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Observation teaches that there is a dearth of bird life in the Maritimes as well as in other parts of Canada as compared with the pioneer days. Wild pigeons that once flocked in millions in the groves and made sad havoc in the farmer's smaller grain fields of those days, have apparently ceased to exist. A reward of \$10,000 was offered some years ago for a single specimen but all in vain. Once they were slaughtered as a field pest and also for the table, as many as sixty having been killed at a single discharge from a flint-lock musket of those days. They were swift of flight and were beautiful creatures, the males red breasted and the females blue. In their case, unlike the buffalo which once roamed the western plains, it was not by slaughter that the myriads of field pigeons were annihilated but by some mysterious disease which the more domesticated pigeons of other varieties escaped.

Ottawa, Wednesday 27. There was less interest and entertainment in the House of Commons yesterday than on any day since the beginning of the session. The House sat for six hours. Yet there were only four speeches on the address and the fourth man did not finish at eleven p.m. but will continue today. Two Conservatives occupied considerably less than two hours of the day. Two Liberals came. So it will be realized that there is no desire on the part of the Government party to hasten the debate. It is quite likely to drag along until Premier King takes his seat and quite a large proportion of the sessional allowance will have accrued to the credit of the members by that time. Sir Henry Drayton has been asking for the Auditor-General's report a number of times but it is not yet ready, and Mr. Meighen has asked more than once when some statement will be made as to the reconstruction of the Ministry.

THE DRAMA AT OTTAWA SEEN THROUGH ISLAND EYES (By R. L. COTTON) (Special to The Guardian) Ottawa, Wednesday 27. Scotia coal difficultly was for the operators to reduce the cost of producing coal and for a considerable proportion of the miners to emigrate to some other community or take up some other occupation. Mr. Quinn of Halifax exhibited a good deal of Irish eloquence in setting forth Maritime needs, including the greater movement of Canadian grain through Canadian ports the reduction of freight rates from the east to the central provinces, a greater measure of protection for Canadian coal and iron and steel products and a fair share of the expenditures for immigration to be directed in the interests of the Maritime Provinces. Mr. Geary, one of the Ontario Conservative members and Mr. McIntosh, Liberal representative for North Battleford, Sask., were the other speakers. The former devoted himself almost entirely to the fiscal policy as that which should transcend all other interests in Parliament at this time. Canada in the elections had declared unmistakably for the protective principle, but it seems that Canada will need to have another election before it can get the protective principle properly into effect. Moderate protection, high protection and low protection are only words. Protection to be effective must be high enough to protect the home market against unfair outside competition. Building up the home market is the true solution for Canada's difficulties and that Canada has difficulties is abundantly apparent. Mr. McIntosh devoted himself principally to a description of Saskatchewan and his own district setting forth the need particularly of more railway lines, more hospital accommodations in the far north and more rural mail delivery. In the latter connection Mr. McIntosh read a table which showed how much further ahead in respect to rural delivery of mails we are in Prince Edward Island than in any of the other provinces. Rural mail routes have as yet been established to a very limited extent in the Western provinces. Prince Edward Island's lead in this respect might well be stressed in the preparation of literature for intending immigrants.

FOR THE MAYORALTY

A third candidate is now in the field for the Mayoralty, namely, Mr. S. A. McDonald. We have already referred to the candidacy of Messrs. L. B. Miller and R. B. Ratliff. The addition of Mr. McDonald to the list of candidates by no means diminishes the chances for a suitable choice. All three are men for the position, all well known to our citizens and each come before our citizens with a clean record both as a citizen and as a City Councillor for they have all served in that capacity. The cards of the respective candidates are now before the people. While differing in some respects as to details of policy and purpose they each, if elected may be depended upon to give their best services to the city. The choice remains with the electors and, if "the best man wins" we shall have three Mayors for the coming term, but as this cannot be, we can only conclude, after the election, that the choice of the citizens has fallen upon him whom the majority considered the best man. One thing only we would impress upon all our citizens, namely, the duty of polling their votes. It is a sacred duty and every man and woman in the city who is qualified to vote, should go to the polls on the day appointed and poll their vote conscientiously for the man of their deliberate choice.

