

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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NOW UNANIMOUS?

Hon. Cyrus Macmillan, Ph.D., is to be commended upon the straightforward answer he has given to the propaganda for Maritime Union which has been agitated persistently in some sections of Canada. A member of the Duncan Commission which investigated the possibilities of this scheme and found it to be of no practical value, Dr. Macmillan speaks with authority when he says that such a merger would not be acceptable to the people of these Provinces, that the alleged advantages are entirely problematical, and that it would in effect mean the undoing of the work of the Fathers of Confederation. This has been the attitude consistently maintained by The Guardian, and we are pleased to note that our local contemporary, on two or three occasions recently, has given expression to the same opinion. We welcome our contemporary's conversion the more as it seemed inclined, a year ago, to support the arguments advanced at a service club function for reconsideration of the Maritime Union question on the pretext of economy. As The Guardian emphasized at that time, no such reconsideration is necessary or advisable, the issue being entirely outside the sphere of practical politics.

So long, of course, as the Bennett Government is in power at Ottawa, there is no need to fear that Maritime Union will be anything but a subject for academic debate. The Prime Minister made this clear when he stated, a few weeks ago in Montreal, that to force upon the smaller Provinces a union they did not seek nor desire "would be to break the whole fabric of Confederation." Had Mr. Mackenzie King when in office spoken out in this fashion, the suspicion entertained that he favoured the project would not have arisen; and our local contemporary would doubtless have been able to give earlier and more timely expression to its editorial mind.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

The returns from fur farming, including both live foxes and pelts, in Prince Edward Island are estimated at \$2,500,000 in 1933, says the February news letters of the Bank of Montreal. The letter is highly optimistic in tone. It finds a continued rise in the trade barometer. "There is," it says, "a growing conviction that business is entering into better times, gradual though the recovery be, and this confidence aids in reaching the desired end. There is less unemployment. Factories are extending their operations, closed mills are being re-opened. Consumption of hydro-power increases. Foreign exchange is more stable. The output of manufactures is larger, and more normal conditions are coming about. Coal production in Nova Scotia increased in January and employment conditions in that province are reported as favourable. The silk industries are fully employed, as are textile mills. Production of motor cars is running ahead of last year, while exports in January had a value of \$908,000 against \$367,800 in 1933."

Note is taken in the Bank letter of the fact that foreign commerce of Canada in January exceeded in value that of the corresponding month of 1933 by \$23,068,000, imports being 32.5 per cent. higher and domestic exports 47.8 per cent. higher than in January, 1933. Customs duties collected were 22.2 per cent. larger in amount than a year ago—the first very substantial gain in over four years.

The railways have experienced improved traffic. For the first six weeks of 1934, car loadings totalled 236,845, an increase of 50,448 tons over 1933, all lines of freight sharing in the gain, the largest single gains being in general merchandise, pulpwood and miscellaneous freight, with grain, coal and lumber following in order. The increases have been steadily gaining momentum, railway earnings keeping pace.

The statement of the chartered banks at the close of December discloses two items indicative of business improvement, an increase of \$13,781,000 in current loans and of \$1,869,000 in note circulation. In December, 1933, current loans decreased \$35,000,000 and note circulation expanded \$2,030,000. Bank deposits in January showed an increase in 29 out of 32 reporting cities, with bank debits to individual accounts for January totalling \$2,300,000 as compared with \$1,900,000 in January, 1933.

Also reassuring is the Bank letter statement that recent gains in ordinary Dominion Government revenues have converted what was a war and peace

deficit of over fifteen million dollars a few months ago to a surplus of approximately six million dollars at the end of January, and have led to the hope that the budget may balance by the end of the fiscal year. Dominion expenditures for the year to date have declined by \$5,847,000.

GLORIOUS MUSIC

A fine tribute is paid to "The Great Music of the Bagpipes" by Mr. Leland Hall, teacher of music at Smith College, Northampton, Mass., in an article contributed to a current magazine. He went to Scotland specially to hear a pibroch, but did not know precisely what a pibroch was. "A pibroch," explained a friend, "is a lament. Long ago if there was a sorrow, if there was great grief and tragedy in the clan, the piper put sorrow in a piece of music. That was the pibroch, sir. It is ancient music. It is noble and lonely music and you should hear it in the glens at twilight." From this and other sources he learned that a pibroch is the Great Music of the Scotch Bagpipes.

