

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1933.

THE WHEAT PROBLEM

While reports of starvation have come from Russia there are millions of bushels of unmarketable wheat in the world. The object of the World Wheat conference, recently concluded successfully under the chairmanship of Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett, was to bring about some form of agreement between importing and exporting countries and curtailment of world production to world requirements.

The August letter of the Canadian Bank of Commerce gives some information and striking statistics of the world's wheat acreage and wheat production covering the period from 1885 to 1932, or for forty-seven years. These statistics show that surplus countries (Canada, the United States, Argentina and Australia) increased their production from an annual average of 690 million bushels in the five-year period from 1885 to 1890 to 1,638 million bushels in the five year period from 1927 to 1932, by well over 100 per cent.

Mixed countries, self-contained or neither large exporters nor importers, increased their production from the annual average of 1,184 million bushels to 1,984 million bushels. These countries included Russia, parts of Eastern Europe, India, South Africa, New Zealand, and parts of South America.

PRESENT PROSPECTS

In a quarterly survey of Business Conditions the Monthly Review of the Bank of Nova Scotia has this to say: After a period of almost four years, in which the patient chronicler of events has been obliged to record conditions of, on the whole, ever-increasing gloom, it is with relief that he is at length able to present the reader with the fact of a definite increase in general business activity.

The most significant feature has been, of course, the general rise in commodity prices, and the better equilibrium obtained as between the various groups of prices—for the gaps between basic commodity prices and general wholesale prices on the one hand, and the prices of Canadian farm products and the prices of manufactured goods on the other, have been consistently narrowing.

From a strictly Canadian viewpoint the better balance as between the prices of farm products and manufactured goods is especially important. It means, roughly, that what the farmer sells has a greater value in terms of what he buys than was the case, say six months ago.

ago. This relative improvement in the prices of farm products (in the case of wheat, the advance has been much more pronounced than for the index as a whole) should do much to mitigate the unfavourable effects of short grain crops in Western Canada.

The upward movement has been general throughout the Canadian economy. It is notable, however, that a more pronounced rise has occurred in the Index of Stock Prices, rather than in the indices which more nearly represent the actual condition of business.

LUNAR PERSPECTIVE

Many have wondered why the moon looks larger nearer the horizon than while it is higher in the sky. Sir William Bragg, in "The Universe of Light" recently published in London, supplies the answer. Sir William says: "Unconsciously we adopt a different scale for the measurement of objects in the sky, according to their distance from the zenith overhead. We see clouds floating towards the horizon and shrinking in their apparent dimensions while they do so. An aeroplane becomes smaller and smaller as it moves away, the subtended angle decreasing continuously, and it is a mere speck when it disappears behind a distant hill. But the moon does not change its subtended angle in this way, and when we see it close to the horizon we measure it on the scale which we have learnt to associate with that part of the sky, and so it looks enormous. If we saw an aeroplane rising above the horizon from behind a distant village, having the same size as when overhead, it would seem to be larger than the village itself, and would surely be a terrifying spectacle. And yet that is what the moon does; so that there is nothing surprising in the fact that it may look large, in spite of all our experience of its behaviour, and of our knowledge that it cannot really be any larger there than when it gets overhead."

EDITORIAL NOTES

A formidable task has just been undertaken by the Port of London Authority. This involves a thorough clean-up of the Thames estuary. It is stated that, sunk in many feet of river mud up and down the mouth of the London Thames there are at least 200 old craft of various kinds. These submerged derelicts are a danger to river traffic, and will now be sought out and carefully removed. Neither accident nor design explains the existence of this sunken junk. They are small craft that have been forgotten and left to swing with the tide at their moorings until they rotted and became slowly waterlogged. A good many of these forgotten boats once belonged to men who joined up for the war, and who will never return to sail them again.

The movement to elevate prices in the United States has resulted in increases in the price of the loaf of bread, and, following complaints from consumers, the Consumers' Council of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration at Washington has taken action to check the rise. It is reported that the intervention has been successful, but in some instances at the cost of an inferior loaf. This is another problem to be attacked. The bakers who have increased their staffs and raised their wages are now wondering how they can spend more in their business and not increase their charges. Perhaps, suggests the Montreal Gazette, someone may advise them how to operate their plants without than was the case, say six months ago.

