

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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A Master Singer

Prominent Britishers have organized in London to raise a fund for Sir William Watson, the Victorian poet, who is ill and in poverty at the age of 72. Already there are over sixty distinguished signatures to the fund, including Kipling, Barrie, John Drinkwater, Walter de la Mare, Hugh Walpole, Dean Inge, Galsworthy, Lord Crewe, Laurence Binyon, Reginald McKenna, Bernard Shaw, and a number of peers and other persons of note. The appeal says that Sir William has spent 58 years of his life in the "august but materially unremunerative service of his muse." Thirty volumes have come from his pen, yet he is now in dire straits. It may have been the poem "The Woman with the Serpent's Tongue,"—a scathing invective which infuriated London high society many years ago,—that lost Watson the poet laureateship at Tennyson's death. At that time he was undoubtedly the outstanding poet of England. Alfred Austin inferior to him in every way, secured the plum. At Austin's death Watson was again passed over in favor of the late Dr. Bridges. His reputation among discerning critics, however, can never be said to have declined, though the fact that he was still living came as a surprise to most people when his poverty and obscurity were revealed in the press a few months ago.

The neglect of a poet of the genius of Sir William Watson is a national disgrace. The Manchester Guardian, which sponsors the appeal for contributions, says truly that "as a lord of language he is in the Miltonic tradition." Throughout a life dedicated to literature he showed himself "always the great craftsman, absorbing the casual and the slipshod, and holding fastly suspect." Holding fastly suspect! It is a phrase big with meaning, and may account for much that has happened in the lives of many great men who, like Watson, were too big to stoop or "take the gods to fling the unwilling mead," as he himself expressed it in a noble epigram.

Watson's poem "Wordsworth's Grave," written at the age of thirty-three, was acclaimed by Tennyson and subsequent critics as his masterpiece. Our own preference here is for that magnificent "Ode to a Beggar" which begins: "Let me go forth, and share The overflowing Sun, With one wise friend, or one Better than wise, being fair."

Which sums up human existence in the lines:

"We are children of splendour and shame, Of shuddering, also, and tears; Magnificent out of the dust we came And abject from the spheres." and which finishes like organ music in a grand crescendo: "O bright, irresistible Lord! We are fruit of Earth's womb, each one, And fruit of thy loins, O Sun, Whence first was the seed out-poured. To thee as our Father we bow, Eribidden thy Father to see, Who is older and greater than thou, as thou Art greater and older than we."

Canada's Vital Statistics

One of the latest publications of the League of Nations Health Organization deals with vital statistics of the Dominion of Canada. The statistics themselves are not featured; it is chiefly a setting forth of the machinery by which we gather these facts and as such it will have news value for a great section of our own population.

health by the B.N.A. Act, 1867, was specifically assigned to the provinces, and it goes on with a brief survey of developments to the Act respecting the Department of Health of 1919 which created a Dominion Department while leaving those of the provinces intact. It was in 1918 that the collection of statistics was centralized in the Dominion Bureau. But the first census goes back to 1865-66 when the colony of "La Nouvelle France" enumerated its 3,215 of a population. Under the English regime in 1793 an Act was passed requiring the churches to keep statistics of marriages, baptisms and burials. From time to time provinces and Dominion by civil and ecclesiastical registration kept a rather haphazard count until, in 1919, the Vital Statistics Act was passed. In the brief survey at the beginning details are set forth which give the population as 8,768,463, of whom 4,520,225 are male and 4,248,238 female, every province but Quebec having an excess of the former over the latter. Seventy-eight per cent. of the people are Canadian-born, 12 per cent. are British-born, and 10 per cent. foreign-born persons. Of the total population 29 per cent. are of English origin, 23 per cent. of French, 13 per cent. of Scottish, 13 per cent. of Irish, the remaining 17 per cent. being the descendants of nationals of countries outside the boundaries of the British Empire.

Politics in Quebec

The political situation in Quebec is continuing to hold the interest of observers throughout Canada. The landslide towards the Bennett party in Quebec last July was a severe shock to the long-entrenched Liberals. By-elections since July have indicated that the slide was not limited to Federal politics. Mr. Taschercau still enjoys a commanding majority in the Legislature, but Quebec has a habit of violent turns and the Government finds itself threatened by the unrest which inevitably associates itself with a party long in office and, particularly, in periods of economic depression. Furthermore, the recent death of Hon. J. L. Perron has removed the Premier of his outstanding lieutenant both as an administrator and strategist. An election is scheduled in the province for 1921 and then for the first time in twenty years federal and provincial Conservatives will be united in their test of strength.

Editorial Notes

J. P. Morgan has been honored with an Oxford degree. He already holds one from Cambridge, which was conferred in 1919 for war services. The particular act of kindness and courtesy which Oxford so handsomely acknowledges now is Mr. Morgan's act in permitting the Luttrell Psalter and the Bedford Book of Hours to be acquired for the Bodleian Library. Mr. Morgan has always been a tower of strength to those who wish to improve relations between Great Britain and the United States.

