

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1933.

A VITAL SITTING

Yesterday's sitting of the Royal Commission on Banking occupied scarcely an hour and a half; yet the subject matter covered a great deal of territory. Probably not since the sitting of the Duncan Commission in the same chamber seven years ago has so much interesting information regarding the commercial affairs of the Province been brought out. The questions of Lord Macmillan and his colleagues were shrewd and to the point, as was to be expected from the calibre of the personnel of the Commission. Both sides of the banking question, so far as it affects our farmers and co-operative organizations, were placed frankly before the meeting. The oral evidence heard in connection with the prepared briefs presents an illuminating picture from which the Commissioners will doubtless form a just appreciation of the difficulties, both of our farming community and the banks. When one considers the vast amount of information along similar lines, gathered at the sittings in other Provinces, it will be realized what an enormous task is involved in the digesting of all this material and in drawing up a report in the nature of a judicial finding on the evidence. It was realization of the difficulty and importance of this labour that led the Dominion Government to seek the most outstanding men available, not only in Canada but in the Old Country, to act on the Commission. Those of our citizens who had the privilege of meeting Lord Macmillan and his colleagues, and of witnessing the manner in which yesterday's proceedings were conducted, will realize that the Government is indeed to be congratulated upon its choice. That the report of the Commission will be of invaluable aid to Parliament in revising the Bank Act at the next session is a foregone conclusion. It is particularly gratifying to the people of this Province to know that the facts concerning our own particular problems in banking and financing have been so clearly and ably presented.

MORE EMPLOYMENT

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports that the number of employees of 8,261 firms reporting to the Bureau aggregated 204,219 on August 1, as compared with 780,915 on July 1, being an increase of over 24,000 in the month—an increase which of course, does not include the large number of persons employed in harvesting operations on farms. The figure of 804,219 on August 1, is the highest recorded during the past twelve months. More especially during the last four months since the beginning of the fiscal year there has been an increase totalling 104,000 workers and the index of employment has risen from 76.0 on April 1 to 87.1 on August 1, while the number of employees in the reporting industries is normally considerably larger on August 1 than on April 1, the increase of 104,000 in the last four months is considerably greater than the average increase in the last thirteen years during which the record has been maintained. Thus, even after correction for seasonal variation, the index of employment at the latest date shows a distinct advance. Further, since the larger firms making monthly reports as to the number of their employees give work to about 45 per cent of the total number of wage-earners in the industries other than agriculture and professional and domestic service, and since the smaller firms have also been affected by the improvement in business, it may be fairly estimated that the number of unemployed in the Dominion has been reduced by 200,000 in the last four months. It is noteworthy that the increase of employment in the recent

months has been common to all the economic areas of Canada. The index number of employment in the Maritimes advanced from 78.3 on April 1, to 93.0 on August 1, that in Quebec from 73.1 to 84.8, in Ontario 78.3 to 86.6 in the Prairies from 78.3 to 90.5, and in British Columbia from 68.6 to 87.3. Similar advances were also recorded in the leading cities.

Rather more than half of the firms which make monthly reports to the Bureau of Statistics are engaged in the manufacturing industries. These industries employed nearly 424,000 workers on August 1, an increase of 46,000 as compared with the first of April, and of 53,400 since the beginning of 1933.

These figures are decidedly reassuring and show conclusively that the long-awaited business upswing is now definitely in progress.

SWIMMING AND POETRY

Considering the universal custom of swimming, the health and delight of it, we ought to find that particular poetry of motion praised and magnified more frequently in literature. In Chambers's, S. G. Hedges, who seems to be an authority on swimming, makes it plain that references to the exercise are very scarce. There are, he says, only three direct references in the Bible, one each in Isaiah, Ezekiel, and the Acts. Byron, being an expert swimmer naturally reminds his readers of his genuine love of the sea. The lame man was at home in the water. We remember how Rupert Brooke in "Grantchester" fancied his "ghostly Lordship" swimming the pool at dawn. We are told by Mr. Hedges that the earliest intimate writing on swimming in English, is in Langland's "Piers Plowman," from which seven lines are quoted.

