

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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HELPING THE FOX FARMER

An advertisement issued by the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture and published in the press of that Province carries the proud caption: "New Brunswick leads the World in Service to Fox Farmers."

"In 1928," the advertisement continues, "New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, in co-operation with the New Brunswick Fox Breeders Association, employed an expert veterinarian who visited a large number of the fox ranches of the Province. This initial effort was so successful and so greatly appreciated that in 1929 the Department of Agriculture instituted an enlarged service, employing an expert fox veterinarian and a practical fox farmer to visit the fox ranches of the Province to give special service to beginners and to the smaller ranchers in an effort to foster and encourage the fur-farming industry of the Province. In this progressive work New Brunswick leads the world."

Thanks to the initiative of our breeders, Prince Edward Island can still boast that she leads the world in the production of quality silver black foxes. She has maintained this lead from the start, and no country, Province or State has ever seriously challenged her position. She is shortly to hold the first live silver fox exhibition ever held in the Maritime Provinces, and the assistance of the Provincial Government has been secured in this laudable enterprise. But it is well to keep a friendly eye on the activities of our competitors. The New Brunswick Government is taking an increasing interest in the fox business in that Province, and through its co-operation we may expect to see the industry make strides in the near future. The Government of this Province, if only from the standpoint of increased revenue, should be keenly interested in promoting any scheme to foster and encourage fox farming. Expert veterinary inspection of all fox farms is one way in which it could show that interest. Close co-operation with our fox breeders, with frequent conferences between the government and the breeders, might have successful results in many ways, and might be especially beneficial in encouraging the general farmer to take up this business as a profitable sideline.

A NOTABLE FIGURE

The most conspicuous and perhaps the most interesting figure in public life today is the Rt. Hon. J. Ramsay MacDonald, Prime Minister of Great Britain and leader of the Labor Party. In the real sense of the word, Mr. MacDonald is a self-made man. Born in a little fishing village in Scotland, the son of a laborer and his first home a "but and ben," he came to London at the age of eighteen and worked at 12 shillings and sixpence a week as a clerk. He continued his own education by evening classes, laboratory work and incessant reading until a breakdown in health ended his dream of a scientific career, and sent him to journalism. Joining the Independent Labor Party in 1894, he became more and more interested in politics. The later phases of his career are well known to all our readers. To have risen from poverty and obscurity to the position of First Commoner in the land, to have become educated and cultured without the aid of college or university, is in itself a striking example of what can be done by well directed labor.

That Mr. MacDonald is a strong man goes without saying. He will undoubtedly make an impression on the history of Great Britain and possibly of the world. He has able men in his party; he also has a following which it will require all his strength to hold in leash, and the path before him is not a rosy one. He is at present on a peace mission to the United States. No royal personage has ever received a more enthusiastic welcome. He will be accorded an equally cordial recep-

tion in Canada when he arrives. From the fishing village in Scotland and its humble companionships to his status of today is a long step, and few men in any age have been able to traverse it.

That Mr. MacDonald is entitled to all the honor that has been bestowed upon him goes without saying. He has earned it all by his own hand. And while there may be questionings as to the wisdom of his policy and his dealings with the radical elements of the Socialist and Labor parties throughout the world, few will doubt his honesty and sincerity of purpose. His visit to Canada is an event in the history of the country, and in doing him honor Canada will honor herself.

TALKING TURKEY

With the Thanksgiving season far off, anything referring to turkey is of interest. "Many a stout gobler who struts about the barnyard today will land tops up on a big platter in the middle of the dinner table before the year is out," sighs the Vancouver Province. "If he doesn't get the axe at Thanksgiving, they'll catch him for Christmas."

Turkey raising is a declining industry on the North American continent. The United States is an importer of turkeys, live and dressed. The industry is followed extensively in Eastern Canada, given some attention in the Middle West, but almost wholly neglected in British Columbia. That there are possibilities in it may be inferred from the news that the turkey-growers of the United States plan to send a large delegation to the World's Poultry Congress at London next year. The turkey producers will go at their own expense, the trip to cost around \$1000. Farmers or their wives who can afford to enjoy such a tour are not likely among the number clamoring for loans from the United States Government.

