

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1939

Speaker Blakeney's Proposal

Hon. C. H. Blakeney's appointment as Speaker of the New Brunswick Legislature is a reminder that Mr. Blakeney, two years ago, advocated the formation of a "Maritime Provinces Union Executive Council", to consist of the Cabinets of these Provinces. Its functions would be "to discuss matters of common interest, such as education, criminal and civil law, finance, highways, health, agriculture, federal relations, and other things of common concern."

Liberal Defense Record

reference was made yesterday to the Liberal opposition in 1935 to the increase in National Defense expenditures, necessitated by the failure to achieve a world policy of disarmament in which Canada, along with the other nations of the British Commonwealth, had co-operated during the depression years.

All during the Bennett regime, indeed, there was heard the same carping criticism from Opposition benches. One of the most militant pacifists in the House was Mr. Martial Rheaume, Liberal member of St. Johns-Iberville, who seldom lost an occasion of complaining about the millions that were being "wasted" in military and naval expenditures.

At the 1932 session, notwithstanding that the defense estimates were some \$5,000,000 less than two years previously, Mr. Rheaume insisted they should be further reduced. "The budget of this Department is equivalent to one dollar per capita of the population," he said. "More than \$260,000 are expended on the League of Nations so as to foster disarmament, while, on the other hand, millions are expended for military purposes. . . I state that there is no greater waste of money in this country."

Mr. Rheaume renewed his attack in 1933, concentrating on the modest \$300,000 vote for Cadet services, and was supported in his criticism by Hon. Peter Heenan, (Liberal, Kenora-Rainy River), Mr. J. F. Pouliot (Liberal, Temiscouata), Hon. Ernest Lapointe, present Minister of Justice, Colonel Ralston, (Liberal, Dalhousie), and even Mr. Mackenzie King himself.

Said Mr. Rheaume: "At a time of depression would it not have been more appropriate for the Government to leave out this item instead of reducing it?"

Said Mr. Heenan: "The Government is considering ways and means of saving money, and this vote affords an opportunity to effect a saving."

Said Mr. Pouliot: "I am pleased indeed to see that this vote has been decreased by three-fourths, but there is still one-fourth left, which might better be nothing. I remember distinctly urging upon the House last year the desirability of giving footballs and baseball bats and boxing gloves to our young boys instead of guns and drums and other military paraphernalia."

Said Mr. Lapointe: "I believe it would be better to use this \$300,000 to provide food and shelter for them than to put arms and weapons in their hands."

Said Colonel Ralston: "I submit that in view of our economic and financial position this item should be very substantially reduced."

Said Mr. Mackenzie King: "Certainly the item now before us might well be reduced, and for a year hence could be omitted altogether."

The attack was renewed in 1934, when Cadet service were cut to \$150,000. One lone Liberal champion for the Cadets was Major General Sir Eugene Fiset (Rimouski) who said he would have preferred seeing the \$150,000 saving taken from the amount appropriated for the training of the militia.

Mr. Woodsworth, C.C.F. leader, wanted the vote wiped out altogether. Liberal spokesman Mr. Pouliot thereupon congratulated the Government on following "the middle course, the Liberal policy."

At the same session Hon. W. R. Motherwell (Liberal, Melville) speaking on militia estimates, demanded: "How long are we going to keep up these militia districts with all this paraphernalia in every Province? I do not think we are confronted with a war in Canada. . . Are we going on indefinitely with all this business of war preparations?"

Said Mr. T. F. Donnelly, (Liberal, Willow Bunch, Sask.): "I want to join the hon. member for Melville in objecting to this vote. . . I am one of those who cannot see why, in times like these, we should not reduce this vote for military purposes."

Said Mr. Rheaume: "I am amazed at the amounts voted for military purposes. A few days later the naval estimates came up. They included, as in the other years, a small sum to enable officers to take advanced training courses in England."

Said Mr. Pouliot: "I protest strongly against sending Canadians to be taught imperialism in London or anywhere else."

Said Mr. Wilfred Girouard (Liberal, Drummond-Athabaska): "I believe the country could be saved a vast amount of money if the Department would sell these four destroyers (the Vancouver, Saguenay, Skeena and Champlain) for whatever they will bring. To spend \$2,200 per day in order to allow these gentlemen to cruise to the West Indies is a waste of public money and should not be tolerated."

A continuous barrage of petty criticism, of which many other examples could be quoted from Hansard, from the party which now has the audacity to complain, in the words of Hon. Ian Mackenzie, that under the Bennett Government "the Conservative party in Canada did more to destroy national defense than has been done by any party since Confederation!"

