

The Charlottetown Guardian

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1937

The Five Years' Hoist

It is announced that the Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial relations will hold its first sittings at Winnipeg on November 29 and that its report will be in the hands of Federal Government by the end of 1938.

The deliberation with which this investigating body is swinging into action, says the Sydney-Post Record, can hardly have escaped public attention.

But after starting these sittings, seven months will be needed to cover the planned schedule. Then the Commission is to take six months after that to produce its report and recommendations.

Meanwhile unemployment insurance, the minimum wage law, the maximum hours of work and all the other social and economic reforms Parliament assented to in 1935 will stay suspended, like Mohammed's coffin, between heaven and earth.

An Experiment Approved

A paragraph appended to the 1936-37 report of the Imperial Economic Committee which has just been issued states that the Imperial Conference of last summer approved of the work of the Committee and of its continuance.

Tourist Expenditures

Reports from all parts of Canada indicate that 1937 has been an excellent year in the tourist trade, says the monthly letter of the Royal Bank of Canada.

In the first eight months of 1935, 1936 and 1937 foreign automobiles which entered Canada numbered 2,395,000, 3,811,000 and 3,181,000 respectively.

Those who are enthusiastic about the effect of the tourist trade on Canadian business are inclined to believe that an estimate of \$300 million of expenditure somewhat under-states the full amount spent in Canada.

that this estimate is somewhat astronomical and that no significant approximation is possible. An examination of the methods employed to arrive at a year's estimate however, show that the calculation is upon a conservative basis.

Since there are more than twenty million visitors in the course of a year, a per capita expenditure of less than \$15 would produce an aggregate of \$300 million. In order to secure as close a check as possible on the volume of such expenditures, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics supplied thousands of visitors with cards and asked them to fill them out and return by mail.

Editorial Notes

D.S.O. established this date 1886.

Peace Day and Peace lecture.

The old age pension conference did discuss arrangements for pensions for the blind of the age of 40 upwards. They also decided to tighten up the regulations and laws for the compulsory maintenance of parents by children in a position to do so.

A prisoner in Georgetown jail in connection with a rum running case now sub judice, writes to The Guardian complaining about the alleged insanitary conditions of the jail. He makes further appeal on behalf of the wives and families of the crew of the alleged rum-runner left stranded in Newfoundland. The Government should look into the matter without delay.

Meats were imported to the value of \$142,520 during September as compared with \$127,644 a year ago. Argentina led the supplying countries with a value of \$52,605, followed by the United States at \$43,514 and the United Kingdom \$25,765.

The bulk of the September imports of farm implements and machinery came from the United States; the aggregate was \$1,738,849, more than double those of September, 1936. The amount from the United States was \$1,638,048.

Ten loans under the Dominion Housing Act were made to Prince Edward Islanders during October. Altogether for the Dominion the number totalled 140 for a total of \$741,498, providing accommodation for 149 families.

The King Government has awarded a contract running into approximately \$1,500,000 for the construction of eighteen improved Bristol "Blenheim" Coastal Reconnaissance twin engined aircraft, to the Fairchild Aircraft Limited, the building of which will cover approximately three years and employ between 300 and 400 men.

One of the world's celebrated collections of air-mail stamps and covers, assembled by Mr. Roger Steffan, a vice-president of the National City Bank, New York, was sold for approximately \$75,300 at auction. The record price was \$8,200 for the "famous Honduras red," so-called because of a red overprint on a Honduras 5-centavo blue stamp issued in 1925.

NOTES BY THE WAY

China's leaders say China can fight for five years. That may not be true, but it will not take that long to make Japan wonder who she can get the money she needs to conduct a costly war on foreign soil.

Canada's mines, yielding gold, pay little attention to labor laws. This with two-thirds of the year accounted for production exceeds that of the corresponding period last year by 231,000 ounces. That, at \$35 an ounce, is roughly \$3,560,000—whch is a lot of money.—Ottawa Journal.

That one talks best who is most himself. There is to the talk of many that something which lights up life to another and which makes that one utter words that picture his heart. To some can confide our innermost feelings, while to others we remain silent. To the latter our very want for words seems a sacrilege.—Adams.

That was a biting remark by the French newspaper, Le Populaire when it directed attention to the fact that Mussolini, while shouting that Germany must have colonies, neglected to offer that country any territory in Ethiopia. It bit to the core of Mussolini's pretensions.—Telegraph Journal.

An English traffic case centred on the duty of a motorist on frontage with a conflict between a road sign which said "Stop" and a policeman who said "Go ahead." The motorist, Amersham fined the motorist fifteen shillings for obeying the policeman, the ground being that road signs take precedence over policemen.—Baltimore Sun.

