

The Charlottetown Guardian

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The Falconwood Situation

The lack of sufficient accommodation at Falconwood Hospital, and the urgent need of providing for segregation and treatment, is emphasized in the report of the Grand Jury presented at Tuesday's meeting of the Supreme Court. It is now pretty generally conceded that such improvements at Falconwood are necessary. They were necessary two and a half years ago, when politicians now in office were campaigning throughout the country, assuring the taxpayers that most Falconwood patients didn't need treatment—they only needed to be kept warm. Presumably, the more crowded they are the warmer they will be, but no one would seriously contend that the Government of this Province is fulfilling its obligation to these unfortunate people by herding them together like animals.

This was one of the chief issues on which the late MacMillan Government went down to defeat—it was too much concerned about the welfare of Falconwood patients. It wanted to provide more accommodation and facilities for modern methods of treatment. We all remember the arguments advanced against that policy by the then Liberal Opposition, and the success which attended their campaign of abuse and misrepresentation. Even the establishment of a Health Department under a competent Minister was opposed as a piece of unwarranted extravagance; the need of "annually balancing the budget by curtailment of expenditure" being held up as the only statesmanlike policy.

We are still far from a balanced budget, notwithstanding Liberal tax increases all along the line; and farther still, it would seem, from remedying the conditions at Falconwood.

Fortunately for the patients, however, the MacMillan Government was able, during its term of office, to establish a proper system of food storage at Falconwood and our local contemporary is pleased to note that the Grand Jury found conditions so satisfactory in this regard.

The management also, under the direction of the superintendent appointed by the MacMillan Government, is continuing to function in a thoroughly efficient manner.

For these favorable factors in a situation otherwise anything but satisfactory to persons qualified to know, let us be thankful.

Employment Statistics

Phases of Employment Conditions in Canadian Industry" is the subject of an elaborate statistical report, by the National Employment Commission, prepared by means of employers' questionnaires. This is the result of an enquiry started early in November, 1936, when blank forms were despatched to upwards of 10,000 employers of labour throughout Canada, soliciting assistance in the compilation of data relative to several phases of unemployment conditions in Canadian industry.

What is lacking in the report is an analysis of the figures, which are more or less meaningless to the layman, except as indicating an improvement in employment conditions since the depression year 1933.

In one particular the report is interesting as supplying statistics showing "Seasonality in Employment." No such word as "seasonality" appears in Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, 1937 edition, notwithstanding that this edition contains "a comprehensive addendum of new words." However, the meaning of the term is sufficiently obvious and perhaps the compilers of the report are to be commended upon their ingenuity in word coining.

Prince Edward Island's contribution to the figures is based on information supplied by 23 firms, showing, in 1936, a total of 1,719 persons employed in secondary industries, as against 1,348 in 1933 and 1,445 in 1929.

More King Government Diplomacy?

Perhaps there is more than meets the eye in the U. S. threat to fortify the international boundary line. According to the Winnipeg Free Press, it means that pressure is being brought to bear to give United States aviation interests—the Pan-American Airways—the air route across Western Canada to Alaska. This route is essential to Canada if it is to complete its transcontinental airline as an effective link in the Europe-Asia airline. Give that line to the Pan-American and that organization, through its Pacific-Alaska Airways, would hold the key to the Orient air route.

Pressure of U. S. interests, says the Winnipeg paper, is behind a conference on civil aviation matters which is being held by Canadian and United States officials and others at Washington this week. Discreetly—so that the intensity of feeling may be glossed over—a number of Ottawa officials journeyed to Washington ostensibly to talk over a few problems, such as carrying air-mail between Winnipeg and Pembina and between Victoria and Seattle. Actually, the conference is of the utmost importance.

At first it was to have been held at Ottawa. The plan was instituted by Ottawa postal officials who did skirmishing among the airlines in the United States; but why, asks the Free Press, should postal officials run civil aviation in this or any other country? It recalls that at the last conference at Washington, two years ago, postal officials from Ottawa dominated the Canadian delegation and the result was that Canada "sacrificed flying and landing rights in the Maritimes for compensation still to be shown to be adequate." Again, air mail and passenger traffic between Ottawa and Montreal and New York was weaned from Canada by a postal arrangement that gave it to one of the greater American air transport systems and its subsidiary.

"Canada," says our Winnipeg Liberal con-

temporary, "has given away for nothing more than it can afford to give away. It cannot go on doing so any longer. To continue this adroit willingness to dispossess Canadian civil aviation to replenish the postal department will both leave the transcontinental airline without traffic and bring Canada no compensating return for possession of an unrivalled position on the world air routes. Somebody has to put an end to this." It suggests that the present delegation to Washington, which includes the Deputy Minister of Transport and the Chief of the Air Services, must be on the alert to "keep those stiff upper lips someone will have to keep when the pressure is exquisitely exerted by invisible forces at Washington."

