

The Charlottetown Guardian

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Neglecting Farm Interests

"Picnic" trips to Ottawa and elsewhere by Liberal politicians have been so frequent under the present regime that one would naturally expect the Island to be represented at such an important meeting as that of the Canadian Horticultural Council, now in annual session at the Dominion capital.

Apparently, however, the CAMPBELL GOVERNMENT is less concerned with our farmers' problems than with other matters. Notwithstanding the representative attendance at this gathering from other Provinces, Prince Edward Island interests have been left to shift for themselves.

An Ottawa despatch, received too late Monday night to be checked locally, stated that Mr. J. W. BOULTER, manager of the Potato Growers' Association, was in attendance. Inquiry yesterday proved this statement to be unfounded. From the Agricultural Department it was learned that no Island representation had been arranged for.

One of the important subjects for discussion at the Horticultural Council meetings will be potato inspection. The present inspection service, it is complained, has given much dissatisfaction. For example, in many cases where reinspection at destination has been requested, cars have been found to be below grade requirements. The result is heavy loss to the shipper, which could have been avoided if the inspection standards were similar at both ends.

Again, it is complained that the Fruit Branch of the Federal Department of Agriculture is lax in enforcing the regulations under the Fruit, Vegetables and Honey Act. This Act provides, among other things, that a car is deemed accepted unless the buyer notifies the shipper of rejection within twenty-four hours after it is available for inspection.

Fantastical Shakespeare

"If this is Shakespeare, give me Eddie Cantor," remarked a picture patron caustically after witnessing the spectacular presentation of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Prince Edward Theatre. Bottom could not have expressed himself more pithily. He, it will be recalled, was the play's first critic. "Masters, you ought to consider with yourselves; to bring in,—God shield us! a lion among ladies, is a most dreadful thing."

A lion among ladies would be less "dreadful" at all events less bewildering, than the antics of Puck and the revels of the Fairies in our common-sense world of today. Have we lost relish for such imaginings? "Things like that don't happen," objects the realist, (blissfully unaware that he has been forestalled by Titania's "clamorous owl, that nightly hoots and wonders at our quaint spirits.")

The realist is mistaken. Things like that do happen. They happen in the fourth dimension of the imagination, called poetry. There are so many who do not "like" poetry unless it be "uplifting", or sentimental, or mixed with some other alloy, that it is not surprising they should protest against its screen interpretation. Unfortunately some of the finest poetry in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is "cut" in the picture version; yet enough remains to chill the enthusiasm of the realists, and convince them that the whole thing is poppy-cock.

Federal Relief Policy

"One of the first questions I asked when I came back to this country," said Mr. BENNETT in the House of Commons the other day, "was, what was the number on relief, and I found the number approximately a million, and I have it in the press, in a report made by a competent and thoroughly responsible official, that the number receiving relief is six to eight per cent. more outside of the drought area than it was a year ago, and when the drought area registered its maximum it made the figures approximately twelve per cent. more than last year."

"The public memory is notoriously short but Hansard has a habit of enduring," continued Mr. BENNETT. "I ask the Minister of Labor to read in Hansard from 1930 to 1935 only the speeches of his own party, and then tell this House and the country what explanation he can give as to the figure of those receiving relief being a million. Of course, we do not expect wonders to be worked in a single day, and the age of miracles, someone has said, is past. But surely anyone reading these speeches had the right to expect, nay, to demand, that there would be a great falling off in this number. Oh, how they used to mouth these figures. What sweet morsels they were under their tongues! They used to rejoice that this number had not been reduced. Well, Mr. Speaker, we shall all await with interest the Minister of Labor's explanation."

Pending the Labor Minister's explanation, it is significant to note the critical attitude taken by a leading Liberal paper, the Winnipeg Free Press toward federal relief policies. "Good preparatory work" has been done, says the Free Press, "but there are some indications that are not reassuring. It continues: "The members of the government, both before and since they assumed office, referred to unemployment as "the" greatest problem of the country. Was it merely accidental that the Speech from the Throne last week referred to it as "a" foremost problem of the country? From the United States, the government got the idea of the house renovation scheme, but it has also, apparently, got from the same sources the idea of cutting down relief expenditures—an understandable policy in the United States, where billions have been spent in providing a vast amount of employment, but not so applicable in Canada where much less has been done, both actually and relatively."

