

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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LETTERS TO EDITOR

People who write letters to the newspaper have no reason to doubt whether they are read, says the Toronto Mail and Empire. They are not only read but resented to such an extent that a bill has been introduced in the Maine Legislature to limit their publication. The proposed bill would prohibit all unsigned communications in the press not dealing with regular news. The sponsor, Senator Martin, spoke of letters that had appeared in the Bangor Commercial, and said: "We are tired of the Commercial always hitting at our Poor department. . . . Not only has it been the Poor department but the School department. We believe such matters could be taken care of in different channels through the department affected without going into the columns of an open forum. . . . If the letters were written over real signatures it would not keep the people of Bangor in a continuous state of turmoil, because they would know who wrote them and how to evaluate their opinions."

It is wholly unlikely that the Legislature will show much respect for this bill, because it is unlikely that it can be shown that anybody suffers any hardship because of letters to the editor. If they are libellous, whether signed by the writers real name or not, the aggrieved party can sue the newspaper. If they are merely critical they can be answered, and if they are mistaken, the errors can be pointed out. It is the general practice of newspapers that when letters to the editor make personal attacks upon any person the name of the assailant must be published. That is only fair. But the same argument does not apply to the conduct of public institutions. Very often it happens that those in a position to know the facts of the case do not dare disclose their identity for fear of losing their jobs or suffering other reprisals. If they were to be quenched as a source of information many public abuses might flourish. There are also many readers who, because of modesty, do not like to see their names in print. There are others who realize that because of their poverty, their opinions are likely to be discounted. Therefore, their letters appear anonymously, and can be read and considered on their merits, uninfluenced by the status of the authors. Both newspapers and their readers would strongly object to any legislation that would further interfere with unsigned communications. Such communications often make most interesting reading, especially if they are short for, as the Boston Herald remarked when addressing its own correspondents, "most readers are lost after the first 20 lines."

BENNETT WILL BE BACK

An Ottawa correspondent writes us: Newspapers which for reasons of their own are opposed to the Conservative party, and especially to Mr. Bennett, have been having a grand time during the past month with the subject of the Prime Minister's illness. Especially the big city dailies allied to the Grit cause have been carrying on a crafty campaign of innuendo and inference designed for the most part to convince their readers that Mr. Bennett's condition is far more serious than it is, that he has suffered a complete breakdown, that his retirement from public life is imminent; even that his life is in danger. Woven with these gross exaggerations to produce a pattern of cunning political partisanship is the suggestion that it is all Mr. Bennett's own fault, that he has taken too much upon himself during the past four years. That he has not shared responsibilities with the members of his Cabinet to the extent that he should. Enough crocodile tears have been shed by Grit correspondents and editors during the past three weeks to restore green hushness to all the drought-stricken prairie plains. As to the Prime Minister's illness the real facts are simple enough. On February twenty-fourth, Mr. Bennett, suffering from a cold and a sore throat, called in his physician and went to bed for a rest. A day or so later influenza developed. The Prime Minister, in common with many thousands of his fellow Canadians, was down with gripe. A thorough medical examination disclosed a slight intermittent heart palpitation. Rest was prescribed as a fundamental necessity for a cure. The Prime Minister is not the type which takes easily to inaction. Illness irks him, both he despises and dreads, but he is essentially a

logical man. Assured by his physicians that rest was imperative to his recovery, he consented to remain in his apartments, although he has been at all times in contact with affairs on Parliament Hill through his able and loyal secretariat. Mr. Bennett will continue to rest until his medical advisers tell him to go back to work. He may take a short vacation before he again buckles on his harness. The heart condition has entirely disappeared, and the Prime Minister's progress toward recovery has been steady for a week past. Bennett will be back; and his enemies will be very sorry when he gets back.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Both Japan and Germany leave the League of Nations this year—the two prime troublemakers whom the League was supposed to restrain and keep in order.

Mr. J. E. Myers's parliamentary reputation has been steadily enhanced since entering the House, and he has been called upon by the Government this year to speak on its behalf on both the Address and the Budget. The House immediately fills when it is known "John" is going to speak, as he has always something good and pithy to say.

As a drowning man clutches a straw, so the Mackenzie King opposition seizes a resolution of no confidence in the Government on the Budget as a last hope of making good. The fact that the "Big Interest" and Beauharnois crowd are striving might and main for a Coalition Government, is ample evidence that they see no ghost of a chance of the Liberals gaining power at the forthcoming election.

