

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Editor and Managing Director—J. E. Burnett. Associate Editors—Frank Walker and D. A. Currie. Morning Daily (founded 1857) Sold per year (in advance) delivered, \$1.50 per year (in advance) mailed in Canada and United States.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1932.

THIRD FIRE

Saturday morning's fire at Prince of Wales College is the third serious conflagration within a comparatively short time. Falconwood disaster represents a loss between \$350,000 and a half million dollars; the DeBlais Bros. fire represents about \$100,000, and now Prince of Wales College is razed to the ground at an estimated loss of \$250,000, not to mention the irreparable loss of all the records, professors' libraries, lecture data, etc. The latter loss cannot be computed in dollars and cents; it is simply disastrous. The Conservative Government is fortunate in one respect in having increased the insurance on Prince of Wales College from \$50,000 to \$165,000, but this increased amount even is insignificant compared with the loss entailed to the government, the community, parents and children alike and the actual cost of replacing the institution. The Steward Government deserves every sympathy in this second loss of a public institution. Money is not too plentiful for public purposes at the present time, and the government can ill afford to foot a bill for the re-erection and provision of two public institutions at the same time. Efforts will be made to find teaching accommodations for the students until the closing of the college session. Recourse has been made to arrangements with some of the city schools; and some of the church Sunday Schools and assembly halls will later be brought into requisition. It is not desirable that there should be any break at this time in the students' courses, and it is gratifying to report that lectures will be continued without delay. Details of the arrangements made appear elsewhere in today's Guardian, and should be read carefully by all interested.

FRANCE'S MOVE

A surprise was sprung on the Disarmament Conference on Friday by M. Andre Tardieu, head of the French delegation, who before the adjournment for the day, mounted the platform and quietly intimated that France had proposals to lay before the delegations. He laid a paper on the desk and retired. It was not realized at the time what the proposals indicated, but after adjournment it was discovered that France has submitted a very important proposition to bring about a reign of comparative peace in the world. The French proposals provide: (1) Signatory States would be allowed only to construct and use civil aircraft of tonnage below a figure set by the convention. The construction and use of machines whose tonnage was greater than this figure, would be confined to the continental, inter-continental, and inter-colonial organizations placed under the League of Nations which would have a permanent requisition over them. (2) The League alone would have the right to dispose of heavy bombing planes of wide action radius and of more than a specified tonnage. Existing military and aviation authorities would retain freedom to use lighter aircraft. A state which was the victim of aerial bombardment would be entitled immediately, and on the sole condition that the League be notified, to make use of all its air forces. (3) Heavy long range artillery, warships of more than 10,000 tons and submarines over a specified tonnage would be placed under control of the League. (4) Each Signatory State would contribute both to the international police force to prevent war and to the first contingent of the punitive troops to repress it. This force would be at the disposal of the League, which would organize its command.

The scheme submitted then proceeded to give details of how the fourth proposal could be put into effect, France submitting the terms on which she is prepared to join up in the scheme; and the document concludes, "Any flagrant violation of these rules would be regarded as prima facie evidence that the State guilty thereof has resorted to war within the meaning of article XVI of the League covenant." Under this proposal it would have been impossible for Japan to have engaged in warfare with China.

MR. KING'S BLUNDER

With Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen as Leader of the Senate, perhaps Mr. Mackenzie King is wishing that he had given more than lip-service to the matter of Senate reform, when he had the opportunity. He declared while previously in opposition, that he would change and improve it; said, moreover, that he would appoint to it men of his own way of thinking—men committed to the pursuit of Liberal principles and ideals. Again in the shades of opposition, he now beholds his work, or the lack of it. It has been left to the Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett, a statesman with more determination and real public spirit to take up the task of Senate reform, and the first step has been the appointment of Mr. Meighen as head of that Chamber. There are good Senators and able men who have rendered distinguished, unselfish public service. But there are things against the Senate and against certain Senators that cry to High Heaven for change, and the statesmen who are about to tackle the Red Chamber and pare it of its manifest weakness, will have a high score to their credit with the nation. Mr. King knows this, hence his blundering attempt to belittle "the double barreled leadership" of the Conservative Party.