Commenting on a resolution of the Maritime Board of Trade favoring the immediate development of immigration and colonization in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, the Toronto Mail and Empire gives valued editorial publicity to the suggestion of the Board that while other parts of the Dominion are debarrred by unemployment from receiving additional population, and while the federal authorities have accordingly placed a temporary embargo on immigration, such exclusive legislation should be modified so far as the Maritime Provinces are concerned. It is cheering, says the Toronto newspaper, to learn that the Atlantic provinces consider themselves equal to the absorption of newcomers who will go on the land and pursue active farming operations.

Notes by the Way

It is estimated that Canadian high school attendance in 1920 is up nine per cent. over 1929, and that the attendance at colleges and universities has increased 11 per cent. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of young men and women in future years will have to thank the hard times of 1920 for the higher education which otherwise would not have been theirs. It may be that some of the men and women who will dominate the country twenty and thirty years hence may trace their elevation to this year of grace and its economic reverses.

Mr. Armand Lavergne, a well known figure in Canadian Politics, proposes to have the Commons petition the King to resume granting titles, to change the name of the Dominion to that of the Kingdom of Canada and to have the Governor General of Canada changed to that of Viceroy of Canada. No doubt there are many in Canada who could sport a title if they were asked to assume one and probably others who would ask for such a distinction on their own recommendation but as the King has already at the request of the Canadian Government ceased to grant titles in this country, it is more than likely that those of us who have no titles at present shall be obliged to eke out a living without them. Nor is it at all probable that the time honoured name of the Dominion shall be changed to that of Kingdom or that of Governor General to that of Viceroy. So the titled and untitled will in all likelihood remain as they have been for another generation or two.

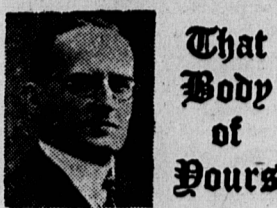
The spirit of Christmas is beginning to breathe gently but firmly over the City and Province. Already the stores have put on a very Christmas appearance and anxious eyes are being turned questioningly towards articles which may in the near future become the property of others.

Another unexpected result of the dele system of payment for idleness is reported from Britain. More than half a million Englishwomen are on the dole, yet foreign girls to the number of four thousand a year enter England, their entry approved by the Ministry of Labor. They do work that the English girls refuse to do—cooking and housework.

"Colonel Harry Cookshutt, in an address before the Chamber of Commerce at Windsor, Ont., pleaded for united action against the manner in which emissaries from Moscow are seeking to injure what they call capitalist countries. The newspaper press has repeatedly called attention to the disastrous effects of the manoeuvres and propaganda of agents of the Soviet Union in this country. These agents have undertaken, in an effort to consolidate the precarious structure of Russia's five-year plan, to aggravate the economic situation in this and other countries outside Russia. As an addition to the propaganda ceaselessly pursued by the Moscow emissaries since the red revolution in Russia, and since the Great War, these communist manoeuvres threaten serious trouble and they are not to be tolerated. Warnings need to be continuous. It is essential to keep before the eyes of the people the perils of sovietism. The underhand, undermining work of Moscow must be resisted, if established order is to be maintained.

The Right Hon. R. B. Bennett has carried every step in his program up to the present. Interest in Britain has been stimulated as never before in inter-empire trade. The Ottawa conference has been agreed upon and will be held next year. The experts are at work to reduce theories to workable realities. There is sound ground for hoping that the final outcome will justify Mr. Bennett's best expectations.

In this time of depression it is cheering to learn that the town of New Toronto is to acquire a new \$2,000,000 industry. Subject to ratification by the ratepayers, the town council has agreed to a fixed assessment for ten years on a new \$300,000 plant to be erected within the next few months by the Campbell Soup Company Canadian Corporation, Limited. A fifteen-acre site has already been secured at a cost of \$60,000, and the industry will probably give employment to from 250 to 500 hands. This labor will be drawn from the immediate vicinity, and the meats, poultry and vegetables used in the manufacture of the company's products will be purchased from Canadian farmers. Heretofore the company has supplied the Canadian market with soups made in American plants, by American workmen, with produce grown on American farms. Though the corporation has been examining the Canadian field for some time, the action of the Bennett Government in raising the duties on American soups has clinched the matter, and definitely secured this industry for New Toronto.



By James W. Barton, M.D. PAIN NEAR THE HEART

One of the terrifying experiences that come to some people is a severe pain in the region of the heart. It is only natural that a pain in this region should cause anxiety and a fear that the heart is about to stop.

Now there is no question but that there can be pain in the region of the heart but as a matter of fact it is a very rare occurrence for any disease of the heart to cause pain.

As many people have been so frightened and so sure that pain anywhere in the region of the heart is due to actual heart disease, research men have been investigating all types of pain that can occur about the heart.

What do they find? That the majority of these pains are due to gas pressure, the gas getting into the upper curved part of the stomach beneath the heart, or in the curve of the large intestine which is likewise below the heart. This finally shifts and the pain disappears.