Hon. W. M. Lea is another "on again, off again" politician who will never reach to the status of statesmanship. His straddling the fence over the Potato Growers Association gains him no credit. Had he manfully pledged his party to Government support of the Potato Growers he would have accomplished something; as it is, his "personal" opinion on the subject is of as much intrinsic value as that of "Killing the Kaiser with his mouth," of which we have had too many precedents already.

The new commander in Chief of the Salvation Army, General By-angeline Booth is no "spoil sport" or "kill joy." On her recent arrival at Adelaide, Australia, she strongly defended sport. She said she had read a statement by a preacher that an exciting football match was no preparation for the Sunday's service, but she considered sport and exercise a necessity and could find no basis in the Bible for the minister's objection. General Booth said she herself was an ardent sportswoman, swimmer and fancy diver.

Bishop Welton, formerly headmaster of Eton, is inclined to believe in telepathy, the extra "sense" thoroughly approved by old time Celts. In his newly published "Life," he says when he was in India: "Lord Curzon told me, if I remember his words rightly, that the assassination of Lord Mayo, when he was Viceroy of India, in the Andaman Islands, was known in the bazaar at Lahore within three or four hours of its occurrence—long before it could have been transmitted by any of the then available means of communicating news."

That romance still is to be found in everyday affairs is evident from the will just probated of the late Mr. James Fenderel-Brodhurst, consulting editor of the London "Guardian" who has bequeathed "the Penderel perpetual annuity to his daughter Eleanor Dorothy Catherine Fenderel-Brodhurst in fee tail." The annuity mentioned in this bequest is received by the family from a private trust for their services to Charles II, after his defeat at Worcester, 1651, when they fed and sheltered him and hid him in the Boswell Oak. The grateful King ordered the creation of this trust fund to be paid the patriotic family for all time.

While there is a Gaelic revival in this Province and Cape Breton, the same cannot be said of the Old Country. Speaking at Lochaber Provincial M.D. concert in Port William, Mr. Donald Macphail, chief organizer of an Amann Gaelic school for the North of Scotland, blamed Gaelic-speaking parents for the decline of the Gaelic language. He

Notes By The Way

Whatever may develop in 1935, it is, I think, unquestionable that there is a new spirit abroad. It is not merely a sense of relief. It is a feeling that it is worth while to struggle for a peaceful re-establishment of a free European society again because there is some prospect of success. With this has come a new release of energies which had been slowly growing moribund under a sense of fatalism. Moreover, there has come also a sudden realization that the free democracies have stood up better than other countries, and there is a marked turning away from dictatorship as the only way out. One cannot predict how long the present dictatorship may continue, but there appears now no immediate danger of dictatorships or fascism spreading. Freedom and personal liberty are fought for, from the present position which men cried only for safety and order at any cost.—Yale Review.

The casual passer-by at times often looks twice or oftener at models in some window to make sure that they are not from the London, England, the shoppers are not carrying mannequins walking about almost any time. And in the future most of the window-shoppers will be able to do their looking under the present weather is bad. The shopping centre of London are to be a series of arcades. Mannequins will emerge from the interior of the stores where they are already continuously on display and appear in the windows in place of the present figures. Success should immediately be taken as an innovation.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

In spite of the not overly impressive record of the League of Nations, which is the case of the auxiliary sailing ship, the bella, built a few years ago specifically for the smuggling of opium from the Far East to the Pacific Coast of North America. The ship was built in a British Crown colony, Hongkong; it flew the flag of Panama; it lay in Portuguese waters at Macao to pick up a cargo brought on board from Chinese territory; a cargo of Persian opium which had been loaded at the Persian port of Bandar Abbas in the dead of night and had been secretly disembarked into the junks of the Chinese coast. The captain was a Hollander, the chief engineer a German, one mate a Canadian, the other a U.S. citizen, the crew were Chinese. Filled in an effort to land her cargo on Canadian shores, she proceeded to a remote international case than this? And yet in this case, there was co-operation between all of the nations directly concerned. The ship was eventually seized and is now a customs preventive cruiser on the China coast.

The government claims reoccupation of Mitylene, Chios and Samos, three islands of great historic interest. In the seventh century before Christ, Samos was the great commercial center of Greece, and its people claimed to have been the first Greeks to reach Gibraltar. A century or so later its navy "ruled the waves." Chios, where iron-welding was said to have been invented, was famous in antiquity for its sculptors and its school of epic poets who wrote the descent from Homer, Mitylene (Lesbos) was known for its music and poetry. The dispatches from Athens are rich in historic names these days.—Ex.

