

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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QUALITY COUNTS

Continued improvement in the hog marketing situation, noted in the article in yesterday's Guardian from the Livestock Marketing Board, should encourage our producers to further efforts in improving quality as well as increasing quantity production. This point was emphasized recently by Mr. W. A. Wilson, the Canadian Government Animal Products Trade Commissioner in London, who stated that if Canada is to get her share of the British trade in bacon, poultry, live cattle and other agricultural products, she must regard as all-important the necessity of doing things better, not worse, than her competitors. He cited the good impression made upon British buyers by the Canadian turkey shipment in 1932 and the shipment of chickens last year. The standard was good. "We must continue in this way and also improve upon it," he emphasized, pointing out that there was plenty of room for a far larger export of poultry from this Dominion to the Motherland, even after having made all allowances for the large exports from foreign countries.

The better the quality, the more satisfied the trade and the consumer in Great Britain are going to be and the less argument there will be to justify the imposition of any restriction upon our poultry exports to Britain, Mr. Wilson declared. And he was particularly emphatic in regard to the bacon trade. In this connection the factor of high quality must be more pronounced than in any other, he said.

It is in this particular connection, says a Montreal exchange, that Canadian exporters do not seem to have realised the priceless opportunity that is at present being offered them. In November, 1932, there was a 15 per cent duty on foreign bacon imported into Britain. This has been raised by degrees until today the Canadian exporter has a definite advantage of 58 1-2 per cent over all his foreign rivals on an annual quota for British consumption of 280,000,000 pounds. But the Canadian bacon export is not up to the necessary high standard yet. Not only must the right breed of hogs be cultivated, but there must be improvement in the curing and also in the finishing and packing, if Canada is to secure—and what is of much greater importance—retain the place in the British market which she is now offered under the Ottawa agreements.

Canada exported less than one-fifth of her full quota of bacon to Britain last year. And unless Canada shows that she can give both quality and steady supply, within the period that yet remains before the Ottawa pacts come up for revision, the outlook for the future is not bright. If she does, then her place in Britain's market is assured, and so is the prosperity of her agricultural produce exporters. But it can only be done by fighting hard and in the right direction.

THE WAR DEBTS

Installments on war debts are due to the United States from eleven European powers on June 15. On December 15, 1933, when the last payments fell due, Finland alone (owing the small sum of \$29,623) paid in full. France, Belgium, Estonia, Hungary and Poland defaulted. They paid nothing. Italy and three minor powers followed Great Britain's lead in offering token payments. These part payments amounted to \$6,668,500, to which Great Britain contributed \$7,500,000. In all the United States collected, out of \$152,952,637 owing, only \$6,868,123 or about enough to finance the new deal for a day. Mr. Roosevelt intimated he would not regard the nations making token payments as in default.

The position, notes the Winnipeg Free Press, has been changed since December by the passage of the Johnson bill at Washington, providing that no foreign power in default to the United States may borrow money in the United States. Mr. Cummings, Attorney-General in the Roosevelt Cabinet, rules that a country which does not pay in full next month must be considered in default. Token payments, that is, will not be accepted again. The British Government has made no provision in its 1934 budget for paying the June installment and apparently does not intend to pay in full. It will not hurt the British Government to be deprived of the right to sell bonds in the United States, but the general application of the Johnson bill will certainly tend to dislocate business. The Baltimore Sun has called the bill "a

gesture of international ill-will," but it stands on the statute books, ready to make trouble. What is to be done to ease the situation?

Mr. Roosevelt stands firmly by two decisions. First, he will not listen to creditors as a group. He will not hold a round-table conference with them. Second, he will not make an offer of settlement to any of them. The debtors, that is, must come to him with their propositions and they must come singly. In taking this line Mr. Roosevelt is technically right. A private debtor who cannot pay does not expect to be offered terms. He must step up and ask for them. And he can fairly be asked to step up alone and refrain from banding together with other debtors.

On the other hand, Mr. Roosevelt's attitude can hardly be called magnanimous. His view that the war debts are exactly like any other debts is narrow and unimaginative. Perhaps political necessity forces his hand. Congress and the American public appear still to be under the delusion that the war debts can be paid and will be paid if enough pressure is brought to bear. Of course they cannot be paid while the United States, by maintaining a high tariff, refuses to take payment in goods. Apart from that, Great Britain and the European powers seem to have taken the position definitely that the war debts ought to be outlawed along with reparations, or at the best settled for ten cents on the dollar. These are the realities which Mr. Roosevelt and Congress appear to ignore.

