

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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Graham Bell Celebration

Unless we maintain touch with the past and keep alive historic associations, the spirit of progress is dead within us. We can only measure our progress and appreciate our advancement by recalling deeds and events of the past.

One such outstanding event has come prominently before us this week in the celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Alexander Graham Bell in Edinburgh, the discoverer and inventor of our telephone system, and all that that has since developed into.

Like all men of true scientific genius, Bell was a man of simple integrity, and with the objective and fair outlook that characterizes those whose lives and thoughts have been given to the contemplation of laws and the search for facts.

A Good Move

The Provincial Government will deserve commendation if it puts into effect the proposal of the Island tourist interests to guarantee, on security of a first mortgage, bank loans for the extension of accommodation at our seaside and other tourist hotels.

Slim Pocket Money

There is reportedly a good deal of amusement in Great Britain over the arrangements for the pending conference at Moscow. The amusement perhaps is not shared by the participants.

Russian hospitality is proverbial and it will not be the fault of Generalissimo Stalin if any delegate or member of the secretariat finds it necessary to foot any expense that the Soviet Government can prevent.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Isn't it a crying shame that we should have to pay up to \$700,000 to complete the work on some 2,600 veterans homes built under government contract? Be it recalled that the City Council here was told these same houses could be built for \$2,000 less than the contract price.

An international "welfare" lady is being sued for divorce by her United States statesman husband. Mr. Henry Breckinridge, New York lawyer and an assistant Secretary of War in President Wilson's first Cabinet, seeks a divorce at Reno from Aida de Costa, known in France and the United States for her welfare work.

Charles Dickens, English novelist and lecturer, born this date 1812; commenced his career as a journalist and ended it as the most popular novelist and short-story writer of his day: "Father is rather vulgar, my dear. The word Papa, besides, gives a pretty form to the lips. Papa, potatoes, poultry, prunes and prism are all very good for the lips; especially prunes and prism."

All British Army personnel now on duty in Canada, including instructors and students at the Royal Military College, Kingston, ceased to be on "active service" February 19, it has been announced. The new ruling marks the official end of the war for the "Tommys."

"Good ould Ireland" is beginning to feel the pinch of reduced rations. Mr. Sean Lemass, Minister for Industry and Commerce, announced in Dublin that bread is to be rationed throughout Eire. The position has been forced on the Government because of the impossibility of importing grain from America or Canada to mix with the locally produced grain.

Even policemen may indulge in bootlegging—and not in a prohibition province. Suspended from the Verdun Police Department while holding the rank of lieutenant-instructor last September, Leo Belec was found guilty on two charges of illegally selling liquor by Recorder Euclide Desjarlais in Verdun court last week.

Empire preference is doomed no matter how much Australia or other food-producing countries want to keep it. Dr. Herbert C. Coombs, Australian director-general of reconstruction, is reported to have told members of the Australian parliamentary Labor Party.

The attitude adopted by Quebec in the Federal-Provincial controversy is that Quebec province is not in the same position as some other provinces of Canada and consequently not obliged to cede before Federal demands and sign agreements of a fiscal nature with Ottawa.

Six years ago this week on March 4, 1942, the first "RAM" heavily armoured Canadian cruiser tanks arrived in England. Five years ago, on 2nd March, 1943, while the RAF pounded Berlin, Canadian paratroopers training in the United States wound up their training and, on the 4th, left their American camp for Shilo, Man.

Three years ago this week, on 1st March, 1945, Major F. A. Tilston was awarded the Victoria Cross for an action in the Hochwald Forest, Germany. On March 2nd the Americans reached the Rhine and took Munchen, Gladbach, Meuss, Venlo and Trier, and on the 4th the Russians reached the Baltic, at a point near Stettin.

Notes By The Way

Why is it that when a woman tells a doctor she's all tired out, he immediately looks at her tongue?—Saskatoon Star-Phoenix.

In the middle ages women put raw dough on their faces to improve their complexion. Now the folding variety is required for the same purpose.—Sault Ste. Marie Star.

The unkindest cut of all was provided by those U. S. army dentists who made Tojo a new set of false teeth—and engraved "Edmond Pearl Harbor" on them.—Edmonton Journal.