on the spot, if wise, will get all the information he can from all available sources but in the end he must be guided by what he knows of his own farm and his own locality. Our method of local administration in agricultural matters under direction of a local Minister of Agriculture, who knows the province and, better still, who knows that the individual farm must be treated according to its own special needs, cannot be too highly commended or too sympathetically supported. Our short courses in agriculture by experienced local men is an application of one of the principles laid down by Sir Alfred Mond in his views on the Land Reform question in Great Britain: that the man on the spot is the man who knows.

TRANSPARENT BLUFF

For want of better argument, for want of any argument in fact, to the present farcical imbroglio at Ottawa, our Liberal friends are indulging in mock heroics which serve only to make their position, if possible, more ridiculous. The Conservative claim, and it is a very general claim throughout Canada, that the King government resign and let the country's business be proceeded with, they call "hypocrisy," "indignation," "disappointment" and other choice epithets. They know full well that the objections raised by Conservatives and by many reputable Liberals as well, is not because the Conservatives have not got the government but because the Liberal party has usurped a government which, by their own admission, they are unable to maintain and which cannot, by any kind of manipulation, except compromise and barter and worse, do any effective governmental work. The objection to the present situation is that the so-called government is a farce, an unworkable aggregation of men who have forfeited the confidence of the country, whose fiscal policy has been rejected in "every province" advisedly for the sake of government played no part in the province of Quebec. Very many of the tax-payers of Canada are not deeply concerned as to whether a Liberal or a Conservative is leading the government. What they are most concerned with is that there should be a government and that there is none at present, nor can there be as the parties are now distributed. Mr. Mackenzie King knew this when he secured the support of enough Progressives to form a majority. The whole country knows it and is sick of the farce that is being carried on in the name of a government.

THE MAN ON THE SPOT

Canada's farmers and especially Prince Edward Island farmers, will take more than an academic interest in the matter of Land Reform now being threshed out in the British parliament. The question in England is as between landlord and tenant. In this country we have no such question. Our farms are freehold. In Saturday's Guardian we published a summary of the views of Sir Alfred Mond, on this subject and his remarks on the rights of the tenant or the occupant of the land, are as applicable in Canada as they are in Great Britain. Briefly, Sir Alfred's opinion on one phase at least of the question is that the occupant of the farm, the man on the spot, knows more about the value, the quality and the needs of the land than any one else. In Canada we have experimental farms scattered all over the country from coast to coast. These farms embrace all our Canadian climates, and all the various soils. Moreover, we have agricultural colleges where all agricultural research work is carried on for the benefit of agriculture throughout the dominion. From these experimental farms and agricultural colleges information is sent out to all parts of the country and by this means practically all the discoveries of modern agricultural science are made available to every farmer who desires the information. Yet, with all these advantages, the occupant of the land, the man on the spot, must be his own chief adviser and the final authority. He it is, who knows the capacity of his soil, who knows its needs and who can prescribe the remedy and the method. For this reason local direction is an essential to successful farming. For instance, the Prince Edward Island Experimental Station is of more value to a Prince Edward Island farmer than would be an experimental station in British Columbia, on the prairies or even in our nearest sister province. The opinion of an experienced Prince Edward Island farmer on the questions of production is of more value to Prince Edward Island farmers than the opinion of an expert, however well enforced by the man to its former channel.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Plover, which were numerous and highly valued as a table delicacy in our boyhood days are now rarely seen. The several varieties of wild duck are yet with us, but in diminished numbers. The same is true of the partridge and the woodcock, as well as the smaller birds once plentiful about our sea and river shores. And what has become of all the swallows that were so numerous? We recall the days when one variety of swallows built their nests of clay in hundreds under the eaves of many a farm, when another variety built their nests and reared their young within the barns, and the chimney swallow, the pole swallow and the bank swallow were everywhere about the land and got their common names from the places where they made their homes.