A Veterans' Alliance

It is interesting to learn that seven ex-service men's associations, including the Canadian Legion, the Army and Navy Veterans and the Canadian Corps Association, are likely to work closely together henceforth in dealing with ex-service men's affairs. The presidents have approved of this policy and it will probably be approved by the associations.

They are all anxious to help those veterans who are in need of assistance. They can do more if they are united than if they work independently. Parliament and the public are likely to pay more attention if they speak with one voice.

It is surprising that the veterans' associations of Canada have not achieved greater unity of action in the past. But the interests of ex-service men will require attention for many years yet. The Government has been generally sympathetic, but organized veterans can usefully co-operate by seeing that the case of the ex-service men is fully presented from time to time and by providing information which they have as a result of their contact with the men.

Editorial Notes

It won't be long now before the King and Queen are with us.

It is not sin, but the lack of sense of sin, that is wrong with the world today.

A Boy Scouter is now Prime Minister of Hungary. Hope he keeps his Scout promise.

Nicolo Paganini, founder of the modern school of violin-playing, born this date, 1784.

Lent on its material side, is a welcome let-up from social activities, preliminary to spring cleaning, and subsequent outdoor pastimes.

Mr. E. L. Gray, Liberal Leader in Alberta Legislature declares the Federal wheat price of 80 cents a bushel for No. 1 northern at Fort William had put \$22,800,000 into Albert.

It is noteworthy that the Protestant clergy of Montreal, meeting in the Central Y.M.C.A. unanimously adopted a resolution of sympathy for the Roman Catholic Church in the death of Pope Pius XI, and forwarded it immediately to the Archbishop.

Mgr. Ronald Knox, detective story writer and "Ronnie" to his friends, has resigned his post of resident Roman Catholic chaplain to the University of Oxford, to retranslate the Bible into English for his Church. Mgr. Knox will start work soon on a retranslation from the Vulgate—fourth century Latin manuscript—beginning with the New Testament.

According to Mrs. W. G. Lumbers, Toronto, national president of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, the order was opposed to Canada having a flag of its own if it were to the exclusion of the Union Jack. Mrs. Lumbers said she had no objection to a flag for Canada if that flag were used only on special occasions.

Dr. J. M. Robb, organizer for the National Conservative Party, told a gathering of Middlesex East Conservative workers that a Federal general election is expected in September and that Conservatives are organizing with that object in view. Dr. Robb said the report that Prime Minister Mackenzie King will call another session of the House of Commons before the election was "merely a rumor." The organizer predicted there will be from 125 to 140 Conservative candidates who never before have contested an election. He said Conservatives who voted for the Reconstruction Party at the last general election were nearly all back in the fold.

According to the Rome correspondent of the New York Times if a non-Italian Cardinal were to be successful, Cardinal Roderique Villeneuve, the Archbishop of Quebec, would have the best chance for the objections to him are less than those against others. If the twenty-seven non-Italian Cardinals are excluded the next Pope necessarily will be one of the thirty-five Italians. Many of them may be ousted because of their great age, beginning with the dean of the Sacred College, Genaro Granito-Pignatelli di Delmonte, who will be 88 on April 10. Three of these Cardinals belong to religious orders, Alfredo Ildelfonso Cardinal Schuster of Milan, who is a Benedictine; Pietro Cardinal Boetto of Genoa, a Jesuit, and Adeodato Giovanni Cardinal Piazza of Venice, who is a member of the Discalced Carmelite Fathers. If it may be taken for granted that these three are out of the running, this leaves only five, Alessio Cardinal Ascalesi, Archbishop of Naples; Giovanni Battista Cardinal Nasali-Rocca di Cornelianno, Archbishop of Bologna; Luigi Cardinal Lavitrano, Archbishop of Palermo; Maurilio Cardinal Possati, Archbishop of Turin, and Elia Cardinal Della Costa, Archbishop of Florence. A critical study of the tendencies visible in the election of Popes leads to the belief that from these five names will be selected that of the next Pope. A popular choice would be Cardinal Della Costa. He has a reputation of evangelical charity and goodness that has spread over all Italy. He is in no sense of the term a "political" churchman, having never occupied himself with affairs not connected with those of his diocese. He will be 67 on May 14.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Hitler says the colonial question is "in no sense a problem which could cause war." In other words, they aren't worth fighting for. He may have some long hair, but Duce's expense account for the Abyssinian adventure. —Edmonton Bulletin.

It is seventy-nine days to the opening of the speckled trout season and knowing now where to get these shy and fly trout we are anticipating a bit of the early earned recreation after a rather strenuous hockey and abuse season. —Trenton Courier Advocate.