Until public opinion in the United States awakes to the need for co-operation with other peaceable powers in establishing a collective system for arbitration of international disputes, the neutrality act stands as a worthy attempt to prevent commercial greed and unbridled insistence on "rights" from exposing American lives lost in war areas. Unless positive consultation between the Western powers evolves soon, invocation of the American neutrality laws may appear unavoidable.—Christian Science Monitor, Boston.

The occasional tendency of jurors to be diverted from the evidence by the scent of mush is no indictment of the jury system in general. But the presence of mush, by itself, or silly spectators in court rooms is another matter. There is little that can be said in defense of a custom or practice that permits trials to be one of the leading spectator sports.—New York Sun.

Up to the end of October 758 cars of foodstuffs have been shipped from the various parts of Canada to the needy West. If one should estimate the cost of this food, had it been bought and shipped to the dollar, it would total almost \$500,000. The fine thing about this project is that it has not been looked on as charity but as something one Canadian ought to do for another who is in difficult straits through no fault of his own.

Mussolini's Spanish policy is similar in some respects to the policy of defiance toward Britain in the Ethiopian affair. It is not understandable except on the theory that Il Duce believes that Britain is bluffing again. Hitler has some doubts on this score, but he probably has intimates to whom he has shown the cards to test Britain's determination with favorable results, Germany will associate herself once more with the Italian policy of Fascist intervention. Hitler hesitates to challenge Britain on his own, but he would be pleased to see a loss of British prestige and influence and to make an indirect contribution to that result.—Toronto Star.

As a matter of fact, the total rainfall this winter, throughout practically the whole district, has been greater than it was in 1936. The trouble was that it did not come in time. This fact, taken together with the rising level of the Lake of the Woods, the fact that, like the dakens, he asked, shouldn't a woman carry a lot of things in a handbag? The author of the paragraph missed a good human interest story. He should have told with what editorial pockets were lined 25 years ago and what they contained today. If anything, we hazard the guess, however, that from decade to decade the editorial pocket is nothing to write home about.—St. Catharines Standard.

From the "25 Years Ago" column of The Ottawa Journal: The editor counted the pockets in his clothes found 23 of them, most of them empty. Why the dakens, he asked, shouldn't a woman carry a lot of things in a handbag? The author of the paragraph missed a good human interest story. He should have told with what editorial pockets were lined 25 years ago and what they contained today. If anything, we hazard the guess, however, that from decade to decade the editorial pocket is nothing to write home about.—St. Catharines Standard.

"How to be happy though married and to live for ever" might be the caption over a few paragraphs from Boston relating an interview given the press by the nation's "first lady." The reporters were teasing her for information as to the possibility of Mr. Roosevelt again running for the presidency, but they might have been asking any other question so far as the reply was concerned. "I have never," she told them definitely, "expressed to the president or myself a choice as to anything my husband did. I have never remembered asking my advice." As to 1940: "I can only say I have not heard him express an opinion." It had never occurred to her throughout the presidential term of her husband to do anything but adjust herself to "his mode of living."—Rome (N. Y.) Sentinel.

Lovers of democracy will find nothing to choose between dictatorships, whether they be of the Right or the Left. Today Russia is a dictatorship. The Stalin constitution on the face of it, leaves no room for a

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents on questions of interest to the Charlottetown Guardian and necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

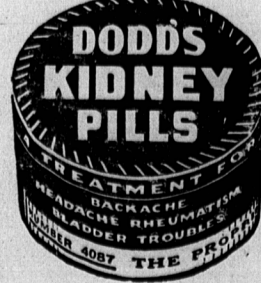
LET'S WE FORGET

Sir—As Remembrance Day draws near again it brings back memories of bygone days; of horrible sights on the battle-torn plains; of terrible nights in water-filled trenches and shell holes; memories of nights watching the red flames from heavy guns cut through clouds of black smoke; memories of the so-called man-made hell on earth. Space will not permit the thoughts that raced through the minds of those half-starved men who at times had forgotten everything in their agony. Volumes may and will be printed on wars, but many of the things that happened on those blood drenched fields are to be left untold; secrets locked in the treasure chest of the past. How many mothers are still living who remember writing to their sons with the address "Somewhere in France." True it was somewhere and some of those mothers whose hair has turned to silver still think of their sons who are today somewhere in France. But they live with them in memory and see again their smiling faces; they dream of their footsteps as the wind squeaks the stairs leading to their little room. They hear their voices in the murmur of the wind at night as if seeking one door of life that closed so quickly behind. But no, they only dream creep into their lives. There is no door that leads us back from eternity to this mad world. If you could visit those battle fields today they would present a different picture; trenches have been filled, the fields levelled off, barbed wire fences destroyed. But you will see a forest of white crosses that stand in memory of our brothers who are there, and some of those crosses their grave make a living picture, a symbol to live forever in our memory. They seem to cry out to a restless world, a world where nations are today letting human blood drip from their stained swords. "Listen to us," they seem to say; we are the ones who were cut down in the prime of life; who have gone through the gateway of death and today look back at the door of life that is closed. So now let us all join with them on Remembrance Day in praying to heaven to send us peace. "Let us forget." I am, Sir, etc., WALTER A. O'BRIEN, Bristol, P. E. I.