Notes By The Way

"Friends of Empire Marketing" is the title of a new organization formed in London to advance the interests of trade within the British Empire, and its object is to fill the breach made by the abandonment of the Empire Marketing Board. The formation of such a body is evidence of the intention of British peoples to draw closer together in matters of trade, and as such it is an encouraging sign of the times.

"If Gandhi continues to go on any more hunger strikes he will be held responsible for the inability of the nations to dispose of their surplus wheat. And if he continues to dress as lightly as he does, he will be blamed for the cotton crisis."—Le Devoir.

Le Messager (Leviston, Maine): "If there are people who have reason to believe that study of the French language is a waste of time they would do well to cast their eyes about them. They would see what great sums of money are being spent by the schools, colleges and universities of the United States for the teaching of French. More than that, in England, cradle of the English language, all pupils undertake from six to nine hours of French conversation a week, which is more than is being accomplished in some so-called Franco-American schools. And this year in England, there were 56,000 candidates for the French examinations, as against 4,000 for the German examinations."

Insects are the only branch of animal life which is capable of disputing the heritage of the earth with mankind. Their behavior recalls the queering curiosity of mankind. They are the vectors of disease and the attackers of human food and crops—sufficient evidence of their practical importance. The greatness of mankind's task is shown in that nearly 500,000 species of insects have been collected, described and named. The British Royal Society has had a great share in bringing order into this vast assembly of forms, but a vast number of further insects still remain to be dealt with.

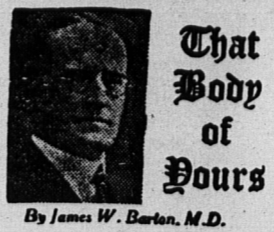
A recommendation to move 250,000 Jews out of Germany, settling 100,000 of them in Palestine, will be put before the eighteenth World Zionist Congress, opened at Prague, in Czechoslovakia on Monday. This recommendation would involve the removal of almost half the Jewish population of Germany. The World Almanac for 1933 says that Germany has 564,979 Jews out of a total population of 62,348,782 persons.

It is a common and erroneous belief that kidnapers usually escape, but the fact is that since United States federal police have been paying attention to the racket few kidnaping mysteries remain. In more than 90 per cent. of the cases arrests have been made, and the expectation is that there will be convictions, for in nearly all such cases the victim is able to identify his custodians.

The Soviet authorities do not recognize any unemployment problem. Their difficulty has been met by the passport and depopulation decree of last December, January and April. These decrees divide the Soviet Union into restricted or first-class and unrestricted or second-class zones. Unemployed persons are classified as undesirable and are not allowed to live in any of the restricted areas. They also forfeit their food cards when they become unemployed. If they are dismissed for no fault of their own they may retain their ration cards for fifteen days longer. Then, until they have obtained new employment and new cards, they and their dependents must retire to one of the second-class supervision until they can qualify for first-class citizenship.

Only two ships got past the rock of the sirens, but while Odysseus got past by blinding himself to the mast and filling his sailors' ears with wax, the ship which carried Orpheus succeeded in passing because the music of Orpheus was more beautiful than the music of the sirens. The way to meet the challenge of bad music is not by withholding pleasure from it, but by providing something better.

A lone handit is operating in Montreal who makes his male victims remove their trousers before he leaves the raided store. He knows enough of the shrinking violet nature of the lords of creation to realize that not one of them would rush out on the street in pursuit unless first garbed in his chemise.



By James W. Barton, M.D.

WATER AND SALT IN SWELLING DUE TO A FAILING HEART

One of the symptoms of a heart that is beginning to fail is swelling of the hands and feet, particularly the feet, due to accumulation of water. Naturally the patient desires to drink water and other fluids but restrains himself thinking that too much water in the system will only increase the amount of swelling in the feet, abdomen, or other parts of the body.

Drs. I. Harris and R. Mennie, London, undertook some experiments to learn the effect of large doses of salt and water in patients with this swelling due to a failing heart. First, they put 26 patients on a standard or ordinary diet for one week.

The second week, they gave large quantities of fluids but no salt. The third week they gave large quantities of fluid again but gave also about one ounce of salt daily. Some of the patients were given a small quantity of liquids—about two glassfuls daily—and a diet in which the ordinary amount of salt was used; later on, a small amount of fluid—two glassfuls—and no salt. In other patients the effect of large quantities of fluid and no salt, was compared with small quantities of fluids and no salt.