Lord Craigavon stands alone among the Prime Ministers of the Empire in having continuously occupied office since 1912. Remembering the notorious fickleness of post-war electorates, this is indeed a remarkable record and the fact that Lord Craigavon remains in office is a tribute to his personal popularity as well as for his administrative competence. —Brockville Recorder and Times.

Due to facilities offered by the new green house at the experimental station and the improvement of other hot houses the experiments in potato breeding for resistance to blight and other conditions will go forward with double rapidity. It was stated to-day that the possibility of producing two crops of experimental seedling per year instead of one. In addition, C. F. Bailey, superintendent of the station, said today tests of the disease-resistant potatoes can be made with an accuracy never reached in the world. But experience taught that even the most palatial of trailers, with running water, cannot compensate for the sacrifice of the side of the auto camp. In the main we are a people who like to take our comfort, yet who prefer to find the egypty road and follow it to the end. The trailer was neither quite a home nor yet a camp. As a compromise it was a novelty, but there are few who were content with it. —Portland Oregonian.

San Quentin is a Federal penitentiary. And the 4,000 or so convicts in it, who started trouble recently because they thought that corned beef appeared too often on their menu and as guests of their fellow, taxpaying citizens. Their manners would shock Emily Post. Guests, as a rule, do not ask for food or drink for themselves or their host. They take what their host offers them. And the convicts in San Quentin, whose antisocial conduct has become a national scandal, should not demand courtesies that are not usually extended to other guests. They complain that the menu is not such a good one, when millions of people in this country, outside of prisons, can't get enough of it. What a piece of good luck it is that they are handed the fare provided in prisons in other countries and told to take it or leave it! And what an outcry there would be if the menu of these dear, sweet angelic murderers, thieves and rapists were being mistreated. —Detroit Free Press.

A stock complaint about civil service staffs is that they are too big. The fact is that if these staffs had to do all the work that appears expected of them by some members of parliamentary bodies, not only would they be working day and night, but they would be working on end, but present staffs, big as they may be, might have to be doubled. Some questions that have been asked by C.C.F. members of the Saskatchewan Legislature suggest this. One member the other day asked a question about a grant purchase by the provincial secretary would require the services of a stenographer and clerk for at least 120 days, and would necessitate the searching of 12,200 files in the department. The House of Commons at Ottawa has witnessed the same penchant for asking questions. Members are invited to inform, but here should be some reasonable use of the practice. —Regina Leader-Post.

Munitions in wartime are not the same as munitions in peace. In wartime not only bombs and guns, but many innocent commodities become munitions. In war, so is gasoline. Binoculars are munitions in wartime; so are heavy shoes for infantry wear. Any one of these items may become important as powder when war actually starts. No advocate of nationalization of munitions would include in these items. Mainly, we think, the list should confine itself to products which are clearly made for war use. Such a list would include ordnance of all kinds, military rifles, ammunition, aerial bombs, anti-aircraft apparatus, precision instruments of the plane-detector, submarine-bomb, range-finder, order, submarines themselves, and military explosives. If these goods

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of any question or what the Charlotte-Town Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

RADIO DISTURBANCE

Sir,—In behalf of the radio owners of this city, this writer appeals to the influence of you Public Forum to which some sort of explanation of the reason why no progress is being made in clearing up the unearthly noise that has made radio reception the essence of agony it has been for the past month or so.

In recent issues of your valuable paper we have read that some twenty or more of our citizens were called before the courts and were forced to pay their annual license fee of \$2.50 per radio set in addition to court costs. We are most anxious to know what this fund is used for. We were, at one time, told that the Department of Transport would station an efficient inspector in this city provided with the necessary interference detecting equipment. We would like to know if this equipment has been supplied and if it is being put to use. I wish before the courts and was throughout the day, evening and night, we should think that the inspector (if there is one) ought to be at work steadily until the source of the trouble is ascertained.

I am, Sir, etc.

INDIGNANT INSUFFICIENT FARMERS

Sir,—In a previous letter in the Forum, I discussed with Mr. Tanton his intentions of leading the insufficient farmer back to Eden. Whether or not our discussion has had any effect, I do not know. In your paper a proposed scheme now under way to frigate off this hallowed spot. I suppose I take this in preparation for his invasion.

It makes a wonderful imaginary picture to see our little warrior taking his little army to work with his followers—namely the insufficient farmers—for the beloved garden. I wish before the courts and was throughout the day, evening and night, we should think that the inspector (if there is one) ought to be at work steadily until the source of the trouble is ascertained.

