

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1927

KILLING THE GOOSE

SINCE man began to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow there has been a tendency to exploit the means by which the earning has been done. It is a human tendency, born of greed and haste. The owner of the famous goose that laid its daily egg of gold became wearied of waiting from day to day. The quickest way, he thought, was to kill the goose and get all the eggs in one swoop. He did it, and the wealth vanished. It has been done many times since and with the same result.

At present there is a far-reaching complaint regarding unemployment. What is the cause? The high cost of labor may be cited as the principal cause. This is more noticeable and more definitely marked in the United States than in Canada, although it is not entirely absent in this country. United States labor has for many years been highly paid, so much more highly than here that it has attracted thousands of Canadians from their own country. The reason why United States labor was so highly paid was that United States labor was organized and in a position to demand high wages. It exercised this privilege, going from one high level to a higher one. United States towns grew into cities, cities grew into larger cities. Building operations were booming. Workers were living in luxury and the luxurious living demanded higher wages. Contractors were obliged to yield to the demand or lose their contracts and so lose their opportunity to make money. Finally the cost of building was so high that buildings could not be rented or sold at a price commensurate with the cost. There was no longer any profit in building houses, and the contractors gave it up with the result that thousands were thrown out of employment. Those so deprived were obliged to seek other employment with the result that practically all industry was demoralized. The goose that laid the golden egg was dead.

Cost of labor in every line has risen to a level at which there is now no profit except where exorbitant prices are demanded. Many can afford to pay the higher prices, but the great majority cannot and thus the rich grow richer and the poor poorer.

Is there a remedy? Can we go back to the moderate prices of former years? It will be a weary trek. The wage earners of today—as fully entitled to the fruits of their labors as the capitalist is entitled to his profits—has become accustomed to his luxurious living. He cannot live, as he now lives, on a lower wage, yet while he demands the higher wage he is wrapping around himself the strangling cord of higher prices for everything he and his family require. Can the remedy be applied at the top? Can prices of the necessities of life be lowered? Not without a sacrifice if the cost of production remains at the present level. It is all a vicious circle. High wages means higher cost of production, higher cost of production means higher cost to the consumer, higher rents, more costly clothing, more expensive food. To correct this condition is one of the biggest, perhaps the biggest of world problems today. Who shall solve it? Where shall we begin to apply the remedy. Of course we are all extravagant. We cannot afford to look poor. We've got to "keep up with the Joneses" though the heavens should fall and the mortgage be foreclosed. And it all adds to the cost of production and the high cost of living.

A COMPROMISE

THE following announcement has been made by Premier King with respect to Armistice Day observance: "In accordance with arrangements light.

for the observance of Armistice Day, sanctioned by His Majesty the King, the people of Canada are invited to mark the occasion by a two minutes' silence at 11 o'clock a.m., on Friday, the 11th of November, 1927. This is a special observance suggested by His Majesty and in addition to the regular celebration of the date recognized by the Canadian Parliament for the Monday previous."

It is very generally regretted, particularly by the men who fought and who sacrificed in the Great War that Armistice Day and all that it means to humanity, has been reduced to two minutes, however seriously and solemnly the two minutes' silence may be observed. The King Government has, in its wisdom or otherwise, seen fit to transfer the date of Armistice Day to "the Monday previous," and, as a later consideration, "in accordance with arrangements sanctioned by His Majesty, the two minutes' silence on the 11th in addition to the regular celebration on the date fixed by the Canadian Government."

The two minutes' silence suggested by Premier King to be observed on the 11th is a sort of compromise arrangement in an effort to appease the rising wrath of the returned soldiers, many of whom have resented the abandonment of Armistice Day and mixing it up with Thanksgiving Day. Armistice Day and Thanksgiving Day are for two distinct purposes and should never have been mixed. The former should have remained a red-letter day and a holiday in the history of Canada for all time to come. On the holiday the two minutes' silence would have been reverently observed in the midst of a special service held for the purpose of commemorating the day and as a worthy tribute to our dead. It was His Majesty's wish that at 11 o'clock on the eleventh day of the eleventh month the tribute of a two minutes' silence be paid to the "unreturning." The celebration of Armistice Day on the "Monday previous" was Mr. Mackenzie King's invention, and the two minutes' suggested for the 11th was an after-consideration, in an effort to please the returned men and they are not likely to regard it as the tribute they have always considered due to their fallen comrades. It is hoped, however, that Canada shall never neglect the silent tribute at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day, even if the eleventh day is not observed as it ought to be.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Some people still seem to be able to get a jag on, notwithstanding, and some of them get away with it, too.