Both "Pilgrim's Progress" and "Robinson Crusoe" raise hopes of swimming, but both disappoint, as old readers will know. Charles Dudley Warner gives a vivid description of native swimming the Nile cataract, and C. M. Doughty in "Arabia Deserta" describes the Bedouins swimming in their drinking pools. A passage from Swinburne's "Swimmer's Dream" is quoted. Browning's brief reference in "Saul" to "the cool silver shock of the plunge" is recalled. Three passages are from Shakespeare who must have "known a great deal about swimming." But then he knew a great deal about everything.

Lord Macmillan, Chairman of the Royal Commission on Banking, stated at Vancouver that he was serving without remuneration. Sir Thomas White made a similar confession. Sir Joseph Stamp also conducted the investigation into grain exchange operations without pay. It may be hard to believe, but there are men who will give time to public service in this way.

WORK OF PARLIAMENT

There has come from the King's Printer an index for the House of Commons debates (Hansard) of last session. Consisting of 166 pages, and a tremendous piece of work in itself, its chief interest, says the Ottawa Journal, is its disclosure of the extraordinary variety of subjects that are dealt with in the House of Commons, and of the versatility and wide knowledge which are thus required of a competent member of Parliament.

Franklin Roosevelt said the other day there was scarcely a subject under the sun not touched by politics. Running through the pages of this index, one finds confirmation of this claim. Premier Bennett, for example, dealt with no fewer than 308 different subjects, foreign, imperial and domestic, ranging from the philosophy of Communism and the adjustment of war debts to the sinking of the Bright Fan in the Hudson Bay Straits and the peat bogs at Alfred.

It may be said, of course, that the average M.P. does not need to know much or anything about the majority of these things. On the other hand, the various leaders do need to know about them, are called upon to discuss them, must make

Notes By The Way

A rush for marriage licenses in New York, says The Globe, is ascribed to the advancing prices. There's something a bit ungallant, however, in the comment of a bureau official that "it seems like a new deal for the ladies."

There are two ways of building up a market. One is to increase production and find new customers—Japan's all-conquering method. The other is to cut down production and force up prices artificially. This is the British Government's method—the hampering, regulating quota. Another instalment of this legislation was introduced into the House of Commons when the Sea Fishing Industry Bill was presented for its second reading—Daily Express.

The greatest misfortune that can come to a man is to not have any work to do. There is surely plenty of work in the world to do! And there is no indictment so terrible against a community or a nation as to have work to do and yet have countless numbers unable to secure that work. Work is the great salvation, and no one can be happy for long unless he or she works. It doesn't matter at what work, just so long as it is work.

In the days of pioneering in the West when the Indian was a source of terror to traveling companies and scattered communities, some of the more astute leaders found that it was cheaper to feed the natives than to fight them. Today organized criminals threaten life and property and order. It is hardly practical to try to appease these enemies of society by feeding them, but it is practical to rid a country of habitual criminals by correction of conditions that school them in crime.

The activity of the Nazis in Southwest Africa is engaging attention. This former German territory is now administered by the Union Government of South Africa as a mandatory. Certain claims by the Germans precipitated the trouble. This effort of the Germans to obtain the franchise was bitterly opposed by the United Party, whose leader charged the Germans with being disloyal. There was no doubt, he said, that Germans who had sworn allegiance to the King were actively promoting propaganda for the restoration of Southwest Africa to Germany.

That Italy will guarantee Austria's independence is the interpretation placed in Vienna upon the successful outcome of the conversations of Chancellor Engelbert Dollfus with Premier Mussolini at Rimini. It is believed that a prelude has been enacted for effecting the economic recovery of Danubian countries by establishment of an Italian-Austrian-Hungarian bloc, that will enable the latter two states to co-operate with the Little Entente countries, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Yugoslavia, without being dominated by them.

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Premier Mussolini is planning one of the most drastic Cabinet revisions since he assumed office. He himself will assume the new portfolio of National Defense, under which the land, naval and air forces will be combined. General Italo Balbo, leader of the recent transatlantic flight of twenty-four war planes, will be made chief of staff for the combined forces.

"The manufacture of the tins, pots, packets and bottles, mounting rapidly year by year, represents in very large part an enormous waste of good material. Making all allowances, it remains true that the putting up of little scraps of food in extravagant parcels carries with it a class of industry which is the economic equivalent of digging a hole and filling it up again. Nay, it is worse than that for it entails the incontinent waste of good materials which might be used in the manufacturing of much-needed articles.

decisions about them. It is the reason why politics, and particularly political leadership, has become the most arduous, the most exacting and the most scientific of professions.



By James W. Barton, M.D.