The hopeful aspect of the matter is that the President is willing to hear representations from the debtors. It remains to be seen what, if anything, the debtors will have to propose before June 15.

THE BRITISH WAY

Speaking in the House of Commons toward the close of the budget debate, Hon. Dr. Manion made a striking statement with respect to the different methods of financing followed by Great Britain and Canada. If taxation were on the same scale here as in the old country, he said, Canada's surplus on revenue account would run somewhere between \$400,000,000 and \$600,000,000.

The official records bear out this calculation to the last dollar. Britain is raising \$3,600,000,000, and Canada only \$300,000,000, by taxation this year. Mr. Chamberlain estimates a surplus of approximately \$200,000,000, and Mr. Rhodes a deficit of \$130,000,000 on ordinary revenue account. Canada's population is about one-fourth that of Great Britain, but the Dominion's estimated income from taxation of the people is only a twelfth that of the United Kingdom. That is the per capita rate of taxation here is only about a third of what it is in Great Britain. If Canada's taxation were stepped up to the British scale, the Dominion Government's revenue would be in the vicinity of \$900,000,000 instead of the \$300,000,000 anticipated by Mr. Rhodes from tax collections. And the additional \$600,000,000 would wipe out our estimated deficit of \$130,000,000, leaving \$470,000,000 to apply to the liquidation of the national debt during the current fiscal year.

Opposition politicians at Ottawa have sought to make a telling point against the Rhodes budget by citing the better financial showing in the Chamberlain budget at Westminster. In doing so, of course, they ignored completely the facts above stated. And doubtless they would be the first to protest against Canadians being asked to shoulder such burdens as the British taxpayer has been bearing stolidly and complacently in recent years.

FARM CROPS COST

The Department of Agriculture at Ottawa has issued a 50-page illustrated booklet on the cost of producing farm crops in the Maritimes and other parts of Western Canada. The main object is to learn how to reduce the cost of production. Another object is to learn what crops give the most profitable returns. Owing to the fact that the labour requirements for certain crops occur at different periods of the year, it is not always possible to make a direct comparison between these crops, but it is possible to compare other crops which compete for labour at the same time, such as wheat, oats, and barley, on the one hand, or corn, sunflowers or roots on the other. It may also be possible to calculate the maximum acreage of the various crops which could be produced. The booklet covers all angles and is available to all farmers asking for it.

Notes By The Way

Christian Science Monitor: The phrase, "as from," has caused a letter to be written to the Times, London: "My outlook is being embittered and warped by the phrase, 'as from.' The climax, we learn, was reached when the correspondent was told a few nights ago that the income tax would be sixpence less 'as from' Jan. 1, 1935. If such an experience could not reconcile one to the phrase 'as from,' then certainly one's outlook must already have become embittered and warped."

Cleveland Plain Dealer: For three or four years Carrier in successive trips explored the St. Lawrence and the Saguenay, tried to establish a colony and accomplished a considerable amount of amazingly accurate charting. But like many another pioneer he was too far ahead of his time. The kings of France had European wars on their hands. They came to look upon Canada as a cold annoyance. Carrier led, but for a long time there were few to follow. It was half a century or more before Champlain, La Salle, Marquette and others came to carve New France from the wilderness. In the estimate of his generation Carrier was a failure. But a noble river and a thriving Dominion are his everlasting monument.

New York Herald-Tribune: The budget speech of Neville Chamberlain recently before the British House of Commons was interesting chiefly as a reminder that a nation can adhere to time-tested fiscal practices and still attain a substantial measure of recovery. While our own government's chief problem at the moment is the fantom prospect of trying desperately and vainly to spend billions of dollars on an unprecedented lavish program, Congress has voted the chief concern of the British Finance Minister is that of allocating the prospective benefits of increasing receipts during the next twelve months. He has decided to give both the taxpayer and the worker something.

During the pioneer days of any human development people are so busy thinking out ways of life, and a fair existence, that they have no time to grow envious of their neighbor or to plan out how to be a bigger figure than he. Their only thought is to establish something and then to pass it on for better and then to pass it on for better. When wealth and ease arrive people grow soft and boastful and selfish. Their forefathers alone took the blows—and became educated.—Exchange.

F. J. C. Hearnshaw in The National Review (London): Today, once more Germany is the wayward path. She is openly arming in order to recover the prestige that she lost in her last war and to regain the dominions of which she was properly deprived. Once again the British figure in the program of the world, laid before her militant youth. In 1934, even more than in 1914, a half-armed, pacific and unprepared England, with a vast and rich but quite unequally defended empire attached to it, is being invited by the world to the great adventure of conquest. No surer incentive to war than an unprotected British Empire can well be imagined.