OLD BOOKS THE BEST

"The best books I knew as a boy," says Carl Sandburg, the American poet, "are, most of them, among the best books in my library as a grown-up." This is a verdict with which most genuine book lovers will agree. Books, like people, have to be lived with intimately to become known. The books we have read but once are merely acquaintances. How many of our new acquaintances in the world of books are worth the time and study necessary for the cementing of an enduring friendship? With the old books it is otherwise. We read them in childhood, or in the first flush of youthful literary enthusiasm, when the printed word was capable of making an indelible impression on our minds. Consciously or unconsciously we absorbed more from them than we can ever obtain from literature read, however painstakingly, for the first time in later life. But this is not all. The literature that attracted us in childhood was, in the true sense of the word, classical literature. It had to tell a story, and tell it supremely well to hold our vagrant attention. Modern writers seem to be deficient in the art of story telling. At any rate, they seem incapable of vying with the authors of such immortal yarns as "Don Quixote," "Pilgrim's Progress," "Robinson Crusoe," "Treasure Island," or the Waverley Novels—to name but a few youthful favorites that come instantly to mind. Cervantes' aim in writing "Don Quixote" was to satirize the romantic extravagances of his age; Bunyan's motive in "Pilgrim's Progress" was to describe a profound religious experience; Swift created "Gulliver" as a convenient stalking horse for his shafts of political irony. Yet, because these authors were born story-tellers, they each produced, first and foremost, a thrilling narrative. They were literary

NOTES BY THE WAY

Geneva has done much in awakening the desire for peace. That alone is no mean accomplishment. At the same time it must not be over-rated. It must not be assumed that war is impossible. Nevertheless there is a comforting thought: a generation ago war would under present conditions have been, not possible, but inevitable. There is still the wish for peace which Geneva has planted; and so long as the nations believe in that, there is every hope that the fire now lit will be quenched. Hitherto we have all been inclined to claim too much for Geneva: war could not happen because of this treaty or that. We forgot the reservations. If too much is expected the whole may be lost when high hopes fall of realization and to lose the whole would be tragic. Therefore let all hold fast to what can hardly be disputed. The peoples do not want war. By keeping that thought uppermost complications may be avoided.

"The railroads have further called attention to the fact that last November about half a million fewer men were employed on the average than in November, 1929, a decline of 30 per cent. The aggregate earnings of these workers showed a reduction of about \$701,000,000 in 1931 as compared with 1929. This decline is surprisingly close to the drop in net operating income, which amounted to about \$741,000,000 last year as compared with 1929."—New York Journal of Commerce.

Sending Canadian tobacco to Jamaica for manufacture there smacks a little of carrying coals to Newcastle, but the processes of trade are strange to the perception of the man in the street. Any article or commodity which is valuable enough that the cost of transportation is but a small fraction of its value, may turn up most anywhere. There are times when lettuce from Arizona sells as cheaply in New York as it does where it is grown; or when motor cars built in the Border Cities for less in a foreign land than they do here. And in every case it will be found that there is an excellent reason, based upon the tendency of trade to seek the channels through which profits may be earned. As the markets for Canadian-grown tobacco are widened, the stability of the demand for this excellent product should be helped, with corresponding advantage to the growers. It may be that a good market for our leaf will be developed in the West Indies colony.

Mr. Paul Martin, president of the Border Cities branch of the League of Nations Society in Canada, points out that the United States is in a key position so far as disarmament is concerned. The American republic, Mr. Martin contends, can use the war debts as a club to force the nations of Europe to cut down their wasteful expenditures for arms that nobody wants to see used. One cannot question the soundness of this theory. One of the chief obstacles, however, is the fact that a large number of Americans are still demanding 100 per cent payment of all that Europe owes Washington, while an equally large, perhaps larger, body of sentiment is all for a big navy and army and quite opposed to any plans for all-around reduction, to say nothing of actual disarmament.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics, points out that the general level of prices in Canada has decreased by 15 per cent, in the last two years. What, asks the Ottawa Journal, about the argument that if you keep out foreign goods with tariffs domestic producers will send prices up? Mr. Bennett has been keeping out the foreign goods—yet here are prices dropping by 15 per cent. Is this just one more economic theory gone wrong?

artists first and propagandists or moralists afterwards. Would that our modern writers were so gifted! After glancing through a dozen of the latest "best sellers" in fiction, in ponderous biography and what not, one turns with relief to the perennially fresh adventures of "Tom Jones," to the still sprightly gossip of Boswell and Pepps, or the sturdy rhythm and sounding periods of Macaulay's "Lays of Ancient Rome." These are the kind of books that wear well because they are written well. Their charms, "like ancient wine, are potent, seeming mild." And we turn to them again and again—if we are true book-lovers—with ever increasing appreciation of their freshness and vitality.



By James W. Barton, M.D.

That Body of Hours

ATHLETE'S FOOT

Although ringworm of the feet, or athlete's foot, is found more frequently during the warm weather, nevertheless the number of cases around swimming pools, gymnasium and locker rooms during the cool weather is very large. It attacks all ages, and the fungi or organisms which cause the trouble are found in every country. In some athletic clubs as much as 75 per cent of the membership has been reported as having had this skin ailment.