LET YOUR CHILD BE PHYSICALLY EXAMINED AT SCHOOL

You may have a youngster starting off to school for the first time. If you have sent other children to school you are acquainted with some of the regulations and have learned that these regulations have all been adopted to help your child. If however this is the first time you have sent a youngster to school try to remember that regulations are for the good of the majority.

One of the regulations is that your child must be examined by a nurse, doctor, and dentist. Instead of becoming indignant about this because you have had your child under the care of a child's specialist, be wise enough to take advantage of these examinations by those who see and examine your child from a different standpoint than that of the specialist.

While food is the most important point in the health and safety of children, and our children's specialists save thousands of lives yearly, there is the general physique or structure of the child, the way it stands or sits, its walk, the straightness of the spine, the condition of the teeth as to straightness, the presence of little cavities in the teeth, the shape of the mouth and face, the condition of the nose and throat and many other things about youngsters that school nurses, dentists and doctors have learned in their experience with thousands of children.

The very fact that you object to this complete examination which means the removal of the child's clothing so that the back and spine may be examined, will get your youngster off on the wrong foot at school. He may get the idea that he should have a little different treatment at school than that given to other youngsters and may have trouble adjusting himself to the other youngsters.

And, as you know, it is this adjusting of children to regulations, to the rights and privileges of other children, that keeps them from being "odd" and possible mental cases in the future.

Instead of objecting to it, make sure that your child gets this thorough examination.

Penitentiary Abuses

(Toronto Mail and Empire)

Not a few have been disturbed by the widespread reports of ill-treatment meted out to prisoners at Kingston and in other penal institutions. The report of Gen. D. M. Ormond, Superintendent of Penitentiaries, which is given publicly pending the issue of the regular annual report during the next session of Parliament, must be accepted as reassuring. Gen. Ormond took over his present position on August 1, 1932, and since then many reforms have been instituted in the interests of the convict population.

The fact is that the outstanding abuses of which the penitentiary authorities have lately been accused do not exist. The stories of maltreatment of convicts relate to earlier periods in the history of these institutions. A great deal has been said about solitary confinement at Kingston. That punishment was abolished many years ago. A particular convict was alleged to have been kept in solitary confinement in that penitentiary for twenty-three years. As a matter of fact, the aggregate terms of his incarceration in Canadian and American prisons and insane asylums have amounted to that length of time. There is no foundation for the story that another convict has been kept in solitary confinement for two years. The inmate who complained of being flogged like a dog was punished for joining with other prisoners in the wounding of another inmate.

Other statements condemnatory of the present regime at Kingston are similarly met by General Ormond. It begins to look as if the present authorities may have been wrongly charged and as if the feelings of humanitarians throughout the country have been unnecessarily incited by idle rumors and rumor-mongers.

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Stranger Than Fiction

(Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.)

The odd ways in which criminals are sometimes brought to book can outdo the most far-fetched inventions of the novelist. Consider, for example, the way in which U. S. Federal officers were able to round up the Harvey Bailey gang in Texas, the other day.

Young Charles F. Urschel, Oklahoma oil man, was kidnapped and held prisoner in a farmhouse. He had no idea where he was, but he noticed that every morning and every evening an airplane flew over the house. One morning it failed to show up.

When Urschel was freed, therefore, and had told his story, it was a simple matter for the detectives to find out what airplane line was involved, to discover just what deviation in the scheduled flight had taken place on that particular morning, and, in that way, to locate the neighborhood in which the young man had been held prisoner.

A dangerous bandit gang rounded up because an airplane had to make a detour one day to avoid bad weather—would any novelist dare invent anything as far-fetched as that?

Old Age Pensions

(New York Sun)

The spread of the movement for old age pensions is demonstrated in a summary by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, which shows that the number of pensioners increased from 988 in 1927 to 102,537 in 1932, and the aggregate paid out in pensions from \$165,000 in 1927 to \$22,600,000 in 1932. It is only 10 years since Montana, pioneer state in this movement, adopted its law. Wisconsin and Nevada followed in 1925 and Kentucky in 1926; in the latter state the option was left to counties, and in 1932 not a single county paid an old age pension. Colorado and Maryland adopted the old age pension in 1927; California, Minnesota, Utah and Wyoming in 1929, New York and Massachusetts were added to the list in 1930 and Delaware, Idaho, New Hampshire, New Jersey and West Virginia in 1931. In West Virginia, where the law leaves the option to counties, the statute was effective in only one county, and in that county there were no pensioners in 1932.