APPLES AND CHERRIES, ETC.

Sir—Some days ago I read in the columns of your paper a letter written by a regular correspondent during the past three or four years on several topics concerning the welfare of the Island. This time he writes on the apple industry and I confess his letter makes a strong personal appeal to me. For though I am not a practical farmer or gardener I am nevertheless a keenly interested observer of farming and gardening, especially as these are carried on in our own province. Having spent several years as a public school teacher in several of the finest fruit raising districts of British Columbia, the famous Okanagan Valley included, I am quite convinced that not one of these districts can surpass our own province in the production of apples both in respect to quantity and quality. And I am also fairly well acquainted with the flavor of Ontario, Annapolis Valley, and Massachusetts apples, and I am quite convinced that our own choice apples eaten in their proper season compare favorably with the very best from those famous apple regions. And as to the unappreciated beauty of our apples, this is annually demonstrated at our Charlottetown Exhibition, and our Central School Fair, but more especially at our Central Experimental Farm at Charlottetown. And it is a great wonder to me that more young farmers do not avail themselves of the opportunity of visiting the farm and seeing for themselves what wonderful apples can be produced on our Island and in what profusion too. This last autumn my very sight of the heavy-laden apple trees laden indeed to their utmost capacity, was inspiring. Clearly our Island apples cannot be beaten by those of any other country whatever. And, oh the tragedy of it—last winter the people of Charlottetown were eating apples imported from Ontario, British Columbia, California, and even from New Zealand at the other side of the earth.

What is the matter with our Island? During the past 25 years dictator. If Russia is preparing to introduce the Stalin constitution in actually, there is hope for Russia's. The consensus of opinion of foreign observers is that Russian progress had been in proportion to Russian neglect of the tenets of Communism. Is it too much to hope that the idea has percolated even into Moscow?—Moncton Transcript.



It has made marvellous strides in the use and abuse of automobiles, radios, cigarettes and even pyramids, but its fruit industry has been at a standstill. In fact it has declined, if indeed it ever was a fruit industry worthy of the name. Let an interested observer take a trip across the Rocky Point ferry and travel as far as Victoria. If he travelled over the same route 25 years ago he would observe that only a few apple trees or trees of any kind have been planted during the past 25 years, but on the other hand the old orchards have been neglected and in some cases are actually dying out. It is a great pity that our young farmers are not more alive to the value of horticulture even from the standpoint of beauty, and surely we need not laboriously argue on its importance from the viewpoint of utility. I have already mentioned the fact that eating apples were last year imported to Prince Edward Island from far distant regions. Not only were apples imported but likewise preserved cherries, plums, strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, black currants, etc.—all of which can be grown and preserved as well in our own country as in any country in the world.

Over 30 years ago an Island scholar who is now a noted Canadian educationist made the remark to myself that if ever the Island came to its own it would be as a horticultural country combined with the canning industry. Fruit canning factories, he said, should literally dot the whole Island. This person has since proved himself to my knowledge to be a fairly good prophet in respect to other things he then prophesied would come to pass; but thus far his prophecy in respect to the fruit and canning industry in our province seems far from being fulfilled.

But it is interesting for myself to now observe the interest that has recently been taken through the public press in the project of a canning industry for P. E. Island. The Hon. Chas. Dunning has recently said at a public gathering that he would heartily sympathize with any project in P. E. Island connected directly with its agricultural interests, and we presume he would include in this category the horticultural interests of the Island. But just how much can governments do to promote potential industries? We confess we cannot give a very definite answer, but a people who have been more or less content to remain under the domination of a combination of the industrial leaders in the province. The people submitted because coming from farms largely, they did not have the technique of industrial organization. Industries were established and cheap labor was exploited to amass fortunes for a few hundred wealthy families. That condition is changing. Quebec has felt the depression far more acutely than any other industrial section of Canada. Relief rolls have mounted. There has been a steady pressing down of the standards of living. What happened? The people have been thinking in terms of political organizations as never before. Quebec today is in a seething ferment. One result of the changing condition was that the old Taschereau administration was destroyed completely. This gave the people of Quebec a sense of democratic power they had not had for years. It is helping them to come to believe that if Premier Duplessis does not do what they want they can throw him out too; they have a sense of power they never had before.