Some idea of the world demand for turkeys is indicated in United States trade returns which show that in 1928 the Argentine Republic alone shipped to the United States 2,485,560 pounds of turkey, despite the tariff of 6 cents a pound imposed. In August and September last year, Americans imported more than 2,000,000 pounds. Raising turkeys is work for the most energetic and intelligent, and women excel in it. Once the turkey chicks begin to sprout wing feathers, the trouble period in raising them is about over. It is set down as an axiom in the poultry business that "anyone who can raise turkeys can make money."

BE NOT TOO POMPOUS

The National Federation of Merchant Tailors meeting recently at Exeter, England, protested against "dress quacks," and, "as the custodian of good taste and style in real tailoring," carried a resolution urging the young man with his way to make in the world to be particular and precise in the matter of suitable dress on all occasions. Doubtless the convention delegates had reason to style themselves "custodians of good taste," etc., in matters sartorial. Yet the phraseology is somewhat unfortunate. It reminds us of the famous petition beginning "We, the people of England," which the tailors of Tooley Street submitted to Parliament. It does not do to take one's business too seriously; and when any organization begins to look upon itself as the "custodian" either of public morals or public taste, that organization is riding for a fall. We shudder to think what Carlyle would have made of the resolution of the National Federation of Merchant Tailors.

EDITORIAL NOTES

While Mayor Thompson of Chicago may not retire from office with a clean sheet his worship will leave an empty treasury.

Notes By The Way

The golf season approaches its close. To many persons in the cities of all English-speaking countries golf is an attractive game and is played with great zest and enjoyment. It gives the player exercise in the open air for every limb and muscle in his body for one thing. At the same time the uninitiated observer who sees a game on the links for the first time may be led to wonder at the enthusiasm and devotion of the players to their favorite pastime.

To such an observer golf is a ball game, played with six or eight different kinds of bats called "sticks," but each having a separate name for itself known only to the initiated. Golf is something of an aristocratic sport in its way, requiring a large area of land on which the course is laid out, and a club house, both usually located near a city or town, and involving a very considerable outlay. It is therefore not a sport which appeals to the proletariat as many other outdoor sports do.

Golf is venerable as a sport and is claimed to be of Dutch origin, but it found a home in Scotland some 500 or more years ago, and was little known elsewhere for a long period. It was introduced into England from Scotland during the 17th century, but was not played extensively there until after 1864. Under the new impetus derived from its growing popularity in the United Kingdom, it spread to America, and is now established throughout Canada, the British Empire and the United States. It was first played in New York about 1890, after an earlier introduction in Canada from Scotland.

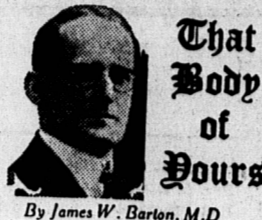
Golf as an outdoor summer sport, and "the roarin' game" of curling for indoors in winter, seem to have special attractions for Scotsmen and their descendants wherever they may be, and they have carried them, along with the bagpipes to the ends of the earth.

There have been many predictions of an early and cold winter in Canada, but the one thing that is fairly certain is that the prophets know very little about it. In the past it has been proverbial that the unexpected happens quite as frequently as that which has been confidently anticipated. For instance, who predicted the drought that came over Western Canada and England last summer, or the return of the "flu" to Prince Edward Island, with such deadly effect upon our aged people last winter? The future is, no doubt, wisely hidden from mortal eyes, and it should not be feared, except in so far as may keep us back from wrong doing, for fear is depressing and always injurious.

The MacDonald Government in England is playing its game in national and international affairs, with a bold and vigorous hand, notwithstanding its minority in the House of Commons and the Lords. Some of the things it has done and other things it proposes to do, provoke sharp criticism, but on the whole it seems to be gaining rather than losing ground in popular favor. The Prime Minister, now in the United States, is being received with all the courtesy and respect due to his personal high character and his ability as a statesman.

In our local politics there exists a complex of cross purposes, conflicting ambitions and apprehensions as to what the final outcome may be. The deadlock in the Cabinet is not broken, but the tension has possibly relaxed a little while the leaders are trying to find a way out of the present entanglement. In the meantime both Liberals and Conservatives are asking whether or not an investigation shall be held to determine the facts in regard to an alleged irregularity in which some thousands of dollars of public money are involved. The Governorship of the province is claimed by certain aspirants to be potentially vacant, and rivalry, as is usual has the double motive of a desire for the honor of an appointment and a determination that no rival shall get it. But we are told there is an "if" in the way, so that if by any chance a Senatorship should become vacant, the new appointment would go to a worthy gentleman who prefers a life seat in the Red Chamber in Ottawa to a five years' term in Government House.

