

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1932

A TRAGEDY

The whole province is shocked by the dreadful tragedy early Sunday morning near Tignish, resulting in four deaths with eleven persons more or less seriously injured. The collision seems almost unbelievable under the circumstances recorded elsewhere in this issue, and it is felt someone has blundered. Inquests will be held and endeavors made to ascertain who is at fault, but that will not restore the lives that have been sacrificed. The fatality is the worst in the history of our railway and calls forth the sympathy of everyone for those so suddenly bereaved, and those so terribly injured.

TRUE OPTIMISM

It was a pleasure to read Mr. J. W. Boulter's interview on the Maritime delegation's visit to London. Previous interviews and reports on the subject indicated a cold reception and strong antagonism on the part of the British Department of Agriculture, the Minister of Agriculture and the scientific advisors of the British Government. Most people reading these interviews circulated broadcast in the press must have come to the conclusion that nothing but stark failure had met the efforts of the Dominion authorities and the Maritime Delegation. Mr. Boulter's interview puts quite a different face upon the subject. He indicates that the delegation was courteously and warmly received by the Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, Canada's High Commissioner, Sir John Gilmour, Minister of Agriculture, officials and advisers of Sir John, and Lord Birkenhead, who served as introducer of the delegation. Far from bowing the prospects of the Canadian potato growers, Mr. Boulter and Hon. Lewis Smith, who accompanied him, came away with the impression that the Dominion Government and the delegation had made a strong impression upon the British authorities, and although they had not succeeded in immediately getting the embargo removed had made such headway that probably before another crop is reaped arrangements may be made for the removal of the embargo. It is both a satisfaction and an encouragement to have such an intelligent and hopeful report of the efforts made to convince Great Britain's Agricultural Department that the potato bug or Colorado Beetle, under the safeguards applied here, cannot be carried by our potatoes into other territories, as our market in the Southern States and Cuba proves.

MR. KING'S BLUNDER

The political historian of the future, studying Mr. Mackenzie King's egregious blunders as a speechmaker, will doubtless award the palm to the famous "five-cent piece" speech of the parliamentary session of 1930. Next in order will be ranked Mr. King's magnum opus of 1931—his criticism of Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett's epoch-making address at the Imperial Conference in London, in which the policy of intra-Empire trade by tariff preferences was enunciated and which resulted subsequently in shaping the platform of the National Government and in the decision to hold the adjourned meeting of the Conference at Ottawa this summer. Had Mr. Bennett not attended the London Conference and spoken in the straight-forward manner he did, there would be no Ottawa conference this year and no immediate prospect of achieving closer trade relations between the nations of the British Commonwealth. So much is admitted, even by statesmen who do not see eye to eye with the Canadian

Prime Minister in tariff matters. Mr. King could not better have shown his unfitness for office than by his partisan attack upon the attitude taken by Mr. Bennett on that occasion. This evidently was realized by the Toronto Globe, leading Liberal newspaper in Eastern Canada—for the Globe promptly ignored Mr. King's comments and got enthusiastically behind the Bennett Government by issuing a special Empire Trade number in honor of the approaching conference, at which Mr. Bennett's suggestions in his London speech will be thoroughly threshed out. Finally, Mr. King's "Valley of Humiliation" speech last session virtually marked the beginning of the end of his influence as a political leader.

A BITTER STRUGGLE

The tenacity which the Chinese have shown in holding their positions in the ruins of Chapei against the determined efforts of Japan's small but thoroughly equipped and trained body of marines to dislodge them, has been a surprise to all observers. It is now evident that both countries are determined to fight out their differences to the bitter end. The one hopeful aspect of the situation is that neither Japan nor China is financially girt for war. They can hardly continue the present struggle for long without economic smash-up for themselves, even if the Western powers should remain content with purely verbal protests.

Few of those who have some sympathy for Japan's economic aims have any sympathy for the belligerent policy of her military leaders, who have forced this struggle in a vain effort to compel Chinese consumers to buy Japanese goods. It is hard to see what Japan can hope to win out of its fight. Conquest will not alter the underlying feelings of a race that thinks in terms of centuries; nor is it likely the present struggle will engender anything but deeper hatred and bitterness.

The setting up of a new republic in Manchuria and Mongolia, and the erection of neutral zones round the principal trade centres, may be commercially good for China, but if China does not choose to see it in that light, its realization will serve merely to prolong the struggle.