THE COMMON CROW IS STILL WITH US

but in no such numbers as in bygone years. He was long treated as an enemy and shot at sight, but has conquered many old prejudices by better conduct in more recent times. Even yet the crow is very shy of the sportsman's gun. A passing railway train, motor car or wagon does not at all disturb him as he sits on the fence or perched on a tree by the road side, but let a man carrying a gun approach him and he hastens away as fast as wings can carry him. Crow habits have greatly changed from what they once were in some particulars. Not in forty years have we seen a "crow funeral" such as some old people may remember as quite common years ago. When a crow was killed by violence and his body left lying in a field, the first crow that passed that way uttered a loud outcry which was repeated by others. It was a cry of horror and dismay in the crow dialect and in an incredibly short time it would seem that all the crows in the parish came flying to the scene of the tragedy. They came literally in thousands, and they circled above or dived downward for a closer view of their dead comrades. The noisy coroner's inquest would last perhaps half an hour after which the vast flock separated in silence and after that no further notice was taken of the dead brother whom they were unable to bury.

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THE PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondence of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

Sir—The continued frequent cry by some ex-Presbyterians—that there is now no Presbyterian Church in Canada, that the name is outlawed and its use "illegal," gives no concern to Presbyterians, who know the cry untrue. But for our friends in other Churches, who have given Presbyterians the kindly Christian sympathy and help, and who may be less familiar with the question, may I state three facts:— 1. First—The Presbyterian Church is a voluntary banding together, for fellowship, worship and work, of those who accept the Presbyterian System of Doctrine of Religious Belief and of Polity of Church Government. Wherever a body of people accept and adopt the System of Doctrine and Polity there is the Presbyterian Church. If any of them change from that Doctrine and Polity they are no longer Presbyterians. This is self-evident. During the past year some in Canada have changed from the Presbyterian Doctrine and Polity to that of a New Denomination, called the United Church of Canada, and are therefore no longer Presbyterians. Others have not so changed and continue—as before—Presbyterians. Note that—"The Presbyterian Church in Canada"—is not a Civil Corporation. Its name is not a Corporate name, given by Civil power, which Civil power can take away or forbid. Its name is simply the declaration of its Religious Belief, with which no Civil power has a right to interfere. The Methodist Church of Canada was a Civil Corporation, as is the United Church of Canada. But the Presbyterian Church in Canada (whether better or worse) is not the question—is not—and never was—a Civil Corporation. No Civil power created it or authorized the name, and no Civil power can destroy it or forbid the name. The hundred and fifty thousand Presbyterian communicant members, representing over half a million Presbyterian adherents, grouped in a thousand congregations from Atlantic to Pacific are the Presbyterian Church in Canada, because they believe, accept and adopt the Presbyterian Doctrine and Polity, and no power can make them other than what they are. Unjust legislation may take away their property and church homes, but cannot take away their right to worship God according to conscience, or their right to state their Religious Belief by its rightful name. 2. Note a second fact. The Presbyterian Church in Canada has been, on different occasions, since June last, recognized as such by the Crown, which is the supreme expression of law and order. The loyal addresses of that Church to His Majesty the King and to His Representative in Canada, His Excellency the Governor-General, were graciously acknowledged in previous years, to—"The Moderator of The Presbyterian Church in Canada." The Message of sympathy from that Church to