A schoolteacher in New Hampshire has resigned from her job in order to marry a millionaire. Of course, if schoolteachers continue to be underpaid, they will do these desperate things from time to time.—Peterborough Examiner.

Uncle Sam has dropped a million and a half employees since the middle of 1945 and still manages to conduct his federal business with fair efficiency. A comparable cut in our own war-swollen civil and vice is long overdue.—Brookville Recorder and Times.

The business of statecraft in a modern state, in the midst of a world revolution, often becomes more than human flesh can bear. The only man who can stand it long are those who refuse to worry. But the public man who is earnestly devoted to certain objectives cannot help worrying at this stage in the world's history, and he pays a high price for his devotion to duty.—Winnipeg Free Press.

Delegates to the convention of the Ontario Temperance Federation express the opinion that there is less drinking among young people. That is probably true and it may well apply to the whole population under rationing, easy money and the stress of war, the whole population seemed to go beer and booze mad. There is bound to be a movement in reverse with a return to normal conditions.—Brookville Recorder and Times.

When tea was first introduced in England, a lot of people disliked it intensely. H. R. F. writes in Empire Digest. The reason was, they had never heard it praised. They had no idea how it should be prepared. Having bought some of the leaves, they boiled them for about 20 minutes, strained off the juice, and tried to eat them with butter and sugar. In many parts of England people still talk about a rule humorously of "making a dish of tea."

A new building in St. Louis is to have glass panels that will bend the rays of the sun to the ceiling and prevent light glare. If this can be made to work on a building, why couldn't the same principle be applied to the windshields on automobiles and do away with the sun glare that too frequently blinds the drivers? Probably it could also be applied to diversifying the rays of full beam headlights from the eyes of oncoming drivers. At least the possibilities seem to be there.—Kitchener Record.

Pointing to the almost unanimous conviction of those who have "retired" as proof that a life without anything to do is not a happy one, health authorities urge Canadians to keep busy. To keep alive, says The Brandon Sun, it's all tied up with the need for an aim in life—even if that aim is simply the payment of a few bills or achievement of a cherished ambition. The doctors urge the younger people to think of that aspect of the "retiring" time when they will be able to "give up the grind" and settle back in idleness. It isn't fun, they say, to have nothing to do.

Seaweed, Wood-fish, wood-wool and plastics are being used to make synthetic boards for Australia's housing commission in an effort to overcome the country's housing shortage. Sample boards composed of seaweed and cement have been submitted by a Melbourne architect who claims that the boards could be used as interior sheathing. The same man has also submitted samples of a board made from wood-ash and cement. Another inventor has produced a plastic board which he claims, can be used for both exterior and interior work.—Australian News Bureau.

The appearance at the housewarming show here of a device to grow grass with almost no effort will undoubtedly interest many a home owner, says The Boston Post. The device consists of strips of paper bedded with fertilizer and imbedded with the strips. These strips are stretched on the ground covered with a little soil and soaked with water. The paper dissolves into the earth, taking the seed and fertilizer with it and, it is claimed, grass appears in four or five days. A method of easy grass growing has been sought for centuries. If this one works, then the gardener's millennium is at hand.

ASPIRIN STOPS COLDS. NEW LOW PRICES. 12 tablets 18c, 24 tablets 32c, 100 tablets 75c. GENUINE ASPIRIN IS MARKED THIS WAY.

Capitol of China

Nanking is again the capital of China. It has none of the usual marks of a capital city. The first impression it makes on the visitor is that of a vast and untidy village, or rather a series of villages strung out along extremely long roads, with open spaces cultivated fields, and vegetable gardens lying in between. The city has no recognizable centre.

The various Ministries and other public buildings are scattered without plan or purpose all over the place, some on main streets, others hidden away in narrow side streets. The main thoroughfares, in spite of or perhaps because of their width, are not impressive. Lined with mean-looking shops of all kinds and sizes from an occasional six or seven-story building to a wooden shack, they present a ragged appearance. There are no department stores, nor is there a single foreign shop in the whole city.