The government's housing and other schemes, it is complained, "are still largely on paper." "It is disappointing, also," says the Free Press, "to hear from Mr. ROGERS, an able minister in many respects, the reiteration of the view that the primary responsibility for unemployment relief lies with the provinces and municipalities. In normal times that might be all right, but we reject entirely the idea that it applies to present conditions.... The theory of local responsibility is wholly indefensible."

Editorial Notes

January has been a month of tragedies at home and abroad.

We do not hear much about it, but Farmers' Week is in the offing.

A banker is said to be that generous, benevolent, thoughtful sort of accommodating friend who loans you an umbrella when the sunshines all around; and insists upon its return in-stanter whenever it begins to rain.

In pursuance of the Dominion wide co-ordinated effort of the Protestant Churches for the Evangelisation of Canada, a great demonstration is to be held in Trinity Church on Wednesday week.

After a round of golf between the minister and an elder, in which the minister was badly beaten, the winner remarked: "Cheer up, Doctor, when I'm dead you'll have the last word!" "But," was the dismal reply, "it will still be your hole."

While the birthrate in Europe and America has a tendency to decrease, the reverse is the case in Asia. The birth rate in Burma during 1935-36 touched record figures. The rate per mill is 33.03, an increase of 2.81 over the previous year and 1.4 over the average for the past five years. The number of births registered was 399,773, which is the highest figure ever recorded in Burma. Generally speaking, male births exceed female births, which is a somewhat unusual feature.

His Honour Lieutenant Governor DeBlois has received from Lord Wigram, Private Secretary to His Majesty the King an acknowledgment of his recent letter, in which His Lordship writes: "Dear Lieutenant-Governor, I have laid before the King your letter of December 12. His Majesty commands me to convey to you, to the Government and the people of Prince Edward Island his deep appreciation of the loyal assurances which you express, and his warmest thanks for the accompanying good wishes to himself, the Queen and the members of his Family. Yours very truly, Wigram."

"Cultivate a sense of proportion; do not suffer your lives to be smothered and snowed under by the transitory and temporal, but cleave to the eternal and use reason in a rational manner. Remember what I read to you: that at least there is no reason why you should desert the word of God for any lesser attraction, and the nearer you hold to that, the closer you follow the everlasting and unchanging precepts of your Maker, the more you honour your birthright of reason the better you deserve to be called reasonable men, women, or children." Only a novelist of the standing of Mr. Eden Phillpotts would have the courage to open his novel with a sermon, but the discourse of the Vicar of Blore—an extract of which is quoted above—had considerable effect on two or three members of the congregation, and on one girl in particular, whose story is told in the novel which appeared last week, Wood Nymph.

Commenting on the fact that a road accident occurred in Great Britain, on an average, every two minutes during 1936, the Manchester Guardian says: "The carelessness of the walker is a habit difficult to remove, without changing the mentality of the citizen. Thanks to the intensive teaching of road sense in the schools we may hope that a generation is growing up which will regard the roads with something of the awe with which their parents do the railways. But many of the elders spent their formative years in a world where nothing they encountered moved faster than a dog-cart, and a hoop could be bowled on the highway with impunity. The instinct to perambulate the town at one's ease and in happy converse with a friend dies hard. For the generation that once indulged it safely there cannot be too many reminders of its danger in our day." The British Government is considering sensational reforms including compulsory red lights on every vehicle, instead of reflectors, compulsory third-party insurance; police concentration, for an experimental period at regular intervals, on dangerous road behaviours; and sterner application of the law where offences are proved.