"To the victors belong the spoils," is a cherished Liberal doctrine when the party is in office, and a County Court Judgeship is a valuable plum. Hence when one of these honorable personages has reached the stage at which he can retire on full salary, there are not wanting other King's Counsel, learned in the law, who have their eyes fixed upon the succession. If, as is currently reported, Premier Saunders is desirous to retire from his present office and his colleagues are quite content that he shall do so, who shall be his successor? That is also a feature of some interest in the local complication. Anything in order to hold on to power is the policy of local Liberalism as a



By James W. Barton, M.D.

LET YOUR BOY PLAY FOOTBALL

The football season is always an anxious time for parents. As they remember that during the season of the previous year there were a certain number of deaths, many broken collar bones, dislocations and fractures of arms and legs, they wonder if they are not foolish in allowing their boy to play.

The very fact that their boy wants to play football should be a source of pride to them; that he is willing to measure his speed, strength and skill against boys of his own weight and age.

What does real football training mean? Physically, it means that he must eat out smoking, his over-eating, his late hours, and be willing to turn out regularly and daily for practice. This means strong heart and lungs, with all round increase in muscular strength.

Mentally, it means that he must think quickly and act quickly. He must be alert to catch every signal and put himself into the right spot at the right time. That he must be prepared to act promptly when his team's signals go wrong, or those of his opponents do likewise. There is a mental training here that can be obtained in no other way; the ability to act quickly in an emergency.

Morally, he learns that he must sit on the substitute bench and perhaps get only an occasional chance to play. That he must play to the front line when he would like to be on the back line, or vice versa. That when he does play he must sacrifice his own inclinations or ambitions for the good of the team.

He learns also that he must control himself, must control his temper. If he loses his temper it means banishment from the game for two minutes, ten minutes, or longer. During his absence he knows that his fellow players, tired and worn, must do "his" work while he is out of the game.

He learns also to take a licking! No matter how good he is or his team may be, a licking is bound to come sometimes and he learns to take it.

Do you wonder then that very few football players find their way into hospitals for nervous or mental diseases.

Their bodies become strong enough for the jolts or shocks of life, and their minds likewise become adjusted to these jolts and shocks.

So let your boy play football because of the physical, mental, and moral development that can be thereby obtained.



TO SLEEP

A flock of sheep that leisurely pass by, One after one; the sound of rain, and bees Murmuring; the fall of rivers, winds and seas, Smooth fields, white sheets of water, and pure sky, By turns have all been thought of; yet I lie Sleepless, and soon the small birds' melodies Must hear, first uttered from my orchard trees; And the first cuckoo's melancholy cry. Even thus last night, and two nights more I lay, And could not win you, sleep by any stealth; So do not let me wear tonight away; Without thee what is all the morning's health? Come, blessed barrier betwixt day and day, Dear mother of fresh thoughts and joyous health. —William Wordsworth

THE LAND WE LOVE

By FRANK LEIGH

THE WORLD'S LARGEST CANAL LOCK

Q. Where is the world's largest canal lock? A. The world's largest canal lock is the Welland Lock, Ontario.

A Notable Pioneer Of P. E. Island

In the opening years of last century, two young students in Glasgow University, became bosom friends, and continued their teaching and theological studies together. They were Peter Gordon and John Keir, and both of them came as missionaries to the then spiritually destitute province which had recently acquired the name of Prince Edward Island.