As an intelligent people we cannot permit ourselves to be choked to death by our own efficiency. Whatever spirit of unreason may have ensconced itself in the common mind of our economic system, we mean to be honest and fed, educated and entertained, the wise men puzzle out the remoter social problems. We have the land and the labor, and for a million years mankind has fared tolerably where these resources were available.—Yale Review.

Domestics met in New York and protested that they rate being called by their first names. They wanted to be known as "Miss Smith" and "Miss Jones." Their protest where democracy has been the slogan and watchword has been the "where a man feels hurt if you don't call him by his Christian name. Perhaps New York is getting over-civilized.—Hamilton Herald.

Exports of some 25,748 pairs of Canadian-made skates to Europe last year is attributed to the fact that Canadian hockey teams on their visits there made the great game popular with the Europeans. The players, apparently, are good ambassadors in trade as well as advertisers of the Dominion.

Roosevelt has won a victory in the Senate and will soon have five billion dollars to spend on relief work. If that doesn't "prime the pump" for the next year's election some other President will be chosen to work the pump handle. It cannot be that the well is dry.

The House of Commons at Ottawa has voted \$200,000 to advertise Canada's tourist attractions in newspapers and magazines in the United States. Although the pickings have been poorer during the depression years, Canada profited from American tourists in 1929 to the extent of something like \$300,000,000. The Minister of Railways prophesied, when asking for \$200,000 appropriation, that within five years Americans will be spending \$500,000,000 annually in the Dominion. Advertising Canadian resorts is only one of the devices adopted to make touring in Canada popular. A Government spokesman made an earnest plea for the hospitable treatment of American visitors and stated that instructions had been sent to all customs and immigration officers to extend every courtesy to them at the border. Canada's tourist enterprise in this connection is something that might well be more widely emulated on the side of the border.—Detroit Free Press.

The birthday of Adolf Hitler falls on April 20 and it will be enthusiastically celebrated in Germany. Honors, appointments, titles and pay increases will be granted on that day, as is the custom of kings and emperors. An American exchange does not like this deification of Hitler. It says: "Aside from its aspects of animosity, and these are very pronounced and indignant,

That Body of Bours

RHEUMATISM IS DUE TO A NUMBER OF CAUSES

It is believed that rheumatism is the oldest ailment known and yet it is responsible for more illness and loss of time from employment, than any other known ailment. In an effort to relieve the pain, crippling, and loss of employment, physicians in every country are organizing societies for the prevention and treatment of rheumatism. As with every form of treatment for any ailment the importance of one method has been exaggerated with the pendulum swinging then too much the other way, so also has it been with the removal of infected teeth in treating rheumatism. So dramatic were the cures of rheumatism by removal of teeth and tonsils that for a time practical all cases were advised to have teeth and tonsils removed. As many of these cases were not due to infected teeth or tonsils, and in others too they claimed to be more cases than any other single cause, but there are other parts or organs of the body that can cause rheumatism by poisoning the blood stream and these other organs are often overlooked.

One of the worst offenders is the large intestine; it not only holds poisons from other parts within it, but also manufactures poisons of its own which, absorbed by the blood, carry trouble to the joints of the body and rheumatism results. The gall bladder is another source of infection causing rheumatism. However food is now considered a factor and the starch foods—potatoes, bread, sugar—are blamed for aggravating or prolonging rheumatic symptoms.

The weather is an important factor; when the atmospheric pressure is low and the rheumatic patients in hospital claim to complain bitterly of pain and misery.

That the form of employment is a factor is recognized and it has been said that each trade has its own brand of rheumatism or arthritis. When the patient is not over-weighted, and that more fluid—water—should be taken to help the kidneys rid the blood of waste products.

The Government is asking Parliament for authority to renew the existing relief agreements with the provinces. There is nothing easy to say, as the Opposition is saying that the Dominion Government should relieve the municipalities of all relief costs, but that, having regard to Federal revenues, seems far different thing from the suggestion that the Dominion step in and pay the cost of relief for the municipalities of everything. Where would the money come from? And the machinery?

The Government, says the Opposition, should have cured unemployment. Such a cry may be good when it lacks common sense. But the Opposition, while it may use such talk on the eve of an election knows perfectly well that the present Government has done as much to cure unemployment as any Government in the world—more than most Governments. The United States and England with vast sums at their disposal, have tried to conquer unemployment. They have not succeeded. In fact, they have been less successful than we have.