October is capable of producing fine weather, at least on occasions, as well as gorgeous colorings in our forests and groves.

The seed potatoes are now pouring into Charlottetown, preparatory to being shipped to the Southern States. The money will be pouring in shortly.

Between evolution and fundamentalism, Bolshevism and communism, prohibition and government control, to say nothing of the trouble in China and the Balkans, the world is in a rather troubled condition at present, and, apparently the worst is yet to come.

Since the recent regrettable occurrence on one of our streets there is a general demand for more light on our squares. We have many beautiful shade trees which go one wants to do away with, but, along with the beauty they shed, they leave many fearsome shadows which many timid ladies are afraid of. Some of our parks should have more light.

Notes by the Way

WILL Ireland settle down to orderly parliamentary government? There are fair grounds to hope that she will. Home rule has been fully obtained and the Irish Free State is as free and self-governing as Canada is. But in the turbulent period before home rule was obtained, as the Irish Statesman points out, the Irish people at home proved to be very fertile in discovering and inventing new and unexpected ways of embarrassing their political opponents. This ingenious inventiveness has been so long in practice and upon occasion has proved so successful that one can hardly expect that it will now be entirely abandoned.

The Irish Statesman credits Daniel O'Connell with having invented the monster mass meeting. In one or more of his great meetings, he had an assembly of 100,000 persons within hearing of his stirring discourses. Parnell and his associates perfected the methods of Parliamentary obstruction. The boycott was another weapon, the invention of which must be credited to Ireland. The nonpayment of rent falls in the same category, along with the policy of getting elected to Parliament and not attending the sessions.

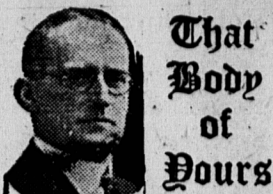
Later came the refusal to take the oath prescribed as the final qualification for membership, followed, as we have seen by the reversal of that policy. In other countries political activity is always positive, while in Ireland it is as frequently negative as positive. Many of the old wrongs suffered by the people of Ireland have passed away and the native sense of humor, always strong in the Irish race, is as strong as ever. These are hopeful features of the present situation. But occasional surprises arising in the political arena may still be expected.

As to members being elected and refusing to take their seats in Parliament, while it has never been attempted in Canada, it was seriously discussed at the time of the first election to the Dominion Parliament in 1867. Hon. Joseph Howe had then at his back all the others of the members elect from his Province but one, Hon. Dr. Tupper. It was generally realized that if the Anti-Confederates should refuse to take their seats in Parliament a deadly blow would be struck that might shatter the Union fabric. How many or few of the members from Nova Scotia favored such action may never be known, but the fear that they might refuse to attend was widespread and was freely discussed in other provinces. Fortunately wiser counsels prevailed.

To turn the national corn crop from a value of two billions to three billions is the proposal of the old Papeau manor house, situated on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River, half way between Montreal and Ottawa. It was the home of Louis Joseph Papeau, the leader of the Lower Canada rebellion in 1837-38, who beautified it and its spacious grounds and furnished it richly. It is still a striking example of a French-Canadian seignory fashioned after a French chateau. The grave of Papeau lies within the estate.

Great Britain more than any other country, is devoting attention to airships. Over there the airship is thought to be safer and better adapted in many ways for trans-Atlantic and other long voyages. Its carrying capacity for passengers and freight is much greater. Being sustained by gas that is much lighter than air, the airship does not fall even if its engines fail or are disabled by accident. No engine power is required to send it up in the air or keep it there. Power is needed only to drive it ahead.

The airship has been utilized in peace and war with excellent results. In her Air Service, Britain utilizes both airplanes and air ship. The Canadian Government has of late bought a considerable number of airplanes for public services of various kinds, such as carrying mails, discovering and extinguishing forest fires, sprinkling forests with poisonous material to kill destructive insects and dusting grain fields to prevent rust. It has been suggested that in Canada as in England one or more dirigible air ships should be provided for public use in services for which they are better adapted than airplanes are.