These golden wedding celebrations do much to restore one's faith in humanity and in the sacrament of marriage as it was intended to be. . . . All honours to our brides and groom of another day who have been true to each other through all the vicissitudes of life and who have won the high regard not only of their children and grandchildren but of the community in which they have lived. They are indeed the salt of the earth.—Kitchener Record

Horn blowers will find something to worry about in the warning of Dr. Foster Kennedy, professor of neurology at Cornell University Medical College who says that noise is a major hazard of modern existence. "Noise," he states, "causes excitation and irritation which have consequences of many kinds and kinds of conduct." Everybody knows about the "irritation" of having an automobile horn helping him, as a pedestrian, to speed up at a crossing. But the physician says that "long before the emotions are disturbed,

Notes by the Way

Thus the U. S. Government list credited Mae West with \$480,833 for her picture work during 1935, but did not point out that after deduction of \$234,000 for Federal income taxes and \$50,050 for California taxes her total was \$196,783—less than one-third of her actual film earnings. Other great incomes were subject to corresponding deductions.—New York Times.

Socrates once asked if all the men in the world should come together and pool their aches and pains, their sorrows, misfortunes, adversities, diseases, wants, servitudes and grievances of mind and body, and share alike, each taking his portion, would any man accept such a plan? The answer is obvious. No one would consent. Each man would think that he was fairly well off, after all!—Ex.

If flying is to justify itself, as obviously it is doing, the order must be to "carry on." Every known precaution must be taken and new ones diligently sought. In the meantime, accidents will happen and valuable lives will be sacrificed from time to time. Progress will continue to press against the very borderline of safety as it has ever done, until at last we can have both. Whether to our credit or not, this country occupies a fortunate position with respect to the major air lines in the world. We have sat back and watched other important countries, particularly our neighbors to the south, pioneer the field of airway establishment at heavy cost in valuable human lives, which we have been spared. On the shoulders of those responsible for the direction of impetuous services in Canada rests the unquestioned responsibility to see to it that full benefit is taken of the lessons others have learned so dearly.—London Observer.

At the present time complaint is made that we live of great depth that have hitherto never been known to go dry are beginning to fail when drought appears. There is only one remedy and that is adequate reforestation on scientific plans. How many more lessons are needed before the provincial legislators will take the necessary measures to provide for the planting of trees wherever possible throughout the province, and the construction of works necessary to retain moisture? Every pressure should be brought to bear upon the Legislature to undertake a scheme of reforestation under the direction of competent engineers. Further neglect will simply mean greater destruction of property, failure of crops, and the impoverishment of a rich agricultural soil.—Branford Exposition.

When an elderly man who had fallen off a stile was admitted to the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, with a dislocated neck, a block and tackle were used to replace the vertebrae in position. A sling was put under the man's chin after he had been secured to a table. The block and tackle were successfully operated with a pull of about 60 pounds. "We had to remove the plaster round the neck at a later date as it was found that another of the vertebra had been displaced." A hospital official stated. "We again used the block and tackle to good effect, although other complications set in and the patient died."—London Observer.

If the strength of the Navy had been maintained at its old standard the policy of Japan and the outward expression of threats by some waters in that country might have been observed with complacency. The people of Australia and New Zealand have hitherto always recognized that their own security—that is, the integrity of their territory, the maintenance of their internal and commercial policies, and the uninterrupted flow of their trade—depends upon sea power. But as the strength of the Navy relative to that of other Powers has been reduced, and as the Japanese claim of a need for expansion for her increasing population has taken a threatening turn, these Dominions have felt that their security is no longer assured. From each of them comes the cry that they no longer possess the shield they need and have hitherto possessed.—The Fortnightly (London)

The simple fact is that there has been railway inefficiency in face of the new competition. The railways have stuck too much to their old methods while every other large and well-managed industry was doing its best to give the public what it wanted, adjusting its methods to changing conditions, spending money on research in order to create something that the public would want and competing vigorously as, say, the automobile companies have done for public patronage.—Winnipeg Free Press.

Different races have differentisms, but they all mean: We are the chosen people and demand our place in the sun."—Buffalo Evening News.