To date in the present calendar year nine additional states have adopted laws creating old age pensions: Arizona, Arkansas, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon and Washington, but the law adopted in Arkansas has already been declared unconstitutional.

On Warrior's Day

(Mail and Empire)

Warrior's Day parade at the Canadian National Exhibition was inspiring. It recalled many glorious feats of arms. Many of the veterans went far back of the Great War. Some were in South Africa. A few were in the Northwest Rebellion. Possibly some had memories of the Fenian Raid. The latter two campaigns were in direct defence of our own soil. Regimental drills, rifle shooting, yearly camps, all are preparations for self-defence. The militia training of those days was the basis of much greater efforts in later years. The expenditure in the aggregate was considerable. Recently these expenditures were curtailed owing to the prevailing financial conditions. Unfortunately school cadet corps suffered similarly under the cloak of economy but really in deference to a few clamant pacifists. The expenditure on cadets was trifling. The training in these corps was an admirable preparation for more exacting duties later in life. We hope that cadet training for the boys of this country will be fully restored when financial conditions no longer permit an excuse for petty economy.

Unweidly Legislatures

(Ottawa Journal)

One notes with some satisfaction that the Legislature which Nova Scotia returned on Tuesday consists of but 30 members. For it is only a few years back since Nova Scotia had a Legislature of 40 members, with a Legislative Council to boot. This with a smaller population.

The public, apparently, is becoming more sensible in this matter of representation. It is beginning to see that apart altogether from the matter of overhead in government—the unnecessary multiplication of indemnities—big legislatures mean unweidly legislatures with endless talk instead of action.

Anybody with experience in committee or legislative work knows that the smaller the body the greater the probability of action. Where twenty men will debate and split hairs and weigh things and end up by getting no-



BLACKBIRD

He comes on chosen evenings, My blackbird bountiful, and sings Over the gardens of the town Just at the hour the sun goes down. His flight across the chimneys thick, By some divine arithmetic, Comes to his customary stack, And couches there his plumage black.

And there he lifts his yellow bill Kindled against the sunset, till These suburbs are like Dymock woods Where music has her solitudes, And while he mocks the winter's wrong

Rapt on his pinnacle of song, Figured above our garden plots These are celestial chimney-pots.

—John Drinkwater.

An Ingenious Trap

(London Times)

At Wood Green on Friday, Frederick William Barnwell, 30, a plumber, was charged with stealing two hen's eggs from a fowlhouse on an allotment at Powys Lane, Palmers Green. Detective Skardon, giving evidence of arrest, produced three photographs of the accused in the fowlhouse, and when asked how they were taken replied, "Taken by the prisoner himself."

Robert Norbury, the prosecutor, of Whittington road, Bowes Park, said that he had lost property from the fowlhouse and suspected Barnwell, who worked the next allotment. He fixed a camera in the fowlhouse, and some days later found that a picture had been taken. He took the spool home and developed a picture of the accused. There was no doubt it was he, and the witness took the developed picture to the police. When arrested the accused man said, "I must have been a fool, I don't know what made me do it." The magistrate (Sir William Rice) bound over Barnwell.

It is stated that there was considerable ingenuity in the method Mr. Norbury employed. He had arranged it so that with the entrance of a person into the fowlhouse the shutter of the camera would open. Once inside, there was a second device which produced a click. At that the man turned his face towards where the camera rested and the photograph was taken.

where, a half dozen men will come to grips with things and decide upon some policy.

In Ontario we have a Legislature of 112 members. It could be cut to half that number with great gain to the Province. The existing system is simply the result of the old idea that each section of the community must have special representation. That, we have discovered, is of no particular value, is often a positive weakness. The time is bound to come when all of our Legislatures will have fewer members. It will mean less talk and less of sectionalism; but also less expense and a great deal less of inefficiency.

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"I wish you would look where you are going," said the important gentleman who nearly collided with the coster's barrow. "Oh, yus," said the coster, "and who might you be." "Well," replied the other, "I'd have you know that I can write 'M.P.' at the end of my name." "So can every blinking shrimp on my barrow!" snapped the coster. "Aren't you the boy who applied for the position a week ago?" "Yes, sir." "And didn't I say that I wanted an older boy?" "Yes, sir; that's why I'm here now."

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