It is very much like eczema in appearance and has been called eczema of the feet. The skin is reddened in patches, and the adjoining skin is normal in appearance. The margins of the patches are raised and sharply separated from the adjoining normal skin.

The itching is very intense in some cases. There is considerable oozing, which has caused it to be mistaken for eczema.

The United States Public Health Service states that at least one third of the people in various groups such as college and school populations armies and so forth.

It has been rather a stubborn ailment to prevent and cure until recently when research and experimental work in various cities has brought brilliant results, notably at Detroit and Buffalo.

The Detroit city health department reports that a solution (0.6 per cent) of sodium hypochlorite, used as a foot bath at frequent intervals, gave good results in preventing the trouble among school children.

In Buffalo, requiring each individual who uses a swimming pool or shower bath to stand for one quarter of a minute—just fifteen seconds—with bare feet in a solution of 1 per cent sodium hypochlorite prevents the spread of ringworm of the feet, or athlete's foot, as it is popularly called.

The Poet's Corner

FRAGMENT From "Ulysses" Something ere the end, Some work of noble note, may yet be done, Not unbecoming men that strove with gods. The lights begin to twinkle from the rocks: The long day wanes; the slow moon climbs: the deep Moans round with many voices. Come, my friends, 'Tis not too late to seek a newer world. Push off, and sitting well in order smite The sounding furrows; for my purpose holds To sail beyond the sunset, and the baths Of all the western stars until I die. —Tennyson.

Trying a new venture last year with apparently satisfactory results, one of the salmon canneries on the Fraser River in British Columbia skinned part of the sockeye catch before putting the fish through the canning process and reported obtaining a price premium for the product. Salmon are ordinarily canned without removal of the skins and the advantage obtained by the canneries which has been experimenting with the use of skinned fish is said to lie in an added attractiveness in the appearance of the finished product.

DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS. ALL KIDNEY DISEASES. BACKACHE. BLADDER TROUBLES. RHEUMATISM. GOUT. NEURALGIA. DRUGGISTS. 14087 THE PROMISE.

Mackenzie King's Unreported Speech

(Editorial from the Weekly News)

This week The News is happy to be able to give its readers what we believe is a "scoop" in journalistic circles. The local daily papers gave extended reports of two meetings addressed by Mr. King during his recent sojourn in Winnipeg.

The News understands that there was a third meeting at which Mr. King gave a very plain and frank talk to key men among the Manitoba Liberals.

Unfortunately The News cannot favor its readers with a verbatim report of Mr. King's address at this gathering, or vouch for a correct version, but summe it up as follows:

"I will not conceal from you, my Manitoba friends, that my real object in coming West at this time, is to have a heart-to-heart talk with you on the state of Liberalism. As you are well aware there is something rotten, indeed very rotten, in the state of Liberalism, not only in your fair province of Manitoba, but throughout our fair Dominion.

To be quite frank with you, Gentlemen, and the seriousness of the occasion demands frankness, Liberalism is just now at the lowest ebb to which it has ebb in my own time. I might say it was dead. I might say it was moribund. It would be a distinction without a difference.

As you know there is only one Liberal administration in office in Canada at the present moment, and that particular administration is the most Tory outfit from which any of our provinces suffers. For I need hardly tell you that Brother Taschereau and his colleagues in Quebec, breathe, move and have their being by the grace of the big power companies.

"These things, as Huck Finn would say, are interesting but tough. There is only one person just now in Canada that I know of who is helping Liberalism, or shall I say the Liberal Party, for between ourselves that is a distinction with a decided difference. That person is Mr. Bennett himself. You will agree with me that it is a curious thing when while, we, you, that is all of us, have been disgusting the public with the Liberal Party, Mr. Bennett has been making Liberals by the hundred and the thousand.

The trade question, of course, will naturally be our big card. It may not have escaped you that I put it in the forefront of my remarks at the Liberal association banquet. In fact I devoted practically my whole time to it, whereas, ahem, there were other questions I might have dealt with.

What I desire to convey to you is that the Liberal party cannot live by bread, that is by the trade question, alone. Well, what else have we? I pause, as the poet said, for a reply.

"You are silent, Gentlemen, and your silence is well observed. For the sad truth is that we have nothing else.

It is quite true, as you might possibly suggest, that Mr. Bennett is very vulnerable in respect to the rather large promises which he made about curing unemployment overnight. R. B. certainly let himself go in that direction, and you will recall that I made great play with these broken promises in my speech.

But let me assure you, my friends, that if we had an election tomorrow these broken promises of R. B. would get us less than nowhere. What would our Tory friends be doing? With wicked glee they would tell the electors what Mackenzie King did for the unemployed when he was in power and had the chance. And that, alas, as we all know, was nothing. We tried you, we all tried, to create the impression that there was no unemployment.