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D. As you know, most physicians now are thinking in terms of the prevention of ailments rather than in their cure. Some research men are trying to determine whether the condition of the body physically, has anything to do with its ability to resist the various ailments that attack it. Whether there is something about the person that gives the invading trouble a better chance to do its work in his particular body. Most of them are of the opinion that smallpox, measles, influenza, typhoid, may attack even the strongest, but that the stronger the body the better fight it will put up. However, in conditions like pneumonia or tuberculosis, a strong body will prevent them ever getting a foothold in the system. You have been told that lowering the resistance of the body by overwork, exposure to cold and dampness, whereas our research men now think that breathing bad air in hot, dry, crowded places, has more to do with their causation. An interesting experiment from the fatigue standpoint is recorded in one of the medical journals. Fatigue or tiredness was induced artificially in the experimental animals, in varying degrees of severity, and then they were injected with pneumonia organisms. It was found that where the animal was in a completely exhausted condition from hard work, it took pneumonia more readily than where it was given a little longer time to do the same amount of work. In other words to quote this investigator "sudden overwork and strain may be detrimental, whereas physical training may increase resistance to certain infections." Now the whole point in this matter is that the body is so varied, so that even non-musical humans felt compelled to stop and listen to this torrent of gushing melody. Where, oh where has the bobolink gone, and will he never come back to us?

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DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

February 1, 1926 GOD REMEMBERS—"I am the God of Bethel, where thou anointed the pillar; * now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred." Gen. 31: 13. PRAYER—Thou God of all grace, we rejoice to know that Thy promises are all yea and amen in Christ Jesus. A MORNING PRAYER Before I meet this new and unknown day, O, Lord, my God—let me arise and go to my work, with Thee, my onward way. First I would praise Thee for the quiet night; For darkness, which makes day a fresh delight; For sun and shadow, sleep, and all things bright. Grant me each hour to know and do Thy will; Guard Thou my lips from any word of ill; When Thou wouldst have me silent say—"Be Still." Keep Thou my heart—I leave it in Thy care; Fill thou my thoughts with all things pure and fair; Keep me from pride and keep me from despair. Teach me to know Thy presence when we meet; In lonely places, or the busy street; Make my hands ready, and my footsteps fleet. Let me be satisfied to work unseen; Make me contented on Thine arm to lean; Draw close to me; let nothing come between. If unexpected trials must be borne, Show me Thy face beneath the crown of thorn, Stretch out Thy hands—those hands the nails have torn. So shall I lose myself in finding Thee, So shall Thy grace be manifest in me, So shall each day a day of blessing be.

THE IMPERIAL LIFE ASSURANCE Company of Canada

Suppose you sail a week from to-day. The first thing you think about—the first thing you discuss with your wife—the first thing you do—is to provide ample funds from which wife and family can meet household expenses while you are away. Other matters might claim your attention, but family affairs would receive special attention. Sooner or later—maybe suddenly—you will sail out into the unknown—start on that journey from which no traveller returns. Now, man to man, are you satisfied with the provision you have made for the support of your wife and kiddies after you're gone? Let us explain how an Imperial Monthly Income policy will meet your family's expenses in case anything should happen to you; and how it will provide an income to support yourself in comfort should you live to old age.

THE IMPERIAL LIFE ASSURANCE Company of Canada

HEAD OFFICE TORONTO A. R. McINNIS, District Manager, Royal Bank Building, CHARLOTTETOWN

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A WHOLE TON OF IT And it is Castile Soap, the purest and most moderately priced on the market today. Contains 72% Olive Oil and bought direct from makers in France. In one pound blocks ... 25c SEE OUR WINDOW THE 2 MACS Drug Store 149 Great George Street Charlottetown, P. E. I.

YOUR BIRTHDAY

FEBRUARY 1.—You are a good and loyal friend, but an exceedingly bitter enemy. Curb your desire for revenge, or it may wreck your whole life's happiness. You are a lover of home and home ties, somewhat jealous and sometimes harsh. Try to look on the bright side of things, and be thankful for your many blessings. Your birth-stone is an amethyst, which means sincerity. Your flower is a primrose. Your lucky colors are light blue and yellow.

YOUR FURNACE

Needs good coal in order to give you proper service. Why use inferior grades and run the chances of its burning poorly? Let us supply you with Coal and be assured of getting the best service from your furnace. A. Pickard & Co. PHONE 240