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certain changes such as quickening of the pulse rate, heightening of blood pressure and irregularities of heart rhythm are induced."—Port Arthur News Chronicle.

The world's wheat picture grows steadily better for Canada. At the end of 1932 the world's surplus was 625 million bushels; at the end of 1934 it was 375 million bushels; at the end of 1937 (according to estimates) it will be but 125 million bushels. This is what is behind the present sensational rise in wheat prices, which mean so much for Canada.—Ottawa Journal



By James W. Barton, M.D.

That Body of Pours

White patches on the skin (psoriasis) are a new treatment. I write frequently about psoriasis (white patches resembling mortar on the skin) because the number so afflicted is very large, and clearing it up is often so difficult. For many years the treatment was the use of Fowler's solution (arsenic) internally, and ammoniated mercury used in skin ointments every drug used in skin ointments has been tried, usually without success. A short time ago it was discovered that if fat foods were decreased or entirely left out of the diet, many of these cases cleared up. While this means doing without such wholesome foods as butter, yolks of eggs, nut, fat meats and cream, any victim of psoriasis is willing to do this to rid himself of these disgusting white spots.

It will be good news therefore to these afflicted to learn that what may prove to be a successful treatment for psoriasis has been discovered by Dr. J. Krafka, Jr., Augusta, Georgia, as recorded in the Journal of Laboratory and Clinical Medicine, St. Louis.

Dr. Krafka observed that in the South psoriasis often clears up to some extent during exposure to the summer sun. This gave him the idea that it might be cured with viosterol.

Viosterol is a substance obtained from various sources, which, when subjected or worked on by ultra violet rays (sun's rays) develops a power of preventing rickets enormously greater than cod liver oil. He accordingly made a trial test.

A patient with a case of ten years' standing—free from it was put on a routine or regular treatment of viosterol: two gelatin capsules containing 3 minims or drops of halbut liver oil viosterol, daily. Within sixty days from the beginning of the test, the skin of this patient was entirely clear.

Two other cases of psoriasis in which favorable results were obtained were recorded by Dr. Krafka.

As a rule a physician will not or does not like to announce the results of any treatment to his fellow physicians unless it has been tried on a fair or large number of cases. Three cases may mean nothing.

However as the treatment is very simple and can do no harm, there is no reason why it should not be tried, because psoriasis is often a stubborn ailment.

In view of the fact that the viosterol treatment has helped many persistent cases of acne (pimples) it may be that it will also prove of real help in psoriasis.

"Is Education A Failure?" Asks Woman Expert

Miss Agnes Muir, President of the Educational Institute of Scotland in a fearless address raises this issue. "Dissatisfaction with the results of the educational system is expressed in a continuous stream of criticism that shows no sign of abating. In a presidential address to the annual congress of the Educational Institute of Scotland, Miss Agnes Muir posed the question, 'Is Education a Failure?' and answered it with something perilously near an affirmative. The keys of learning and of culture seem to grow rustier with disuse, the more widely their use is made available. There is enough truth in this conclusion for it to be thoroughly disturbing. The truth, we believe is that education itself is being made too cheap, not in cost, but in kind. Nobody ever learned anything much worth knowing without effort, and yet the whole trend of modern popular education is to try and eliminate effort. Noses that have never been put to the grindstone will never be sharp.—Chiefs Times.

"The keys of learning are now available for all, but how many use them to unlock the gates of wider and fuller life? How many people are living full rich lives up to the limit of their individual capacities of mind and heart, in spite of all the material and scientific progress that has been made?" said Miss Muir.

"Is it not still pitifully true that there is no room in the Inn—the crowded inn of modern life—for worship, wonder and praise, and that in spite of the fact that scientific discovery has revealed more wonders than where ever before dreamed of in the Universe? Are we cultivating their talents for the service of mankind and for joy to themselves, or merely such of them as will enable them to 'get on' in this life? The snobbish ideal of suburbia!