In contrast to our record on the unemployment question the Tories would point to the millions spent by the Bennett administration on relief. In Winnipeg they would point to your new auditorium, and I am given to understand to several new bridges and other public works, of which they are paying half the cost. Well, Gentlemen, need I say more? Where would we be, you be, all of us be, in trying to keep the elector's attention fixed on Mr. Bennett's broken promises. Love's labor would be entirely lost.

"But that would only be a beginning. The Tories would have other ammunition, and far more dangerous ammunition in their armory. Bear with me if I touch with emotion on the question of Beauharnois. You would not fail to notice that I omitted all reference to this exceedingly painful subject at the Liberal banquet. Gentlemen, it was not a subject for a banquet.

Well, we are up to the neck in Beauharnois. The ghost still walks. There is no way to lay it that I know of. You will remember I said in the House that it had driven us

into the Valley of Humiliation. That was putting it very mildly.

I will not harrow you just now with the painful details. You are pretty well known to you. Senator McDougald is still in the Senate losing us votes every day he remains there. The case of Hayden and Raymond is only less bad. McDougald's case calls, of course, for deodorization and fumigation, but how to do it, that is the question.

"Then you yourselves in this province have gotten yourselves most embarrassingly mixed up with this Seven Sisters power grab. You and your organ, the Free Press, one hundred percent behind it. How do you think we are going to attract, much less hold, the young men of Canada, with the Liberal Party mixed up with the steals of one of the most vicious groups of predatory business?

It simply cannot be done, my Manitoba friends. The Liberal Party cannot live on its past. It must change with the times. It must keep up to date. Nay, it must look ahead and point and show the way. If it fails to do that it dies. And the Liberal Party in Canada today is dying.

That, Gentlemen, is the message I bring. That is the word I have come from Ottawa to chew on until we meet again."

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.

JUDGE STEWART'S LETTERS

Sir:—It is always pleasant to signalize any work of literary merit produced by one's fellow citizens, and this pleasure is none the less felt, even though the work under review be not of the very first rank among productions by Island writers. All have not the imagination of Miss L. M. Montgomery, the scholarship of Dr. Cyrus MacMillan or the critical ability of Sir Andrew MacPhail. Such gifts are vouchsafed to the very few. Yet it is undeniable that the more mediocre talents of those who, in the public press, write critically of the life of our days are deserving of some recognition at the hands of the reviewer.

So much by way of introduction. Recently there has been appearing in the columns of the evening daily a series of letters by Judge Stewart on Civic Affairs. The Judge's style is clear, his diction is smooth; his flow of language is quite facile. But praise, one regrets to say, must end here. Mentally he seems quite unfitted for the task of criticism. In fact certain elements in his writing suggest fiction or even poetry, might be his métier.

There will be recalled by many, not without some amusement, to be sure, the lively correspondence over the management of the Car Ferry which some years ago appeared daily in the columns of the press. Judge Stewart under the nom de guerre of "Traveller" contributed very largely to this war of words. The learned Judge, however, soon showed how incapable his mind was of sticking to dull and sordid facts. Inclining, as he did then, to soar into the realm of fiction, he was soon brought to earth by the threats of a libel suit on the part of the gentleman he was then engaged in criticizing. Forced to abandon his pseudonym, he had to make public

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deed it is open to question if any governing body, be it Municipal, Federal or Provincial, can in those difficult days give half so good an account of its Stewardship. More Tomorrow I am, Sir, etc., CITIZEN.

TEACHERS' PENSIONS. Sir:—"Retired Teacher" in the Guardian of Feb. 6th, makes the statement that the Pensions Act is a piece of class legislation which discriminates against country teachers. He is mistaken. The meeting which appointed the Pensions Committee to negotiate with the Government was the Annual Convention of 1930, made up almost entirely of country teachers. The Spring Convention of 1931, also seventh of which consisted of country teachers, voted in favor of the Pensions Act, which was then passed by the Legislature.

The Pensions Act as presented to the Government was the work of country teachers and city teachers who were unanimous in their decisions. The Act follows those of the other provinces very closely. Since all pensions are based on the salaries received over a period of years, the minimum of \$365 was set to protect poorly paid country teachers who would otherwise receive an amount too small to supply their needs. This is the minimum set by the acts of most other provinces. The Pensions Committee discussed the position of the retired teachers, but did not feel that it had any right to subject them to legislation, which might not satisfy them. If the Retired Teachers will get together and agree upon a course of action the Federation will be pleased to co-operate with them in presenting their case to the Government. We are, Sir, etc., THE EXECUTIVE OF THE P. E. I. T. F.

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