weight increase becomes much greater, beginning at eleven years, so that at the eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth year instead of being at the rate of 5 pounds each year 1 should be 9 pounds.

As you know, this greater increase at these years is because the boy is becoming a man, and the girl a woman, and Nature not only increases the weight more at this time but also the height and width.

Parents then should watch the weight of their children. These figures are, after all, only average figures, and as long as the increase is gradual and the youngster eats well, sleeps well, and likes to play outdoors with other children there is no need to worry if the weight increase is not exactly according to the figures given above.

If however there is no gradual increase, or if the increase is much below these figures, then the youngster should be examined by the family doctor to try to learn the reason.

Work Of National Gallery

(Edmonton Journal) A "remarkable growth of interest" in the work of the National Gallery of Canada is recorded in the annual report of the board of trustees. That this has been manifested to an especial degree in Edmonton is shown by the list of exhibitions held in Ottawa and at various other points throughout the Dominion. Four that were held here under the auspices of the Edmonton Museum of Art are mentioned. It recommended that an effort be made to have five or six of them each year in the principal centres, each lasting a month and the expenses being pooled. The report shows that numerous notable additions have been made to the permanent collection. A large proportion of them were gifts and the extent to which such donations are being made is a most encouraging sign. The gallery is one of the great attractions of the federal capital to many visitors and will be much more so when adequate housing for it: treasures can be provided. But to appreciate its value it is not necessary to go to Ottawa. It exerts its influence far and wide through illustrated lectures and reproductions of its pictures for use in the schools, as well as by means of the local exhibitions that are making so steadily increasing an appeal. No cultural agency deserves more thoroughgoing support from the people of the Dominion, individually and also through their governments.

vala was barred from the United States because of his habit of preaching revolution, Phiroz and two other brothers took pains to announce they had no sympathy with Communist views. They feared trouble for themselves. The new consul is a native of India, but has lived in the United States for a quarter of a century and is an American citizen.

The Backwater of Life

"A L. O. W." In The Winnipeg Free Press.

In the poignant Epilogue to his Recollections, Lord Morley says that we cannot be sure of an element of enchantment in twilight and evening bell. Rather, they gladden searching retrospect. His life been no better than "crossing a swollen stream, on slippery stepping-stones, or a steady march on the granite road?" He recalls a passage in the Talmud: "Life is a shadow, but is it the shadow of a tree or a tower that standeth? Nay, it is the shadow of a bird in its flight. Away flieeth the bird, and there is neither bird nor shadow." The metaphor of bird and shadow is poetical, but the standing tree and tower are truer and suggest that permanence of influence in the human echoes that roll on through time, from soul to soul. Who standeth upright throughout the responsible years well may welcome twilight and the evening bell of life's backwater to which all must come unless they die untimely. The more strenuous years of toil and of their moiety of pleasure are left behind in the long past. Infirmities, or at least limitations, of age have invaded in the relentless negative way that is essentially positive. The brain fails for details of events and experiences that happily have left wisdom in their wake: disappointments no longer count; various energies of mind and body cease because vitality wanes.

He who has paddled his own canoe (as the old song has it) down the river of life, turbid here or turbulent there, now finds himself contentedly drifting in its quiet backwaters. It matters not whether it be clear like a pebbly brook or dark like the lovely brown water in pools that lie in the green reaches of moss in mountain valleys. You may choose your simile. Even though the voyager may be worn down with life's hardness, and "often glad no more," he wears "a face of joy because he has been glad of yore." Is it not so? It is so. He has reached

"An old age, serene and bright And lovely as a Lapsland night." In the West we would say a prairie night, for there are ever the stars above that make the still waters more beautiful and fair. And one may add a metaphor to James Payn's once familiar backwater of life. Happy is the man who can draw refreshment from the pure wells of remembrance. The compensations of age are many and great, other things being equal.

Cicero discusses every aspect of the "bending years," which is his felicitous term; and he argues for keeping mind and body active, praising the old senators who would be called from their fields when needed for affairs of state. There is an ancient proverb, "You must be old soon, if you would be old long"—which is not so dark a saying as at first it looks. Nor is that obiter dictum of Henry Adams: "Old people, alone, as a class, have time to be young." Many a wise poet, many a philosopher, has laid it down that the first of life makes the last the best of all. It is knowledge which they have learned empirically. Lord Haldane confessed that old age was preferable to youth. And he had found that "the more experience is spiritual the more it is real." Even the mystics would agree to that dictum from the pen of one so unorthodox.

A Pioneer Aviator Speaks

(Toronto Globe)

Almost as an echo from the past comes the voice of Sir Arthur Whitten Brown on the thirteenth anniversary of the first non-stop transatlantic journey by aeroplane. Sir John Alcock and Sir Arthur Brown—afterward knighted for their achievement—made this epic flight at a time when Colonel Lindbergh was a schoolboy of 16 years, but, strangely enough, the world seems to have forgotten about it.

These British airmen, using a British bombing plane, and after a bitter struggle against adverse weather conditions, crossed the ocean in 15 hours and 57 seconds, blazing the air trail that has since been followed, with alternate success and failure, by many courageous aviators. Six months later Sir John Alcock was killed in an air accident in France.

Thirteen years after it is interesting to note Sir Arthur's views on the progress of aviation. He favors the airship rather than the plane, and for reasons thus expressed:

"It is a difficult problem to design an aeroplane with a safe landing speed near the ground and a high speed in thin air. The solution will be reached gradually and not by any sudden type of stunt. Such a "height machine" when developed may be capable of long-distance flights, but I would prefer to wait and see. I am still absolutely of the opinion that long-distance flights in commercial service over the ocean is the sphere of the properly designed and properly maintained airship, and I am convinced that

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That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL

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The Poet's Corner

RETIRE!

I toiled and toiled, and from afar Angelic, radiant, pure, Freedom, a silver, glowing star, Beckoned with her allure. I followed her o'er hill and dale And o'er the slow, sad sea, She called me on, I followed pale To clasp her mystery.

And now I tramp the dreary street With thousands of my kind, As one who seeks the lost to greet, But no joy can I find.

I wish I had not tracked that star By hill and dale and wave, For I was happier then by far When once I toiled a slave.

—T. S. Calmeacross in The Glasgow Herald.

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