In the Assembly. The presence of some 1,700 delegates to the National Assembly has made no appreciable difference to the outward appearance of a capital already so overcrowded that a visitor would have to be blind not to notice. The delegates come from every part of China, including Mongolia and Turkestan.

In spite of an acute housing shortage the Government has found quarters for all delegates, either in public buildings or rented houses or hotels. A few stay in their own homes or with friends. They receive a lodging allowance of 150,000 C.N.C. a month (40-50 U. S. dollars). Delegates are provided with books of food tickets which allow them to eat at restaurants at greatly reduced prices.

The present Assembly is being held in the large concrete hall of the Administrative Building, with seating for about 2,000. A steady buzz of conversation goes on all through the session and speeches are made in a matter-of-fact, unexciting, cat-calls, and hisses. The only way to stop a long-winded speaker appears to be to interrupt the loud-speaker system.

Voicing by Button. Delegates vote by pushing an electric button wired to their seats, which lights up one of hundreds of bulbs attached to two large wallboards. The number of bulbs thus lighted is counted and deducted from the number present; if it represents a majority, the measure is considered passed.

After the transfer of the capital from Peking in 1929 it would have been a comparatively simple task to have reconstructed Nanking as a fine city worthy of modern China. In those days all sorts of grandiose schemes were drawn up with that view in mind. The Japanese occupation from 1938 to 1945 has little to do with this failure. Since it first became the capital, Nanking has been congested, and as there has been little building since the Japanese occupation, the city has become a mass of shabby, ramshackle buildings, many of them built during the Japanese occupation. The Japanese occupation has created a housing problem that is probably the most acute in all China. Some small-scale housing schemes are being undertaken by the Government, but they are intended for Government employees. The foreign population, consisting almost entirely of diplomats and American military missions, with a small number of newspaper correspondents, is hard put to it to find accommodation, and exorbitant rents are charged. The representatives of several smaller countries have remained in Shanghai owing to the impossibility of procuring suitable quarters in the capital.

Ministerial Structure. One of the arguments used in favour of Nanking as the capital was its central position and good communications. But this rarely applies to the rest of the country. The only railway running properly, although always over-railway connecting the city with the other ports. There is a regular air service, but it is only for officials and the very rich. How the 700,000 inhabitants of Nanking earn their living is something of a mystery. There are no important industries or trades capable of supporting such a citizenship. The only conclusion that most of them earn their living by serving and supplying the wants of the horde of civil officials and troops that constitute a large percentage of the population.

Being the seat of the Kuomintang administration, Nanking has, not unnaturally, a Kuomintang atmosphere, and most people, including the occupants of the embassies and legations, appear outwardly, at least, to regard the political situation exclusively from the Kuomintang angle. The only strange anomaly is the Communist headquarters, which is included by foreign correspondents in their daily rounds, just as if it were one of the foreign embassies. It is puzzling to know how the Government really functions.

In actual fact, where important matters of State are concerned, it is at bottom a one-man Government. All such questions have to be referred to the President for decision. The Generalissimo must be absolutely snowed under with work. If he is absent from the capital, government alone is believed to be in the vicinity of \$14,000. Next in order comes West River, Pownal Alexander, Cherry Valley, Orwell, Vermont River, and Johnston's River. The largest fisheries are Orwell and East River. The latter, it is claimed, produce the poorest quality, although in certain sections some very fine stock is found. A large oyster bed is being planted at Murray River by the Federal Government, and it is hoped that this will be accompanied by a much more rigid supervision of the existing beds than at present obtains.—Daily Examiner 1938.



THE HANDY MAN

Slab-sided was his old gray horse, Lodged was his grin. His bob-tailed cot wore tufted ears And humped and spat like a snail. His daffy dog had one ear up And one ear gone askew And a tall that wagged him out of breath In any wind that blew.

With dying to be done, he said "To crones glad about, "Ain't never turned my hand to it, But likely I'll make out." —Frances Frost, in the New York Times.