Cod Liver Oil has found a new use as a dressing for wounds. This was discovered by Professor Lohr as a result of three years of experimenting with thousands of cases at hospital and in Magdeburg, Germany. Combined with other oils, a semi-solid ointment, cod liver oil, when used on wounds, whether the healing of wounds. Whether the high concentration of vitamins A and D in the oil, Professor Lohr does not know, although he considers it a possibility. He uses it in selected cases, pasting onto the wound and ulcers a layer so thick that the overlying dressing does not touch the raw, tender surfaces of the wound, thus eliminating pain when the dressings are changed.

Joseph Stagg Lawrence in The Review of Reviews (New York): Many of the apparently revolutionary aspects of the Rhodes Deal are in reality not revolutionary at all, but merely a revival of old restraints which the last century and a half of laissez-faire show are necessary. The idea of an inexorable natural law in the field of business is not the sustained by the record. The Government has left management to its own devices, and the exercise of discretion. Profits have not been outlawed. Though upper limits have been placed on prices, and in certain fields on salaries, none have been placed on the profits which management may earn nor on the income which an individual may receive. With the exception of gold on form of wealth has been socialized. The point to be made is that the New Deal, theoretically and in the light of history, can succeed.

Something ought to be done, without delay, about the numberless voracious gentlemen who, under the guise of money lenders, are squeezing the lifeblood out of hundreds of thousands of Canadian wage-earners. In Vancouver the thing has got to be scandalous. These greedy and predatory individuals, many of whom are operating without even a civic license, charge as high as 200, 300 and even 500 per cent. Once in their clutches, the hapless borrower is tied down to exorbitant payments until death parts him from his troubles. These men neglect paying his legitimate bills because he doesn't want to expose himself and his endorser—usually close friends—to the ignominy and embarrassment of a lawsuit. Thus, the grocer, the butcher, and the merchant suffer, along with the borrower, from the voracity of these loan leeches.—Vancouver Sun.

Sunday In The Highlands

(Stetson Gordon in The Spectator) Readers of The Spectator may remember the protests made by the people of the Isle of Skye a year or two ago against the running of a Sunday railway excursions from Inverness to the island, and that in deference to public opinion in Skye the excursions were abandoned. More recently they may have noted the protests of the northern Highland counties against the proposal to run pleasure char-a-banc tours into them on Sundays during the coming summer.

Broadly speaking, the population of the Scottish Highlands may be said to be supporters of the National Church of Scotland or of the Free Church, but there are districts, such as the Outer Hebrides, islands of South Uist and Barra, and the mainland fringe of Morar and Moidart, where the Roman Catholic faith predominates. Then, again, there are a few localities, such as Inverness, where the old Episcopal Church of Scotland is strong. The rigidity of Sunday observance varies in different parts of the Highlands. I should say that, generally speaking, Argyll and the Islands (Islip, Jura, and Islay, Colonsay and Na h-Eileanan Siar) are the counties which lie to the north of them (Inverness, Ross, and Sutherland).

A friend of mine who lives in Argyll asked me one Sunday morning recently when I visited him. I did not hear where he had a time that he regularly played on Sundays. I replied that pipe-playing on Sunday in the more northerly of the Highland counties would be counted a very serious offence. In some districts the playing of the pipes and the singing of non-sacred songs are deprecated even during week days. I told him the story narrated to me by a friend of his conversation with his Highland landlord regarding a certain neighbour. "Yes," said the landlord, "so-and-so is a fine gentleman in every respect, except one." When pressed for further information the man continued, "One Sabbath morning five years ago he was heard playing the pipes—at least I did not hear him, but there was one who told me that he had been heard." It is a sad thing that in many Highland districts the Free Church should have discouraged all singing (except the singing of the Psalms and the playing of musical instruments), and it is unfortunately true that the expression of joy in song and in music is repressed in many parts of the Highlands today. I recall the unweaving of a certain War Memorial when many people kept away from the ceremony because they were informed that pipers would play at it.

There are districts in the Highlands where Sunday is kept so rigidly that it is considered an offence to walk, except to and from church. A friend of mine, on a walking tour in the West Highlands, received a letter, courteous but firm, from the woman he had approached for lodgings, asking him that he would kindly time his arrival so that he would neither reach, nor leave, the house on the Sabbath Day. The letter was a reply of a woman to a family who had written to her for summer lodgings: "I allow no walking out on Sundays."