There was to be a competition in pibrochs during the Highland games at Bridge of Allan, near Stirling. There Mr. Hall went and heard nine pibrochs, one after another. Here are some of his impressions: "I listened with all my ears to this music like loose in the air above the tumult of the games. At the beginning, through the spacious intervals of the melody, it was as if I heard through and beyond the music. In the many successive repetitions, the art of the musician filled in these intervals with an ever more detailed weaving of grace-notes. They spun the finest mesh of sound that adorned the hearing as well upon veil or gauze might absorb the sight. They became a warbling and a twittering, an iridescent mist of sound such as I had never met before. . . . I began to appreciate the evenness of the piper's tone. We are used to an infinite series of gradations between loud and soft in our music, to the expressive color that lies therein. The piper can make none of these. The pressure of air in the bag must be constant and unwavering; an unevenness of tone, the faintest inequality, is a blemish in the serenity of his music. But from this prescribed uniformity of sound there results, not a monotony, but an intensity, an exaltation of musical expression."

VIRTUE IN THE STING?

Some correspondence has taken place in the British press regarding the efficacy of bee-stings as a cure for rheumatism in its more acute forms. The Edinburgh Scotsman says that some time ago comment was made in its columns on the fact that bee-masters "are immune to the aches and pains of the rheumatic subject, and, what is more, they come to be insensitive to the acute pain of bee stings, which as a remedy may be regarded by some people as worse than the disease itself. The crude method of bringing bees into contact with the skin of the sufferer is not calculated to make the cure a popular one; but the whole question of determining whether the cure is reliable and of finding some means of making it tolerable, seems worthy of fuller investigation."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Speaking in Halifax recently Major J. S. Roper, President of the Canadian Legion, F.R.S.L., said, "the biggest thing ever done for the war veterans in Canada was the announcement on Thursday by Premier Bennett in the House of Commons to the effect that all those whose pensions had been suspended or cut down without a hearing would have them restored." Some 3,000 families in the Dominion, the Legion President added, will receive cheques as a result of this action by the Federal Administration.

Last week Canada rounded off a quarter of a century of achievement in aviation. It was on February 28, 1909, that John A. Douglas MacCurdy, now a resident of Montreal, flew a half mile in his "Silver Dart" at Baddeck, Nova Scotia. Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, was largely responsible for the experiments resulting in the success of the flight. Since that date, 25 years ago, Canadian aviators have blazed a name for themselves across the skyways of the world both in success and in tragedy.

One chief complaint, says an exchange, is that weather like this is making the community into an Ananias club. Also that it is making people into worse humbugs and hypocrites than before. There's fellow who, holding a handkerchief to his nose with one hand, and with the other on his ear, assures you "this weather is healthy." Some day some of these people will be responsible for our being indicted for manslaughter. Personally, if we have to go about in below-zero weather just to be

Notes By The Way

Captain Anthony Eden and Herr Hitler seem to have come to a cordial understanding "in principle." It will be a good thing if, as a first step, some agreement in principle be reached in the international field, although at present France stands out even on that. Years and years have been wasted and the present situation has come about almost entirely through insistence on such details. Circumstances varying as they do, there will always be differences of opinion as to the relative importance of quantity and quality, of gross tonnage and class or vessel tonnage, of planes, gas, submarines and budgets, of description and long term collection of reserves and of the thousand and one factors that seem so entirely different, according to the side of a frontier on which the observer stands. Complete worldwide agreement will not be reached for a long time on these matters. Each side of the nations can agree on general principles.

David Livingstone will be honored soon by a bronze statue to be erected in Victoria Falls Park, Southern Rhodesia, beside the great waterfall which he discovered in 1855. The noted explorer and missionary is depicted with cane in one hand, Bible in the other and field glasses at his side. The statue will be placed so that it constantly will be bathed with mist and spray from the roaring waterfall below.

There is no disputing the fact that the shipbuilding industry has taken on a new lease of life, and the past month is one of the best experienced by builders during recent years in the matter of bookings. Including Admiralty work, the number of new contracts fixed by Clyde shipbuilders totals twelve, and the money represents something like 3,000,000. There are other inquiries in the market and the outlook is certainly very promising. During the month the output from Scottish yards was seven vessels of 8,961 tons. Of this total, the Clyde had six vessels of 5,741 tons, and the Dee one vessel of 220 tons.

A constitutional monarchy, presided over wisely, is not a bad form of government. Conditions in England prove this. The Crown remains the symbol of national unity; the centre of the nation's patriotism; a common rallying ground for all. No matter what may smolder in the party quarrels, all of them look to the King as the common leader of all. As somebody above the battle, and there is something else. It is that the word is discovered that democracy is not something that is synonymous with republicanism. Stalin pays little attention to his Council of the Soviets. Hitler has dissolved Parliament, rules by decree. In these days we are apt rather to boast that things are judged rather by their quality than their quantity. But this is far from being the fact. Words are very vaguely used. They become popular slogans or idols of the mind without our stopping to ask ourselves what they really mean. We talk of the scientific mind as though it means the opposite of fancy or myth. 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