The Rev. John Keir was born at Bucklyvie, in Stirlingshire, Scotland, on the 2nd February, 1780. His parents were John and Christiana Keir, who used to travel thirty miles of a Sabbath to hear Ebenezer Erskine, the famous divine. When John Keir was a year old his parents removed to Glasgow, and being in comfortable circumstances, they were able to furnish him with a thorough education, and he was licensed to preach by Glasgow Presbytery in 1807. He married Mary, only daughter of James and Amelia Burnett, and the young couple at once set sail for Pictou, and in the fall of 1808 took up their abode at Princeton, lodging for the winter in the house of John Thompson, one of the elders. He was deeply grieved soon after his arrival by the death of his friend, Rev. Peter Gordon, who had been settled in St. Peter's for two years. The notable Dr. McGregor, Presbyterian missionary to the Maritime Provinces, had first preached in Malpeque eighteen years before, but with the exception of a short time that Mr. Urquhart labored there, they had heard but few sermons in the interval. It was therefore a very notable occasion when Rev. John Keir was ordained to Princeton in June, 1810. The clergy present from Nova Scotia were: Dr. McGregor, Dr. McCulloch, Rev. Duncan Ross and Mr. Mitchell, of River John, who arrived by way of Bequeque. Almost the whole population of Princetown, New London, Bequeque, and the west side of Richmond Bay assembled on this occasion and the old church would not hold half of them, so that a platform was built outside, where the ordination took place. (The church at this time was the one built in 1780 close to the Miss Fiddison's, near a big spring in Princetown Royalty. The second church was built in 1810 near the present site, and the third one about 1875).

Dr. McCulloch preached from the text, "He hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained," put the questions of the formula, and offered the ordination prayer. Mr. Ross gave the charge to the people and to the minister, and Mr. Mitchell concluded the service by a sermon from the text, "Unto you is the word of this salvation sent." But an uneasy restlessness surged through the people when they were not hearing the voice of Dr. McGregor, whom they looked upon as their spiritual father, and there had been many whisperings, "Will it be him next?" But their vexation vanished when it was announced after the benediction that in ten minutes Dr. McGregor would preach in Gaelic. The people of Princetown were from Cantyre in Argyshire and all the old people spoke Gaelic, so they eagerly crowded around to hear the gospel in their native tongue, and he had been speaking but a few minutes when the whole assembly was in tears.

Dr. Keir's charge was very extensive, consisting not only of the sections already mentioned, but the duty of visits all over the Island. He preached the first sermon ever heard in Belfast—in a sawmill. There were on the new Welland Ship canal, now nearing completion. This lock is already finished, at the Port Colborne end of the Canal, with a length of 1,330 feet and a depth of 30 feet of water. It is a most impressive piece of construction, on a colossal scale, and in the same construction class as the giant locks on the Panama Canal. The new Welland Canal will be the third connecting Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.

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no roads worthy of the name, and walking along shores or through the trackless forest was the chief means of locomotion with horseback-riding along a blazed bridlepath the only relief. On one occasion he and a companion came to a wide river where no boat was available. Dr. Keir could not swim, but the other man tied both their clothes in a bundle and swam across with them on his head, and then returned to assist Dr. Keir over. He was a slight, frail man, but on only two Sabbaths in fifty years did he miss an appointment and then through severe illness.

His jubilee, held on July 20, 1887, was another great occasion, 3,000 persons being present. Tables were set in the Mechanics' Institute, and in the adjoining field, holding 450 persons, and these were filled five times. Addresses were delivered to Dr. Keir by the congregation and the Presbytery, and several ministers present made congratulatory remarks.

Suddenly, in September of the same year, Dr. Keir died while conducting Theological classes in Divinity Hall, Truro, to which office he had been appointed on the death of Dr. McCulloch. His remains were brought on the "Westmoreland" to Summerside, and the largest crowd of people ever seen on Queen's Wharf waited there to do him reverence. Sixty-two carriages from his own congregation followed in the procession to Malpeque. The officiating clergymen at the funeral were Rev. Isaac Murray, of New London, Rev. Alex. Sutherland of Charlottetown, and Rev. R. S. Patterson, of Bequeque.

Many of his fine old classical books are still on the shelves of the library of his grandson, the present Dr. Keir of Malpeque. These old-time ministers, such as Keir, Patterson and Allan Fraser, had a care not only for the spiritual interests of their flock, but of their intellectual development as well, and each of them established a community library, where was to be found nothing akin to the literary trash that is the mental diet of so many young people today.

Note.—Out of three boat-loads of people who crossed the bay from Lot 16 to attend the Jubilee mentioned above, Mr. John Fraser of Summerside, is the sole survivor. Mr. Fraser would like to hear from other octogenarians who were present on that occasion.



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