The truth is that with the world in its present state, there can be no cure for unemployment. No country, no matter how rich its resources, can cure unemployment by itself. It certainly can't be done in the case of a country whose prosperity depends upon export trade.

This doesn't mean that we should throw up our hands. Do nothing. Canada hasn't been doing that. She isn't going to do it. What it does mean, however, is that we have got to have regard for certain stern facts. If there were fewer people in Canada, more people on her land, plus more people on her land content with a decent living off it, our unemployment problem would be less acute. It might not exist at all. But just so long as nearly 50 per cent of our population remain in the cities, with our industrial plant and overhead far in excess of our needs, and stability of employment necessarily dependent upon whether we can sell what we make to other countries, then inevitably our position will remain precarious.

Theorize as we like, there are certain economic laws in life that can't be conquered. It is easy to talk about great public works programs. But what seems self-evident is that such programs demand vast per capita expenditures to absorb any great amount of labor. Moreover, they involve the danger of crystallizing a great deal of wealth in non-productive things, plus the piling up of a still mounting fixed charges. For a country like Canada, which has a tremendous overhead already, that is hardly something to cheer about.

Incidentally, getting back to Parliament, if anybody noticed any Opposition plan to cure unemployment? This country is on the eve of a general election. Mr. King is asking that he be returned to office. Yet Mr. King, asking such a feat, and condemning the present Government vociferously, hasn't put forward a single, concrete plan or proposal promising anything to as much as touch unemployment. He has voted nothing but the vague generalities about trade. Or about some sort of a national commission.

the declaration by a dictator for this is what it amounts to—of a day of national rejoicing, in his honor, is dangerous alike to the people and the agent.—Calgary Herald.

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.

CAR TAXES

Sir,—In a recent issue of the Guardian they appeared a letter headed "Car Tax" by one signing himself "Farmer." For the past month we have read in the dailypapers of a great Marketing Board scheme, which was to find a market for our potatoes and also boost the price. To our sad surprise, it so far has amounted to nothing. Now that the House is in session, should not the Government practice what they preach, having the car tax reduced, thereby giving the farmer some real help.

I AM, SR. etc., ANOTHER FARMER.

The Potato Corner

FROM "LAST POEMS"

In valleys green and still Where lovers wander musing They hear from over hill A music playing.

Behind the drug and life, Past hawthornwood and hollow, Through earth and out of life The soldiers follow.

The soldier's is the trade: In any wind or weather He steals the heart of maid And man together.

The lover and his lass Beneath the hawthorn lying Have heard the soldiers pass, And both are sighing.

And down the distance they With dying note and swelling Walk the evening way To the still dwelling.

—A. E. Housman.

The Problem Of Relief

(Ottawa Journal)

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Amazing Americans

(St. Louis Post-Dispatch) We Americans are a constant source of amusement to the English. One of the things they have never been quite able to understand is the "crudity" of our accent. For an English-speaking person not to duplicate or, at least, approximate the curious sounds that issue from the larynx of an Oxford don is to them incomprehensible.

Now, a new charge is brought against us. In gentle irony, Ivor Brown, writing in the Manchester Guardian, says: "They (the Americans) speak far less fast than the English, and they use longer, more formal words. The dignitaries of a classical vocabulary are very dear to them. They do not have a talk; they go into conference. They do not work the lift; they operate the elevator. What we call flats, they call apartments, what we call by brief, familiar terms, they call a comfort station. They call their Congress members representatives or congressmen, not M. P.'s in the snappy English fashion."

These are elements of truth in Mr. Brown's observations. He should bear in mind, however, the famous French axiom, "No generalization is true, not even this one." For example, many of our compatriots, called upon to comment upon Mr. Brown's remark that "the dignities of a classical vocabulary are very dear to them," would, in the snappy English fashion, dispose of the subject with a very small monosyllable, namely, "Nuts!"

Married Or Single

(Halifax Chronicle)

Prince Edward Island presents some rather singular figures about its hospital for the insane. Its report points out that since the opening of the institution, 527 single persons were admitted, contrasted with only 96 married persons. Just what conclusion is to be reached is a matter of no inconsiderable difficulty to determine. On its face it would argue that those who went "under the yoke" were less liable to be driven from their mental stability, than those who remained free. We hardly think that any one would venture to suggest marriage

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Chemistry opens to woman worker (By The Canadian Press) MONCHESTER, March 27 — In the Juvenile Employment Bureau's series of talks on employment, two women spoke at the College of Technology on their own professions and the opportunities they afford girls. Miss E. Sargent, a pharmacist, remarked that oppor-

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