SPEED FOR ITS OWN SAKE "What do many of those who leave our schools to-day glory? Speed, for its own sake and the vicarious thrill of seeing reckless men and women risk their lives to establish records that benefit no one, save the manufacturers of machinery. A mechanical age has put a high-powered weapon in the hands of many whose lack of manners and regardlessness of human life make them a menace to children and aged folk.

"The advancement of science and progress in technology have so far outrun our spiritual development that they have become a danger to civilization and possibly to continued existence. Power is being glorified in countries dominated by fear, and the greatest scientific brains are devoted to perfecting systems of killing and annihilating instead of increasing the sum of human happiness by alleviating pain and banishing poverty and misery.

"In an age when the ceaseless toil for millions can be lifted by the power of guided machines, the machine seems to have outrun our spiritual progress that it is perilously near to running away from the hands which should guide it, and crushing out civilization altogether.

"BEATING THE AIR" "What heroes does the average youth glorify? The benefactors of mankind? The pioneers in lonely outposts? Ah, no, they must take a back seat well behind the boxers, the professional footballers and the cinema stars. How many people today, having no outstanding qualities of their own are content to be mere 'fans'—appropriate designation—beating the air?"

"For this stressing of the trivial and magnifying of the unimportant, a section—the less reputable but all too large section—of the popular Press is much to blame. Now that a vast population can read, they dis-traste upon their limited knowledge, upon mass emotion and human weaknesses.

"The increase in daily betting is to some extent due to the prominence given to racing news and the ability to read had made it easier for many people to go to the dogs' literally as well as metaphorically.

"The cinema, one of the greatest inventions of modern times, if rightly used, may be a splendid instrument of enlightenment and education. Instead, it is to an alarming extent presenting to the eyes of masses of its patrons—amongst whom are many children and adolescents—patterns of vulgarity, vice and crime; the manners and morals of the underworld of Chicago; the glorification of crooks and gangsters; and to their ears a debased form of speech which is becoming common usage amongst the youth of our country. We need not altogether blame the cinema trade. They must consider box office appeal.

"PLEASURE IN VULGARITY" "Blame rather the fact that all our education is turning our masses of people who are satisfied with the fare provided, who find pleasure in vulgarity and know not the meaning of joy.

"Again, modern transport facilities makes it possible for all to away sometimes from the din and dust of the city into the peace and beauty of the countryside. Only the few behold the beauty and appreciate the peace; the others desecrate the one with litter and shatter the other with canned music—pitiful sources, and need a gramophone on the lonely hills; who are deaf to the music of the sea and the raptures of the birds.

"In the streets where children play how seldom does one hear the sound of really happy laughter which is the spontaneous expression of joy and genuine fun?"

"Even in the theatre how often one is jarred by some who are incapable of appreciating tragedy and are moved to ribald laughter or foolish giggling where hushed silence would be fitting?"

WINTER TRIPS
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PUBLIC FORUM
This column is open for the discussion of controversial questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of contributors.

RAILWAY NEEDS
Sir—"Railways don't pay". This is the answer of some, when they are approached on this subject. Well, but when did they pay, financially? If we had ceased building railways, because they did not pay, Canada would still be undeveloped and undeveloped. Great resources of field, forest and mine would never have been tapped. Great cities would not have come into existence. Ministers could not conveniently go to Ottawa on picnics, nor could women, conveniently lend their charm to the opening of Parliament.

near the mouth of West River about 2 miles west of Rocky Point the distance to Charlottetown from West River bridge would be increased to 13 or 14 miles. It seems Mr. Mitchell is doing better now. He realizes that it is not a good policy to have too many iron in the fire. One thing at a time is very good. Last winter Mr. Mitchell had a whole string of projects embodied in the celebrated "five-point resolutions," notably, bridges, the reduction of fares on the ferry, and the National Park. He is in favour of much being done towards tourist traffic such as a ferry at Wood Islands and a pay, Canada would still be undeveloped and undeveloped. Great resources of field, forest and mine would never have been tapped. Great cities would not have come into existence. Ministers could not conveniently go to Ottawa on picnics, nor could women, conveniently lend their charm to the opening of Parliament.

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