This seems to be another case of secret King Government diplomacy looking towards the "appeasement" of our American neighbors at the expense of some vital Canadian interest. The public is getting thoroughly tired of these mysterious moves and counter-moves between Ottawa and Washington.

Editorial Notes

Prince Arthur of Connaught born this date, 1883.

The Western fruit industry is emphatically protesting against being made the goats in the King Government-U.S.A. trade agreements.

It is amusing, if nothing else, to read of two of Britain's "Elder Statesmen" hobnobbing with actresses in France as fellow guests of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor.

Winnipeg grain trade sees rising wheat values as a factor which would bring wheat from across the border. Traders explained millers might find the price here too large and start bringing in American spring wheat for mixing purposes. Think of it, a Liberal Government bringing about an import of wheat to supplant an export!

It is officially announced in Berlin that no German girl will be admitted to a university until she has served at least twenty-six weeks in the Women's Labor Service or an equivalent organization. Male students must serve at least six months in the labor service before admission to the universities. This decree follows one Baldur von Schirach, Hitler Youth leader, previously announced providing that all members of the League of German Girls must serve at least one year in private households or go through the league's household schools. Practical domestic and artisan education must precede theory in higher education, is the opinion of Germany's dictator.

Meats were imported to the value of \$220,675 during November as compared with \$102,923 in October and \$187,937 in November, 1936. The Argentine with a value of \$101,152 was the leading source, followed by the United Kingdom with \$46,230; the United States \$45,458; Paraguay \$12,206 and Uruguay \$11,546. Canned beef was worth \$122,029 compared with \$86,271, extracts of meats and fluid beef \$46,325 (\$49,674) and barrelled pork in brine \$35,840 (\$42,378). Total value of meat imports during the eight months ended November was \$951,314 compared with \$1,000,995 in the same period of 1936.

In his installation address as Principal of McGill University, Dr. Douglas, a native of Bisbee, Ariz., whose father and grandfather were born in Quebec City, touched upon what he termed "the great problem with which all universities in the democratic world are face to face." "Throughout the world," he said, "in varying degrees and with different emphasis, the ideas and practices of democracy are being threatened by the ideals and practices of absolutism." The problem which confronts so many everywhere is to find in men qualities which make for the kind of leadership "which in time may secure for mankind the blessings of liberty within the framework of social obligations." This, Dr. Douglas said, was an international problem challenging the universities, which must continue to be sanctuaries for intellectual integrity. Today more than ever, he said, universities must continue in the tradition that their primary purpose is "to cultivate that variety of mind which, specialized as it may be, sees its own specialty in relation to the whole field of thought and knowledge and experience." "The future of the democratic process, of liberty itself, depends upon the way they meet this challenge."

It is a blessing the farmers here did not get involved in the beet sugar industry, for a discovery has been made for the manufacture of synthetic sugar which will revolutionize the industry and play havoc with both cane and beet growing. Professor Edward Charles Cyril Baly, of the Department of Organic Chemistry, University of Liverpool, told a distinguished gathering of scientists from Great Britain and India in Calcutta on Saturday that he had succeeded after more than twenty years of research in duplicating nature's fundamental process, whereby plants are able to utilize sunlight in making sugars and starches out of water vapor and carbon dioxide in the air. He spoke before the Indian Science Congress. The Professor reported that he had succeeded in finding a substitute for chlorophyll (that which attracts the sun and makes plants green) that accomplished the same task of harnessing the sun. This artificial "sun-prover" is pure nickel oxide. "It has been proved," Professor Baly told the congress, which is presided over by Sir James Jeans, "that carbohydrates (sugar and starches) are produced when the surface of pure nickel oxide is irradiated with white light in the presence of carbon dioxide and water. The first product formed is a complex carbohydrate similar to starch. This starch, when acted on by diastase (a ferment) gives simple sugars similar to those produced in the leaves of plants." The laboratory process, according to Professor Baly, appears similar in every way to that of the living plant, with the only difference that in the former nickel oxide is substituted for chlorophyll in the plant leaves.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A charming story is told about the late daughter of Mayor-elect Ralph Day. She was to have an operation and on the appointed day her father remarked: "You realize of course, that this has to be done?" "Yes," said the little girl bravely, and then, with a sigh, "but why couldn't it be yesterday or tomorrow?"—Toronto Star.

Some modern reformers present exquisite pictures of what the world would be like if happiness were a gift, the legacy of some particular set of economic conditions. Any philosopher knows that no economic dispensation will minister to a mind diseased or shape the soul's aspirations to higher flights. There is no human agency that can create happiness by law. Man is born to struggle for happiness.—Victoria Colonist.