The worst feature of the moment in the East is its effect in retarding the efforts of those of other nations who are striving earnestly for world peace and disarmament. One cannot foretell how far the world's economic and political machinery may be set back by this turmoil in the Orient, but it is becoming painfully evident that wholesale disarmament by the Western nations in the face of the Japanese menace in the East would be a disastrous step at the present time.

THE BOARD OF TRADE

The Charlottetown Board of Trade is making an appeal this week for increased membership. The occasion is a fitting one in which to commend the activities of this organization which has functioned for many years in Charlottetown through the initiative and public spirit of a comparatively small number of citizens, who year after year have given freely of their time and money in furthering its interest. A Board of Trade is a community asset, and as such it deserves public recognition and support. The Charlottetown Board has done yeoman service in promoting worth-while movements, and its present appeal is one which should meet with very general response.

NOTES BY THE WAY

There is an air of unreality about most international conferences says the London Daily Express. In the case of the Disarmament Conference, now sitting at Geneva, that air of unreality has become a sheer fog of make-believe. China and Japan are on the very verge of real war. In India there is a tense situation that may at any moment demand extensive military operations. Russia is riding a hurricane.

Statistics show that a high proportion of our prison population consists of habitual offenders—of men who have spent most of their lives in and out of jail, often as a sequel to a first sentence inflicted on them in quite early youth. Hence, it seems clear that a prime object of penal reform should be to keep a young man or woman out of prison for as long as is reasonably possible, and judges and magistrates do usually act nowadays on this principle by taking every opportunity of binding over first offenders or placing them on probation. A term in jail, again, nearly always handicaps a man in after life, however sincere may be his intention to take up honest employment; and it follows that the most effective way of combating crime is at the very start—that is, by sparing no effort to prevent young offenders from drifting into the criminal rut.

The Japanese are delaying operations at Shanghai until they must muster forces in sufficient strength to carry everything before them in spite of the opposition of the fifty thousand Chinese troops which face them. And so the amazing war, without a declaration of war by either side goes on. And even more amazing still is the ingenious way in which the Japanese attempt or contrive, to create the impression that the Chinese are all to blame. For example take this. "Tokyo reported that still more units might be despatched in view of the threat that the Chinese will refuse to give in until they are overwhelmed." Fancy it! The Japanese will have to send more troops because of the Chinese "threat." What is the Chinese "threat?" They refuse to give in until they are overwhelmed. The Chinese are standing in their own city and they actually refuse to get out until they are forced out.

Formerly regarded as an emblem of royalty or mark of distinction, the umbrella dates its origin back to very remote times in the Far East. In ancient Greece, its use was familiar among women for protection from the sun, and it is thus represented in vase paintings and terra cotta, and also among the sculptures of Egypt. From Greece and Rome it was introduced into Italy in the Seventeenth Century. One Jonas Hanway is recorded to be the first Englishman who made a practice of using an umbrella while walking about the streets of London, in 1750. Oiled silk was the material ordinarily used in the umbrella. During the reign of Queen Anne the umbrella appears to have been in common use as a screen against rain. For a long time it was regarded as a woman's accessory, and men hesitated to adopt it because its use was regarded as too effeminate.

The origin of the word boycott may not be as generally known as it deserves to be. During the land agitation in Ireland when Gladstone was championing home rule for Ireland, Captain Boycott, agent for Lord Clarendon on his Irish estate, incurred the enmity of the Irish Land League and through the political organization closely associated with that league was sent to Coventry. To use an English phrase which from remote times has carried the meaning now attached to boycott, Captain Boycott was cut off by the people of part of Ireland in which he lived, from all communication or association with them. They would neither buy, sell, deal, speak, communicate, or have any ordinary or extraordinary contacts. Captain Boycott, it is stated, stood up against this organized action, but in the end the estate of which he was an official, gave in.

The complete cancellation of war debts and indemnities would relieve Germany of obligations aggregating \$24,000,000,000, would leave France with a net loss of \$3,000,000,000, and the United States with a net loss of \$21,000,000,000. Britain would be neither a loser nor a gainer, because 10 years ago she voluntarily wrote off all the war debts coming against the United States. The war damages assessed against Germany require to be reduced

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.

OUR HIGH SCHOOLS

Sir:—The recent regrettable loss of the Prince of Wales College building by fire has raised the question of the future of the institution and the particular service it ought to perform in our educational system, and this opens up the whole problem of high school and vocational instruction and teacher training. I should like to offer some comments and suggestions with regard to these matters.