Sometimes when I have seen the free and easy manner in which the English Sunday is kept, I wonder what my Highland friends would think of the walking, bicycling, motoring, riding, and even flying, to be observed on a fine Sunday in the neighborhood of London. Were they to see these things they would sadly think England was indeed a heathen land. English readers of this article who expect to visit the Highlands by car during the coming summer would do well to bear in mind that there are parts of the Highlands off the beaten track where no petrol is supplied on Sunday except to facilitate a journey to church. The use of a car for any other purpose is taboo. A friend of mine who once used his car to pay a visit on Sunday told me that on the following Sunday he was a member of the Free Church; a special sermon was preached by his Minister on the enormity of his offence, his name being mentioned before the eagerly-listening congregation.

Let me not be misunderstood for a moment. The prohibition of a look on Sunday observance is an honest one. The people are deeply religious, and old women are often seen slowly and painfully walking a dozen miles and more along a hard and high road to church. So severe are the island storms that the church-goers are sometimes storm-stayed in the church. On one occasion, during a gale of such violence that small stones were being lifted from the road, a friend and I who were fighting our way to church came upon a member of the church completely exhausted on a sheltered grassy bank; it was only with our assistance that he could proceed. Yet, even in the wildest and wettest weather, the churches of the Highlands are never empty. Can it be wondered at that these simple people in the Highlands, to whom religion is a deep and a solemn thing, should so resolutely resist their districts being invaded by char-a-bancs filled with sightseers? The char-a-bancs perhaps meet them on their way to church, and scatter them (for the High roads are narrow and tortuous and many of them are unfitted for heavy bus traffic) and they know that the outlook of these sightseers is far different from their own. The cheerful and noisy crowd pass them at speed. From their point of view the rest of the Sabbath is broken. They are saddened and perhaps a little perplexed. They feel that the old religion is at the parting of the ways, that the old-fashioned Sunday, which survives today only in the Highlands, may be unable to withstand the assaults made upon it by those who are mostly town-dwellers, with a different outlook upon life from the Highlander's.

Those who protest against char-a-banc and railway excursions honestly believe that something sacred is in danger of being lost, and believing this strongly, they are now exerting all the influence they have to prevent the running of Sunday trains, of Sunday steamers, of Sunday char-a-banc tours in their Highland districts, where the golden eagle sails high above the mist-filled corries and the red deer at spring seek the sun-warmed slopes.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

SOLANIN POISONING

Sir.—The following is an extract of a news item which appeared in the newspaper "The Sun", Swift Current, Saskatchewan, April 17, 1934, and is doubtless of some interest to you: "Solaniin, or potato poisoning, was given as the cause of death of David Brown, who was found dead in a shack on the Church farm, north of Webb, a short time ago, at the adjourned inquest which was held in Webb last week, presided over by Coroner Dr. A. E. Kelly, of Swift Current, assisted by Constable Hewitt, R.C.M.P. The report read at the inquest came from the Provincial analyst and declared that the deceased met his death by solaniin poisoning. It appears that this poison is sometimes found in heated, musty or sprouted potatoes. A post mortem examination had previously been made by Dr. MacIntosh of Gull Lake and the report of the dead man had been sent to the provincial analyst for examination and report."

An article on "Solaniin, a poisonous alkaloid in potatoes" was published in the Annual Report for 1934 in the Journal, part of which is attached hereto.

I am, Sir, etc., S. G. PEPPIN, Senior Inspector.

SOLANIN, A POISONOUS ALKALOID IN POTATOES

It is a well-known fact that any kind of human food may spoil and constitute a serious menace to health when partaken of in such condition. May we not remind our readers of the many fatalities due to what is commonly referred to as ptomaine poisoning, with which latterly a specific organism, viz. Bacillus botulinus, has been found to be associated. On several occasions we have personally met with the unpleasant results due to eating potatoes which contained an accumulation of a poisonous alkaloid known as solaniin. Solaniin is a specific alkaloid (really an alkaloidal glycoside) of the genus Solanum. It is obtained from numerous species of the genus Solanum, which includes our common potato (S. tuberosum). It has a disagreeable, bitter taste, resembling that of Hyoscyamine, and is persistently and unpleasantly persistent in its sensation upon one's tongue. It is slightly soluble in water, saponaceous when shaken in it. It is insoluble in ether and chloroform, and slowly in alcohol, but readily so in heated water. In the potato it is present in the inner epidermal tissues and in round the buds or eyes. In sprouting tubers its quantity is slightly increased, and some observers regard greened tubers as containing special quantities of the alkaloid.