The man who had made a huge fortune was speaking a few words to a number of students at a business class. Of course the main theme of the address was himself. "All my success in life, all my tremendous financial prestige," he said proudly, "I owe to one thing alone—pluck, pluck, pluck!" He made an impressive pause here, but the effect was ruined by one student who asked impressively: "Yes, sir; but now are we to find the right people to pluck?"

There is cheering news for the Canadian steel industry in the announcement by the executive of the Canadian National Railways that tenders are being called for 2000 steel-sheathed box cars, 24 snow plows, locomotives, and 5 mail-and-express cars. Four of the cars will also be released early in the New Year for 6 dining cars, and 10 combination sleeping and cafe cars. Improving business prospects for the railways are reflected in this sizable capital outlay on rolling stock and equipment.—Exchange

It is asserted that the real reason for Countess Barbara von Haugwitz-Reventlow renouncing her American citizenship is that she may live permanently abroad to escape criticism and publicity in her native land. Colonel Lindbergh had the same idea when he took up residence in England. Our neighbors are hard on their celebrities.—Sackville Recorder and Times.

Although all the coastal areas of China are now in the hands of, or are being threatened by the Japanese, official China was more optimistic last week. According to Hankow dispatches Outer Mongolia soon will abandon her Soviet form of government and join China in fighting Japan. Under this arrangement the Soviet Union would cede to the Chinese with men and supplies. Outer Mongolia already has large Russian war supplies. The Mongols probably would raid the continuously-extended Japan lines in Suiyuan Province.—Exchange.

Three weeks' bird census which was undertaken by Toronto naturalists revealed the presence of over half a hundred varieties in the Toronto area. People do not usually think of winter as a season, yet many kinds are to be seen, including stray specimens of varieties which ordinarily migrate. The robin is among these. The "first robins" seen in early spring are usually birds which remained all winter.—Toronto Star.

"The test of national reconstruction lies in the moral fibre of the people. The regeneration of the nation has become our national aim, possible only through the spiritual renewal of the people."—Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek.

Finding itself burdened with unpaid dues, a post of the American Legion in Pontiac, Michigan, caught a big crow sent in by a member of the offending members. The crow was labeled: "Please feed me well, keep my cage clean and change my water until you pay your dues." The legionnaire paid up and called headquarters to learn who was to be the next victim. The scheme was brought in 130 collections with a very short time.—Reader's Digest.

In Ontario, the other day, a 120-pound St. Bernard pup fell to a ledge on a 300-foot cliff. A dozen men were sent by the rescue party to get to the pup. They then formed a human chain down 40 feet of precipitous cliff, and at imminent risk to their own lives, dragged the shivering dog to safety.—Chronicle Telegraph.

In British Columbia, in Alberta, and to a lesser degree in Ontario, there have been attempts by legislation to abolish the operation of the law in certain cases. There has thus been a challenge to its supremacy, which Lord Cecil says is "for the protection of the weak against the strong and even for the protection of the individual against the State."—Victoria Colonist.

Not long ago Egypt rejoiced in its independence and its new monarch, the youthful King Farouk. The country was no longer a British protectorate. There was joy in Cairo, and celebrations throughout the land. Today the picture has changed a bit. The King is quarrelling with his premier. He wants, among other things, the right to name one-third of the senate and to control appointment of all senior officials. Hard feeling has developed. I fear of India there is already native opposition to self-government; even after Mahatma Gandhi's crusades. A good many people have found in various parts of the world that British "oppression" did them a great deal more good than the demagoguery of their own politicians.—Hamilton Spectator.

It was a lawyer who said it. Eight boys were arraigned in County Court, Brantford, Ont., on charges of damaging a bicycle. Magistrate S. Alfred Jones was marking the docket. The last name he called, calling out the last name he asked, "Who's acting for this man?" "Nobody's acting for him," said Crown Attorney P. E. D. Wallace. "He's going to tell the truth.—Ex.

That Body of Ours

By James W. Berlin, M.D.

THE TREATMENT OF EPILEPSY

Those physicians who had to treat attacks of epilepsy before the value of the barbitol drugs was known will tell you that the attacks were difficult to treat and most distressing and embarrassing to the patient and family. The attack would come on in the morning, a short time before breakfast, and as the patient usually went off into a sound sleep immediately after the attack, he had to remain at home for half or the whole day.

That some food or foods are responsible for the attack was, and is still, the belief of many physicians, an experiment some years ago providing this in a most dramatic way. About a dozen epileptics who each usually had from one to six attacks daily were kept without food for ten days and not one had a single attack during all that time. This proved that food was the match that started the fire that epilepsy is a form of nervous ailment and food causes the upsetment in the nervous system.