In preparing a limited number of our young people for the universities, Prince of Wales College has been a great success. The institution enjoys a very high reputation at the Maritime universities and at McGill. This has been achieved by the quality of the instruction provided and the extreme rigor of an examination system by which none but students of exceptional ability and powers of application are permitted to pass. It is to be hoped that whatever is done in the new Prince of Wales College, it will still be able to provide the "lad o' pairts" with a grounding which will enable him to maintain the enviable standing of this Province in the fields of higher education.

The success above noted has been for the benefit of the few rather than of the many. The college has ministered to the greatest good of the smallest number, not "the greatest good of the greatest number" as the democratic formula would have it. While its graduates have been carrying off the highest honors at our universities, hundreds of worthy and ambitious boys and girls have had their fondest hopes frustrated and their scholastic careers tragically ended by a plucking in the entrance or first year examinations, and many parents have suffered heartburning and disappointment as the only result of the sacrifices they have made. Is this a condemnation of the College? Not at all. But it is a condemnation of the system of high school education in our Province.

There are four years—grades IX to XII—of secondary or high school work. (In New Brunswick the high school course is covered in three years, and this system might be introduced here. The four year course is in use in Ontario, the western provinces and the United States, and seems to be the normal. I offer no opinion as to which is preferable, but am bringing our course as it is.) As we have it, this service displays serious defects.

(a) It is divided into two parts, with a gap between. Grades IX, X, and XI are covered in the schools, and grades XII and XIII, as the first and second years of Prince of Wales College. An average student should be able to pass as easily from Grade X to Grade XI, as from Grade IX to Grade X. But the College half of the course does not mesh with the school half; there is a break in the continuity. Grades I to X are built to a certain standard; Grades XI, XII, and XIII to a higher standard; and the average student cannot bridge the gap. This anomaly ought to be rectified.

(b) Instruction in grades IX, X, and XI is too widely distributed. It is being carried on in scores of one- and two-room schools by teachers who suffer a double handicap in their efforts. (1) They lack the necessary education, and (2) they are forced to share with several elementary grades the attention which ought to be concentrated on the high school work. Corresponding evils result. (1) The students of grades IX, X, and XI receive no groundwork upon which to build the work of Grades XII and XIII. To this, in part, is due the wide gap between the last year of school and the first year of college, and the wholesale plucking in the entrance examination. (2) The elementary grades are neglected and deprived of the patient drilling so necessary for thoroughness in that part of the school course. This weakens the whole structure of our school work from bottom to top. High school work ought not to be attempted in conjunction with elementary work or by teach-

ers of an educational standard much, if any, below that of B. A. Some such arrangement as the following would be an improvement. In the towns and villages and selected rural centres, high school departments should be carried on in connection with the district schools, to which the contiguous districts to the number of four to six would have the right to send their students above Grade VIII without fee. Students old enough for Grade IX, should be able to make their way a considerable distance to school. The course for Grades IX, X, and XI, should be given in these departments. In the larger centres Grade XII, and in at least one place in each county Grade XIII, should be added. The group of districts should join in contributing to supplement the high school teacher's salary. A higher license than the present first class should be required of teachers holding those positions. Schools not having such departments should confine themselves to elementary work. All this would require legislation. It could not be done on a voluntary basis.

The Poet's Corner

FROM "NIGHT WALK"

A pride of legs in motion kept Our spirits to their task meanwhile, And what was deepest dreaming slept: The posts that named the swallow-mile; Beside the straight canal the hut Abandoned; near the river's source Its infant chirp; the shortest cut; The roadway missed were our discourse; At times dear poets, whom some view Transcendent or subdued, evoked But most the silences were sweet.

—George Meredith.



That Body of Ours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

PAIN OVER HEART-ANGINA PECTORIS

"An attack consists in the sudden onset of agonizing pain over the heart or breast bone, accompanied by a feeling of tightness or constriction as if the heart was in a vise, and in severe cases by a sense of death being very close at hand. The pain may go into the back and shoulders, and arms, particularly the left. The patient is pale, haggard, motionless, and often bathed with cold perspiration.

This is the description given of angina pectoris, breast pang or breast pain.

Now in a true or real case of angina pectoris there is always a definite organic cause. Although there have been as many as eighty or more suggestions as to the cause of the pain, it is now generally believed that the pain is due to a lack of blood getting into the heart owing to the blood vessels undergoing a spasm which closed them considerably, or to something actually obstructing the flow. This is the reason that the amyl nitrite is so helpful in these attacks as it dilates or opens the blood vessels. Another cause is believed to be due to a lack of oxygen in the blood in the vessels of the heart itself.