All sorts of measurements of pressure, the haemoglobin, the stickiness of the blood, the alkali reserve, were made, and the results carefully examined.

What did these physicians learn from this very complete test as to water and salt in their effects upon the swelling of feet and other parts due to a failing heart?

They conclude that salt and water have an unfavorable effect upon the system and increase the swelling, and if given in sufficiently large quantities greatly increase the amount of liquid or water in the blood as compared to the number of corpuscles. The use of large quantities of water alone, without the salt, has not very unfavorable effects as far as the swelling is concerned, but causes an increased concentration of the blood.

One discovery was that in this type of swelling the kidneys could not throw off the salt in normal amounts.

When Morgan Became An Ally

(Ottawa Journal) A book just published in New York—"Mirrors of Wall Street"—brings out a remarkable Anglo-American incident at the outbreak of the Great War. A few hours after Great Britain had declared war, Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, then the British ambassador to the United States, called the late J. P. Morgan on the telephone, arranged for an immediate conference. A few hours later, in the seclusion of the library of the Morgan home, in New York City, the ambassador presented the British case, said that Downing Street wanted an answer to one question: "Would Mr. Morgan lend all his power and force, financial and commercial, actual and potential to the British Government?" The matter of contracts and commissions could be taken up later.

Morgan answered simply "I will," and that was all. The ambassador and the financier shook hands. There was not the exchange of a letter, not a scratch on a pad. The greatest financial arrangement in history had been consummated by a gentlemen's agreement.



MONTEREY

We were not many—we who stood before the iron slat that day—yet many a gallant spirit would give half his years if he then could have been with us at Monterey.

Now here, now there, the shot, is hailed In deadly drif of fiery spray, Yet not a single soldier quailed When wounded comrades round them wailed Their dying shout of Monterey.

And on—still on our columns kept Through walls of flame its withering way; Where fell the dead, the living slept, Still charging on the guns which swept The slippery streets of Monterey. —Charles Fenno Hoffman.

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.

MR. HYNDMAN'S LETTER

Sir,—Mr. J. O. Hyndman's letter in Saturday's "Guardian" has no doubt been read with both interest and approval by Prince Edward Islanders generally. All will agree that the \$700 charge for carrying automobiles from and to the mainland is excessive, and that every possible effort should be made to have that figure reduced, as Mr. Hyndman suggests, to \$100 per individual trip.

The two other matters referred to, viz: the uncomfortable railway passenger cars from Sussex to Tormentine and the dusty highways on the Island are, like the high ferry charge, decided deterrents to our tourist trade, which might be made of great financial value to the Province, with its wonderful sea beaches, cool summer months, comfortable hotels, and beautiful scenery.

There is, however, a further cause for complaint that Mr. Hyndman omitted to mention, viz: the exceedingly slow rate of travel on the C. N. R. on this side of Moncton, and particularly on the Island itself. The following figures will illustrate what I refer to:

Toronto to Montreal: Miles 333.8, hours 8, minutes 00, miles per hour 41.73.

Montreal to Moncton: 653.0, hours 19, minutes 25, miles per hour 33.58.

Moncton to Tormentine: miles 73.5, hours 3, minutes 15, miles per hour 22.61.

Borden to Charlottetown: Miles 42.2, hours 2, minutes 5, miles per hour 20.29.

Charlottetown to Tignish: Miles 115.2, hours 8, minutes 49, miles per hour 13.09.

The time lost at junction points, Moncton, Skawville, Tormentine and Summerside, is not included in the above as travelling hours.

It may not be generally known, but there are parts of Europe, particularly in France, in which the rails of the steam lines are being torn up altogether or are being used only for slow freight, while the railway companies run busses and express trucks on the highways at from 35 to 40 miles per hour. Such a plan would, of course, call for full width asphalted roads. If the Ottawa Government is pledged to build the east end of the National Highway across this Island, which I presume would mean from one end to the other, why not suggest to them, as owners of the Canadian National Railways, that the Railway Company be given control of all bus travel and public carriage by trucks, in exchange for the building and maintenance of such roads as they might require for these purposes; or our Provincial Government might share the cost of maintaining the roads, which would be less than the upkeep of clay roads as at present.