Unfortunately now that barbitol and the proprietary preparations containing phenobarbital usually prevent and control attacks, many patients are forgetting about food as a cause and eat and drink any amount and any kind of food instead of sticking closely to what is known as the ketogenic diet—small amount of starch food (bread, sugar, potatoes, pastry), and a large amount of fat foods butter, cream, fat meats, egg yolks.

The diet for the normal individual should be one part of proteins (meat, fish, eggs, cereals) to 2 parts fats, to four parts starches; whereas for the epileptic the diet should be 1 part proteins, 1 part starches, and 3 to 4 parts fats.

That too much liquid can cause epileptic attacks has been known for some time as experiments have shown that when liquids have been presented from leaving the tissues, epileptic attacks occur.

The thought then in the treatment of epilepsy is to gradually adjust the dose of phenobarbital so that just the "needed" amount is taken and the patient doesn't feel drowsy during the day, and also to follow the ketogenic diet which may greatly reduce the amount of phenobarbital needed to prevent attacks.

The Poet's Corner

A BROKEN SONG

Where am I from? From the green hills of Erin. Have I no song then? My songs are all sung. What of my love? 'Tis alone I am farin'. Old grows my heart, an' my voice yet is young. If she was tall? Like a king's own daughter. If she was fair? Like a mornin' o' May. When she'd come laughin' 'twas the runnin' water. When she'd come blushin' 'twas the break o' day. Where did she dwell? Where one'st I had my dwellin'. Who loved her best? There's no one now will know. Where is she gone? Och, why would I be tellin'! Where she is gone there I can never go. —Moira O'Neill.

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Chinese Royal Treasure

(Exchange) All the loss in China cannot be measured in money and human lives. It is true that the Chinese abandoned the beautiful city of Hanchow rather than bring destruction to its magnificent temples, monuments and triumphal arches. But much architectural beauty of the Chinese age-old civilization has been sacrificed elsewhere.

Special interest attaches to the Chinese royal treasure, among Chinese and foreign art lovers. When the Japanese invaded Manchuria, one of their first steps was to padlock the royal treasure in that district. Today this is in the personal museum of Emperor King Kang Teh, of Manchoukuo, at Mukden. The greatest treasures remained in Peiping. One might argue that all belonged to Kang Teh, since he is the heir of the old Manchu dynasty in China, but Kang Teh has never pressed his claim.

When the Chinese made Nanking, the southern capital, their administration centre, the Japanese being at the time almost at the gates of Peiping, an order was given for the removal of the most important part of the treasure to Shanghai, and Nanking. The Japanese seized at the time, 1933, that the Chinese were selling the treasure to John D. Rockefeller and Henry Ford. The people of Peiping were equally displeased.

There was of course no truth in the story but last year some of the treasure stored at Shanghai was sent to London for display, and was there acclaimed by British and American critics as the most important exhibition of Chinese art seen in the Occident.

During these orderly moves to Shanghai and Nanking and to London and return, valuable articles were lost in transit. In the present chaotic condition, the removal into the interior by highway and by steamer to Hankow doubtless has meant tremendous losses. Some of the finest work in Chinese porcelain and earthenware, from every dynasty, has perhaps been lost forever to the world. Much, however, will be appearing next in the stores of curio dealers in San Francisco, New York, Paris and London.

Come To Tea

(Winnipeg Free Press)

Monsieur Alexander Barmin was Soviet charge d'affaires at Athens when a Soviet ship anchored in the Piraeus and her captain invited M. Barmin to come aboard for a cup of tea in the captain's cabin. For reasons which seem best understood by M. Barmin a cup of tea in the captain's cabin would taste as unpalatable to him as would a goblet of poison, but he politely concealed his dislike in a note of impeccable formality, which pointed out that diplomatic etiquette required the captain of the ship to drink tea first with the charge d'affaires in the legation drawing-room.

The diplomat and the captain longed for their cups of tea, but scrupulously insisted on the other first drinking tea at his own table. This was elaborated in complimentary notes which passed between the diplomat and the captain for a few days. The legation became annoyed with the charge d'affaires, and so the ship's crew seems to have become irritated by his refusal to come aboard for a pleasant call. The Communist cell of the Legation at Athens decided to end the indecision of the acting head of the legation by ordering him to go aboard for tea in the captain's cabin.

M. Barmin is himself a Communist of eighteen years standing, but he must still have believed there could be some truth remaining in the foolish capitalist fable about the unfortunate fly who accepted the spider's invitation to walk into the web. The Soviet diplomat made as quickly as he could for the French legation at Athens to get a visa for France.

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MORE FISH IN SEA CAPE TOWN—(CP) — Breeding soles in tanks on the shores and putting them into the sea. South Africa is trying to avoid extinction of the most valuable fish in adjacent waters. The average man seems to think that the only time he may do as he pleases is after he marries. The chimpanzee is the brightest mentally of the great apes.

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