If he should get lost and his followers desert him it would make little difference as his past proves him quite capable provided with his abundant courage to carry on. I would, however, suggest that before starting the round-up of his rural friends that he provide himself with two lengths of stove pipe—one for each leg, and an equally efficient shield for the lower part of his body. It is fortunate enough to escape the fangs of the family watch dog, he will surely be the resident of the business end of a four or five time fork which is to be found in the possession of even the most timid of our farmers. I believe that our little hero would be inclined to lean more kindly towards the medical profession.

THE MADRAS CONFERENCE

Sir,—In the Guardian this morning, I read an account of the meeting held in Zion Presbyterian church last night, featuring an account of the recent Conference in Madras, India. From the report, I take this paragraph, "The unity and solidarity of the church as represented at Madras was another message, the speaker (Rev. Canon Haslem) said, it gave out a vision of how powerful the church could be if bound together in the unity for which Christ prayed." I think it is a pity that some of our two things mentioned in the first address of the President of the Conference, Mr. John R. Mott, No one other man is as well qualified to speak of world conditions as he. Here is one extract from his address, "If we who have assembled, believed that all of our churches had during the last two or three decades done all that we might have done, to avert the present distresses, then we might be pessimistic, but with a sense of 'idle chatter' so irksomely placed in front of our readers I would like to show another point which illustrates his meagre knowledge of his statements.

Before I go further with future letters, holding conferences, and talking can only go so far, what is to be done about it? That the world is in a bad shape, is true; has the Church anything to do with that? We hear and read so much about the Church losing out. Hon. R. B. Bennett tells us the Church has failed, and it makes a great stir, he also tells us that our political system is wrong, and he surely knows something about that, we are hearing a lot about conditions in Canada today, both politically and religiously, we hear a good deal of talk about Communism and Fascism. What has caused these things to come to the surface so prominently at this time? What caused them to get such a hold in so many places? On what sort of soil will the seeds of totalitarianism or any other form of dictatorship? When any people or groups of people are oppressed by injustice and tyranny, when the people are shorn of their freedom and begin to find life hard and unfair, then the soil is getting ready for the seed, and if we go back a ways we find such being the case in the countries that are Fascist or Communist today. Fifty years ago, there was not much talk of it, but the leaders both politically and religiously

are bound to have a reasonable optimism. "A little further on in his address he says "The thinking out of large questions of policy and the adaptation of methods to meet new world conditions cannot be done by the churches and mission societies in isolation; that mission is past."

Rev. F. Babson in his January Bulletin says practically the same thing, holding conferences, and talking can only go so far, what is to be done about it? That the world is in a bad shape, is true; has the Church anything to do with that? We hear and read so much about the Church losing out. Hon. R. B. Bennett tells us the Church has failed, and it makes a great stir, he also tells us that our political system is wrong, and he surely knows something about that, we are hearing a lot about conditions in Canada today, both politically and religiously, we hear a good deal of talk about Communism and Fascism. What has caused these things to come to the surface so prominently at this time? What caused them to get such a hold in so many places? On what sort of soil will the seeds of totalitarianism or any other form of dictatorship? When any people or groups of people are oppressed by injustice and tyranny, when the people are shorn of their freedom and begin to find life hard and unfair, then the soil is getting ready for the seed, and if we go back a ways we find such being the case in the countries that are Fascist or Communist today. Fifty years ago, there was not much talk of it, but the leaders both politically and religiously

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OCEAN TRANSPORTATION ITS POSSIBILITIES. By H. K. S. HEMMING. OCEAN FREIGHT. has been decided that it will not be profitable to institute a most desirable enterprise in this Province. It would indeed be difficult to conjure up any plan of an industrial nature that would be of greater and more lasting benefit to our farmers, and indirectly to the Island as a whole, than one in which the number and the quality of our cattle would be increased and the animals better fed and better housed.

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The Poets Corner. FROM "THE JOYS OF THE ROAD". By marsh and tide, by meadow stream, A will-o'-the-wind, a light o'-dream, Delusion afar, delight near, From morrow to morrow, from year to year; A jack-o'-lantern, a fairy fire, A dare, a bliss, and a desire! The racy smell of the forest loam, When the stealthy, sad - heart leaves go home; (O leaves, O leaves, I am one with you, Of the mould and the sun and the dew) The broad go'd wake of the afternoon, The fleck of the cold new moon. The sound of the hollow sea's release, From stormy tumult to starchy peace; With only another league to wend; And two brown arms at the journey's end! These are the joys of the open road, For him who travels without a load. —Bliss Carman.

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