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)

QUEENS CO. OYSTER FISHERY

The modest oyster, not long ago almost unknown as a product of Queens County, is now forcing itself into a position of prominence in our list of exports. Ten years ago the yearly shipments from Charlottetown would amount to no more than 50 to 100 barrels of a value not exceeding \$200, while in the last three years the annual product of the oyster beds in this County alone will be little, if any, short of 10,000 barrels and distributing wealth to the amount of \$15,000 to \$20,000 amongst our fishermen. Of this product about 12 to 15 per cent is used for home consumption, the remaining large proportion being shipped abroad, chiefly to Montreal and Quebec. But to a lesser extent to the United States, Bermuda, Newfoundland, St. Pierre and even England. Dealers are of the opinion that the most valuable oyster in the County comes from North River. But the supply from this source has been very small this year, being estimated at from 300 to 400 barrels. These brought an average of \$3.50 per barrel at the shingling ground and are believed to be in the vicinity of \$14,000. Next in order comes West River, Pownal Alexander, Cherry Valley, Orwell, Vermont River, and Johnston's River. The largest fisheries are Orwell and East River. The latter, it is claimed, produce the poorest quality, although in certain sections some very fine stock is found. A large oyster bed is being planted at Murray River by the Federal Government, and it is hoped that this will be accompanied by a much more rigid supervision of the existing beds than at present obtains.—Daily Examiner 1938.

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Some of his apprehensions are flung out of date, but no so-called reader is likely to forget Lenin's initial proposition that no political slogan can be judged apart from the economic content. This is indeed the weakest point of the scheme. What Europe desperately needs at the moment is to lay the foundations of economic recovery and reconstruction.

The immediate way of advance, and the most rapid in the end, is rather through agreements for mutual economic aid between pairs of countries, modest in scale at first but capable of gradual development. Federation, moreover, in any form which threatened a division of Europe, could only bring disaster. The danger of war which it seeks to avert, the signatories rightly assert that the final elimination of war can be assured only by the eventual creation of a system of world government. But if there is to be progress to this far goal along the earliest and most difficult stretch of the road, there must be peculiar care in the design of the national groupings proposed. The preliminaries to a framework of unity in Europe may best be found in the needs of the present day and in the treaties of mutual assurance, existing or projected, which respond to them.

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INDIES HIGHLANDS

The name Haiti translated means highlands. FEW RAILWAYS. Paraguay has only 300 miles of public railways.

QUICKIES By Ken Reynolds

SALES



"Using Guardian Want Ads is almost as good as when we had Aladdin's Lamp!"

United States of Europe?

An announcement is made of the formation of a British committee of distinguished men drawn from many walks of life to popularize the idea of a United States of Europe. The idea is a remarkable history, being nearly a century old. It has not been more ground up to the present this is perhaps because the constitutional subtleties which its execution would demand are less serious than the concrete political obstacles which it has to surmount. The generality of the ideas which inspire it is plain for all to see; nor is it unfair to argue that at a time when Europe's power in relation to the rest of the world is visibly declining, the case for unity is stronger than at any previous epoch.

It is, however, important to inquire exactly what the promoters of the present scheme have in mind. The manifesto issued leaves much in doubt. Historically "the United States of Europe" was originally conceived as an answer to the challenge of "the United States of America." Why, it was asked, could not the states of Europe achieve the same kind of organic union as had been achieved at the end of the eighteenth century by the thirteen states of North America and thus provide a sure guarantee of peace and stability?

Many indications suggest, however, that this is not what the promoters intend. Clearly some looser form of cooperation is contemplated. Among the "groups of various kinds" which cautiously cite as precedents the first is the Pan-American Union. Yet a question of the same kind would not hardly claim to end "the anarchy of Europe" or even to prevent war within its confines, any more than the Pan-American Association would prevent outbreaks of war in Latin America. Indeed if no more than this were intended, and if no constitutional union were in question, the project would not serve so precise a title as the "United States of Europe."

A long-standing difficulty is the peculiar position which Great Britain by her membership of the British Commonwealth of Nations and her other imperative overseas interests. The standing condition of Europe is that the European and overseas interests of Great Britain must be continuously reconciled and kept in even balance. One of the troubles of this Great Britain can be neither excluded from it nor included in it. The framers of the present scheme naturally assume that Great Britain will continue to be a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations. Yet if these regional groups are to have any significant membership of two of them would seem to any constitutional lawyer to present a curious anomaly.

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