By James W. Barker M.D.

SCIATIC PAIN

Physicians of even just a few years back will remember that the severe pain in the hip and leg called sciatica, was considered an ailment whose cause was unknown, and all they could do was to try and relieve the pain.

The sufferers from sciatica are many, and always have been many, as this pain has been known for thousands of years.

Accordingly all manner of treatment was given, such as heat, massage, blistering the skin, and stretching the nerve itself.

However often during some of this treatment the patient had to remain quietly in bed, and perhaps in a few weeks the pain would pass away, and might not return for months or even years.

Observant physicians noted that in addition to the pain in the hip and legs, there was a stiffness of the muscles in the small of the back. It was noted that the patient was unable to bend the back without severe pain.

Now a stiffening of the muscles when they are trying Wm. Scott, the steward, on deck to protect a part, to prevent movement, because movement causes which thoughtful courtesy suggests, there is food for both body and spirit.

Indeed the officers and crew leave little to be desired by the most exacting and expecting passenger. Necessarily there are occasional delays on account of the shipment of autos and other express freight to be ferried. But the second steamer recommended by the Duncan Commission and likely to be provided as soon as possible will, of course, supply the requirements of a reasonable public and render the trip across the Strait a pleasing incident in the career of the summer tourist.

With reference to the lately renewed agitation for a tunnel, the warning "Do not grasp at too much, or you may lose all" ought to be borne in mind. In all the former years in which the demand for a tunnel was pressed, nothing was done; but on the suggestion of our representatives that a car ferry should be provided, the construction of the steamship, Prince Edward Island was forthwith ordered.

We may hope that, in like manner, the second Car Ferry now needed, and required in fulfillment of the terms of Confederation, will forthwith be supplied—if not hindered by an agitation for a tunnel. The increasing traffic at the Capes keeps "The Prince Edward Island" very busy; and the reasonable fear of a mishap, resulting in a stoppage of her excellent service, will tend to add to the desire of the government to supply a second car ferry, and so to implement the recommendation of the Duncan Commission.

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A Trip To Cape Breton

(W. L. Cotton.)

Differences in children of the same family are continually seen. One member is tall and another short; one dark and another fair. There are family resemblances, of course; but all have clearly distinguishing marks. The features of nature are similarly varied and distinctive. Prince Edward Island, for instance, is remarkably unlike the twin island of Cape Breton. The broad, undulating, red and fertile landscapes of "The Island" are in strong contrast with the rugged, rocky, grey, and withal grand and beautiful scenery of "The Cape." Yet, each has a charm that is all its own; and the industrious people of each, year after year, adding to its attractions, and each, year after year, becoming the resort of an increasing number of tourists, who breathe with pleasure the moist, "caller air" redolent of the sea, and view with the delight the unique and splendid scenery characteristic of both.

A trip from Prince Edward Island to Cape Breton, even at this late season of the year, is worth while for the change it affords and the prospects it holds out to the lover of the beautiful in nature and to the enterprising in spirit. Embarking at Borden, the passage across the Strait in the steamer, Prince Edward Island, is restful and refreshing. With Caplina Road in the background, the view from the deck is no thought of danger, even when the wind is high; and with Wm. Scott, the steward, on deck to protect a part, to prevent movement, because movement causes which thoughtful courtesy suggests, there is food for both body and spirit.

Indeed the officers and crew leave little to be desired by the most exacting and expecting passenger. Necessarily there are occasional delays on account of the shipment of autos and other express freight to be ferried. But the second steamer recommended by the Duncan Commission and likely to be provided as soon as possible will, of course, supply the requirements of a reasonable public and render the trip across the Strait a pleasing incident in the career of the summer tourist.

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There are, it is true, some vacant houses and many fields on which a second growth of spruce or birch shows that the labors of former owners now in Western Canada or the United States are in course of obliteration. On the other hand, it is pleasing to note, farmers who remain in the East are in comfortable circumstances. Their homes are proofs that "renty there a residence has been found" and that industry in Nova Scotia, as well as in Prince Edward Island is rewarded by substantial wealth.

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