This plan would solve three of our present problems: 1. Dusty roads, 2. Slow passenger travel, 3. Slow express and mail carriage. The great saving that would result on the railway would, I believe, in a short time pay for the cost of the road laying and the purchase of busses and trucks. It is only a matter of time when the gasoline engine will take the place of the heavy steam engine, particularly in sparsely populated districts such as we have on this Island. The above plan would not only give steady work to all our unemployed, but, by improving our transportation facilities, would live things up greatly all over the Province.

I am Sir, etc., H. K. S. HEMMING.

CREDIT WHERE DUE

Sir,—To the visitor on entering the main gate of the Provincial Exhibition grounds—the general appearance of all the surroundings would suggest a feeling of splendid enterprise, particularly when observing the many buildings for the effective housing of horses, cattle and poultry. I have been informed that more entries have been made this year than in any previous one, so much so that the many additions for the housing of live stock generally have been filled to capacity. Then the tidiness and general color to be seen in the main buildings, sheds and surroundings are added features to attract the attention of the great concourse of people who have patronized the Great Fair of 1933.

But the object of these notes is not to extol the splendid horse racing and magnificent showing of live stock, poultry, etc.—matters which have been so well attended to by the press generally, but among other things to call atten-

Seams And Sonnets

(K.M.H. in the Winnipeg Free Press)

When in doubt the practice seems to be to lecture on poetry. The latest to raise his voice is F. L. Lucas, who has been speaking before the British Academy on "The Criticism of Poetry," telling that august body that there isn't any criticism. Which is going to be big news to all those who have got their efforts artistically placed on broad expanses of nice, thick paper only to have some smart aleck assert that the volume lacked the authentic lyric note.

"Is there," asks Mr. Lucas, "a single law of literature, a single principle for writing poetry, a single canon for criticizing it, about which a congress of our critics would agree?"

It isn't recorded that Mr. Lucas paused for a reply. He had his answer all ready and it is "No." But why pick on critics of poetry? Is there any kind of a congress on anything from seams to sonnets on which there would be unanimous agreement among the delegates? And if all the critics did agree would the Poet then be sure that his brow's laurels were everlasting? One critic's opinion might be a majority against a hundred nays, and one critic's negative might be damnation against the plaudits of a multitude. Congresses of critics somewhat aren't so hot when immortality is waiting in the wings.

tion to the excellent judgment and artistic ability of those gentlemen who superintended the arrangement of the exhibits and interior decorations of the main building. To Mr. James Paton, the President of the Association, and Mr. S. A. McLeod, one of the efficient Directors, to be awarded the palm for the beautiful ensemble resulting from a well-executed planning of detail.

Entering the main building and ascending the stairway to the left, and taking a position in the centre of the gallery, facing south, one was entranced by the appearance of the lower floor. The two central rows of tables contained probably the finest, largest and most varied display of fruits ever seen in the month of August at any Provincial Exhibition held here in the past. (It must be remembered that the larger fruits do not mature until well on in September.)

Castling one's eyes to the right were three tables with a riotous profusion of color, containing flowers of every hue—home-grown and exotic, besides foliage and other plants in variety and hand bouquets. Then to the left were the extensive products of the dairy, for which this Province is celebrated. Further to the south were the main products of the Island—the results of the faithful husbandry in grains, vegetables and grasses. The home-cooking exhibits in appetizing breads, rolls, scones and tempting-looking cakes and pastry, as well as many varieties of preserves, and pickles could hardly be excelled.

Around the walls and surrounding the various tables of home exhibits were the stalls of several mercantile houses with displays of their wares tastefully arranged, having with the handsome draperies a most delightful effect, while here and there were interspersed refreshment booths containing cool drinks and ice cream, appreciated by the patrons of the fair.

On the gallery floor was probably the most elaborate display of home-handicraft work ever shown in Charlottetown. These exhibits

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covered about three sides of the building, where rugs, carpets, draperies, lace work, embroidery, hostery and kindred articles were lavishly spread out for the delight of onlookers, while at the south end was the art gallery, the exhibits of home-made pottery, also those of manual training. The overhead decorations in material of purple and yellow colorings were the artistic work of Miss Marion Norton and Mr. Arthur Orford, who also arranged the disposition of the many vari-colored balloons and Japanese lanterns, the whole combining to make the interior scene "A thing of beauty and a joy forever." I am Sir, etc., VENT-VIDA

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