Undoubtedly solaniin is present in all potatoes, normally to such small extent as to cause no trouble whatsoever. Neither can there be much doubt that the solaniin content increases under certain conditions, notably towards the process of sprouting. Normally one finds solaniin present within a short distance of the eyes, and when sprouting takes place, this alkaloid travels a considerable distance up the sprouts. Hence, the breaking off of the sprouts, which is done, of course, before potatoes are used, is of course, a safe method to prevent ill effects from solaniin.

Our observations lead us to believe that the solaniin content, however, is also influenced by storage conditions, especially in households. We would caution against the keeping of quantities of potatoes in open containers—baskets or boxes—where even subdued light may get at them. Apparently the conditions are life for the starting of growth. Previous to visible growth from the eye, changes of a physiological character occur within the tuber. Solaniin, a substance evidently required by the potato for the development of growth starts with its slow in the light, the potatoes are used for the table.

We have come across a number of cases of indisposition which the sufferers associated with food, but four were undoubtedly due to the eating of potatoes kept as described. Moreover, in two of them we were able to determine the presence of solaniin in part of the cooked potatoes prepared for food, some of which actually caused the trouble. In the others, raw potatoes, when chewed, produced the characteristic persistent sensation associated with solaniin. Cooking does not destroy solaniin, since it is scarcely soluble in water.

We have further been able to associate a peculiar colour of the skin of the raw potatoes with the presence of solaniin. Everyone who knows the somewhat greyish colour of the skin which an unpeeled boiled potato assumes when allowed to get cold. The skin of raw potatoes containing solaniin in sufficient quantity to cause trouble resembles that of a boiled one, and the experimental chewing of a small quantity might well be resorted to.

In the foregoing observations on solaniin we do not wish to be unduly alarmed. We declare, it is true, pointed out the conditions under which solaniin poisoning might occur. The chances, however, of such cases happening are about on a par with the occurrence of cases of illness arising from eating shell-fish or strawberries, though the latter cases are strictly analogous, being rather cases of individual physiological susceptibility to certain toxic effects.

That Body of Hours

SOME CASES OF ONE-SIDED HEADACHE ARE DUE TO A LACK OF LIME

By James W. Barton, M.D.

One-sided headache—migraine—is so common and the cause or causes of it are often so difficult to find that when any new cause is found, I think it well to pass it on to my readers. It is definitely known that some sufferers from migraine are sensitive to certain foods and that if they will omit these foods from their diets they will remain free of attacks.

Other sufferers have been cured by the removal of infections in various parts of the body—teeth, tonsils, gall bladder, and intestine. There are still others whose attacks are due to some disturbance of the liver or gall bladder and yet drainage or even removal of the gall bladder the attacks continue to occur.

Admitting that the above conditions may all cause migraines there are still many cases where the symptoms are not due to these causes. Dr. G. F. Norman, Eureka, California has been investigating many cases of migraine and his investigations tend to show that it is a lack of lime—calcium—in the blood that causes attacks in many individuals. "About seventy patients complaining of periodic headaches accompanied by nausea and vomiting have been studied and most of them have been improved by the use of extracts of the parathyroid glands (the gland that controls the lime in the body). The ages varied from 12 years to 63.

There were cases where infection was found in teeth, gall bladder and elsewhere, removal of which had no effect in stopping the headaches, which however were cured by the use of the viosterol and the headaches soon returned and again stopped when viosterol was used, thus showing that the viosterol prevented the attacks. With these attacks were symptoms of what is called tetany, a tightening or contraction of the muscles which is due to lack of lime in the body. The dosage was from about three to ten drops of viosterol three times a day. The point then is that while most of the cases of migraine are due to sensitiveness to foods, to infections of teeth, gall bladder, and other organs to derangement of the gall bladder, there are a considerable number of cases due to a lack of lime in the blood.



EROS ON EINSTEIN

Could we match pace with Time, All winds were still; Tomorrow would come not; and the opening rose Would be a rose forever; and our eyes— Like this—like this—stay looking face on face, Never to close!

Could we as Time be swift, Eternal Now Would hold us, warm and living in one beat

In his sprong wing; and we, like this—like this! While on the racing wave, at up-most lift

Of storm-rent life, our bark would hang becalmed; And we, asleep, from deepest rest unroused, Safe—would lie in the grave, Would lie—like this; Nor seek amiss, for waking eyes or brain To open and look out on life again.

Or if not swift as Time... Could we be slow— Stand still and let Time go! And, as it vanished quite, Regaining man's lost right, Leap, Leap, O Heart's Delight, From sense, and sound, and sight, Back to the bosom of eternal night!

—Laurence Housman.

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