There are a number of conditions which may be confused with it, such as neuralgia in the nerves in this region. An accumulation of gas in the stomach may cause severe pressure against the floor of the chest and thus against the heart and the patient may have collapse and fear of impending death. The passage of this gas up or down from the stomach gives relief and shows the cause of the pain.

Some cases of asthma, and of hysteria, also resemble angina pectoris.

A point to remember is that in the majority of cases of true angina the pain comes on with exertion, whereas the pain in false angina may occur when one is sitting down or lying down.

Notwithstanding the danger of angina pectoris, careful living will preserve the life for many years.

The thought then is that the pain over your heart or breast bone is angina pectoris, or it is not. Why worry about a pain that may be due to some simple cause, when an examination by your family physician will clear up the matter for you.

after reading the resume of useful and helpful activities, feel that this is an organization to which he must, if possible, belong.

During the past season such matters of vital community interest, as adequate train service with the Mainland, embracing a Sunday crossing, a rail matter of great importance to our business men, power rate for electric energy, Chisecto Canal, accounting of Car Ferry Service, and a host of other important matters, occupied the attention of the Council, and necessitated twenty four meetings. Multiply this by its forty five years of existence, and the benefit of its work cannot be calculated. During all that time its officers have been men of integrity and public spirit. A Board of Trade, says one of our leading Canadian Bankers, "is a clearing house of thought on business and community questions whose plans and differences can be discussed in an atmosphere of goodwill, and in a broad spirit."

Today this Province is enjoying splendid transportation facilities with the Mainland, and we boast of our palatial and powerful car ferry. We are proud of our modern and luxurious Hotel, and the many other privileges which we now enjoy; but these are of comparatively recent origin, and were only obtained after years of constant pressure and demand. The Board of Trade does not take the credit for

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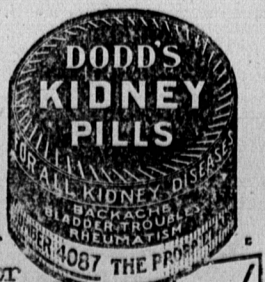
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obtaining these things, which have transformed the Province from an isolated, practically unknown spot, to a Tourist's Paradise, easy of access, known the world over but we do maintain that for years our members have been keeping after those in authority to give us the rights which were properly ours and which had been denied us for so long a time. It is a non political body with no axe to grind, and is therefore in a position to press for the rights of the City and Province, regardless of what party may happen to be in power at the time.

It is a regrettable fact however that, probably due in some measure to lack of knowledge of the activities of the Board, our membership is not as large as the importance of the work it performs would seem to justify. The present membership is one hundred and fifty. Regina, a city of about forty two thousand people, situated in an area supposed to be most seriously affected by the present depression, has a membership of eleven hundred. On the basis of comparative population, we should have around three hundred, or double our present membership.

Living on an Island with its attendant transportation inconveniences, the need is much greater, and demands the attention of all citizens who love their city and desire

continuous and progressive advancement.

There are two conspicuous reasons, among many others, why the Board of Trade membership should be increased. In the first place the Board needs all the support it can command. Secondly the Board has an even larger field of service before it in the better times, that cannot now be long delayed. Help is to be ready to grasp undoubted opportunities in the interests of Charlottetown, which unquestionably lie before it. With the spirit of optimism that characterizes the people of this province, we enter the year 1932 with confidence that we will before long, again break in the sunshine of renewed prosperity. All together for a better year for Charlottetown in 1932. Help the Board of Trade to that leadership of which it is capable in this year of opportunity.

I am, Sir, etc. P. W. TURNER Chairman Membership Committee

Financial Note

Fond Mother (arriving home late)—I hope my little darling has been as good as gold all day. Nurse (au fait politically)—No, ma'am, he went off the gold standard about tea-time.—Humorist.

Advertisement for 'The Chew for You' tobacco. Includes text: 'A better tobacco and a better cure—that accounts for the popularity of our "BLACK TWIST" CHEWING HICKEY & NICHOLSON'.

Advertisement for Imperial Fox Biscuits. Includes text: 'Improve With Imperials IMPERIAL FOX BISCUITS IMPROVE BY PROMOTING Health of Foxes. ENHANCING Appearance and Market Value of Pelts. ADDING TO Size of Litters. INCREASING Number of Pups Reaching Maturity. "FOR SUCCESS, FEED IMPERIALS" IMPERIAL BISCUIT COMPANY, Ltd. Charlottetown, P. E. I.'