AN OLD TEACHER.

Democracy threatened. Sir—All sorts of oppressed people, whether they be in Spain, Germany, or Canada, should be the concern of every deep-thinking man today. The Atlantic Ocean does not separate Canada from the kind of oppression, the kind of tyranny shown in so many parts of Europe. We are faced today with the same kind of threat to Democratic liberties, as countries that have in the past suffered so disastrously. Since the World War and up to the year 1932 Germany was making splendid progress with her Social Democratic Union, bringing great benefits to the working class in the matter of housing, co-operative movements, and a free press. At that time the name of Hitler was coming to be important, not in Germany but he was not then in power. Some of the best informed students of German society at that time were of the conviction that the Social Democratic movement in Germany was so strong that it could not possibly be crushed by the rising Hitler movement. Their reason was based on the premise that Democracy would survive, but everybody knows what happened. The change was brought about by ruthless undemocratic means.

There was at least one man from Canada in Germany at that time and on one occasion there was a great number of Social Democrats going to a big central hall close to the centre of Berlin. The meeting was composed principally of the younger generation and was addressed by a young Social Democrat from Austria. This young man said in part: "You think your mighty Social Democratic movement is of tremendous strength; you may have control for a while but it must achieve still greater success. If Hitler gets in power," he warned, "everything you have achieved in Germany will be destroyed; you will be subjected to an oppression and tyranny far worse than were experienced before the war." And we all know what happened.

I sometimes think that we here in Canada are taking our Democracy far too much for granted. I sometimes feel that we think we are so very safe because the Atlantic separates us from what is taking place in Europe. I think that we are almost romantic and that we are not even ourselves by saying, "Nothing can hold back Democracy." I agree that in the long long run Social Democracy will surely win. But no one can look at the world today without seeing it is quite possible for any Democracy to be destroyed, if steps are not taken to protect those democratic rights and principles that long to us. It is very important for us to be on our guard against any movement whereby lies a threat to Democracy today.

Democracy is menaced when Democracy shows that it can sit on an effective blow at the stroke of a hand of negligence which for years and centuries have been awaiting the common people, at that point Democracy is in danger. As long as Democracy has the right

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to mark ballots and the enjoyment of certain liberties, if you don't interfere with anyone else's privileges and powers—and that does not mean very much—then Democracy will continue. Just as soon however as Democracy becomes a danger, just as soon as it threatens to destroy power and take away privileges enjoyed at the expense of vested interest begin to devise ways and means whereby Democracy can be curtailed and if necessary destroyed. Let me illustrate two or three things that happened here in Canada. What was the Regina riot? It represented an effort on the part of the authorities to crush a legitimate protest by some hundreds of thousands of unemployed men to conditions in relief camps that were intolerable and who were exercising their freedom and rights as Canadian citizens to protest. As long as the unemployed remained quiet, as long as they submitted to conditions forced upon them the R.C.M.P. would not be raised against them, but immediately protest against intolerable conditions was organized, the authorities took cognizance.

Then let us take the Province of Quebec, a great province and a great people, but a people who have been more or less content to remain under the domination of a combination of the industrial leaders in the province. The people submitted because coming from farms largely, they did not have the technique of industrial organization. Industries were established and cheap labor was exploited to amass fortunes for a few hundred wealthy families. That condition is changing. Quebec has felt the depression far more acutely than any other industrial section of Canada. Relief rolls have mounted. There has been a steady pressing down of the standards of living. What happened? The people have been thinking in terms of political organizations as never before. Quebec today is in a seething ferment. One result of the changing condition was that the old Taschereau administration was destroyed completely. This gave the people of Quebec a sense of democratic power they had not had for years. It is helping them to come to believe that if Premier Duplessis does not do what they want they can throw him out too; they have a sense of power they never had before.

(Continued on page 7, Col. 5)

The Poet's Corner. OXEN IN THE FURROW. These heavy furrows were by oxen turned. Two yoke there were to pull the one slow plow. With thrust of shoulders, bucking-up of backs, And the wide horns above the low-held brow. The plowman's boy ran at them straining woe. The plowman's boy ran at their heaving sides, With rolling gait and lolling tongue. The grudging earth to turn in its dark tides. Brown as the kelp upon a storm-strewn shore, Brown as oak leaves in woodlands They strove with earth and forced the earth to yield, They tore the mind and forced it to remember. —Elizabeth Coatsworth

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