Another pain is due to ordinary inflammation in the muscles of the chest, and as it happens to be near the heart, it is often thought to be due to heart disease. This is often called "false pleurisy," as it is sometimes mistaken for the pain of pleurisy.

But is there any form of heart trouble that does cause pain? Drs. D. C. Sutton and H. C. Leuth, Chicago, have after careful experiments been able to show that even if the vessels of the heart are stretched too much it causes no pain. It may cause partial loss of breath, but it does not cause pain.

And so in reporting the results of their experiments they tell us that the only form of heart ailment that can cause pain about the heart, is where the vessels carrying the blood to the muscles of the heart are not kept open wide enough to allow sufficient blood to go to the muscles of the heart to enable them to keep the heart working properly.

This is not a common ailment, being usually found in older individuals whose blood vessels have not enough elastic tissue in their walls. Besides, the pain from this condition is so severe, so sudden, and is accompanied by such an anxious expression of the face, that the heart ailment is easily recognized.



"THE THINGS THAT ARE MORE EXCELLENT"

As we wax older on this earth, Till many a toy that charmed us seems Emptied of beauty, stripped of worth, And mean as dust and dead as dreams— For gauds that perished, shows that passed, Some recompense the Fates have sent; Thrice lovelier shine the things that last: The things that are more excellent. The grace of friendship—mind and heart Linked to their fellow heart and mind; The gains of science, gifts of art; The sense of oneness with our kind; The thirst to know and understand— A large and liberal discontent: These are the things in Life's rich hand, The things that are more excellent. —Sir William Watson.

The brakes had failed. Women screamed; strong men turned pale. With rapidly increasing speed the bus ran backwards downhill. But never once did the driver lose his presence of mind. "Quick, Bill," he yelled to his conductor; "change the destination boards!"

DIS'NCTIVE CHRISTMAS CARDS GUARDIAN CENTRAL JOB PRINTERY

The Public Forum

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

HISTORICAL GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Str.—It surely cannot be possible that any loyal citizen of P. E. I. who has a spark of sentiment for time-honored institutions, would be in favor of allowing old Government House to be pulled down or allowed to go to ruin for the sake of the paltry dollars needed for its rehabilitation. Here is a structure that has been celebrated in the past not only for its beauty of situation, but as the official residence of many illustrious representatives of our Sovereign, also on several occasions as the temporary home of Royalty itself. Here, the delegates who held the first convention in the Confederation Room of the fine old Colonial Building in 1864, and which led to the formation of the Dominion of Canada, paid their formal call on the Lieut.-Governor, His Excellency, George Dundas, Esq., the occupant of that celebrated House at that period. Government House in the past has been the centre of official hospitality.

Although at the present time it has fallen on evil times, and on near examination shows the ravages of time, yet, according to inspection lately held, the building is "in much better condition than might be expected."

In my opinion, the structure should be repaired and restored in its present form, so that it may retain its historic appearance, and be handed down, as it were, to future generations, as the Government House that existed about one hundred years ago.

Government House is the property of the Nation and has been in former times the scene of many brilliant assemblages. Let us then by all means have it restored as quickly as possible to its rightful state.

If there is any dignity attaching to the office of Lieut.-Governor, and I am fully persuaded there is, let us provide the occupant thereof with a proper home, so that he shall not have to hunt about to find a house to live in.

I care not how some other Province view the matter. Why should His Majesty the King live in the Palace? The President of the United States in the White House? or our Prime Minister of England, or our High Commissioners have residences provided for them? Let Prince Edward Island do the right thing by our Chief Magistrate!

I am, Sir, etc. SENTIMENT

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Str.—If I understood him aright, Rev. Dr. Ramsay proposes individual home training as the solution of the delinquent juvenile problem.

All homes are not alike. And those not qualified to give a proper home training are on the increase. What chance has the boy or girl whose mother is out washing or scrubbing to gain bread and butter while the father, if alive, is out squirting tobacco juice around the street corners? There are homes of this character from which the children are on the streets being educated in the arts of the growing evils of the age.

There are homes also the mothers of which are out to bridge parties and entertainments, whose fathers are at the club or lodge or business engagements; homes which have good moral surroundings, whose neglected offspring are elsewhere too often following the leadings of companions of vicious habits. Are these homes conducive to the child's correct development?

There are homes too, which may be termed ideal in the care and attention to their children, whose efforts are in open war with the

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counteracting influences of the state encouraged instructors in criminality. All the love and effort of these Christian homes are negated by the surrounding educators of evil, which they are powerless to overcome. How many are there of those convicted of high felonies, or have said from the prison cells or from the gallows, "I had a good father and a Godly mother. They taught me and prayed for me, and had I followed their admonitions I would not be here. I would have held a respectable place in life. But evil companions led me astray, and made me what I am?"

And those evil companions are the property of the State. In many cases they are the direct product of government and its administration of justice. The profligate allowed to run at large, by the grace of government or its judicial officers, is a state educator at large in the processes of iniquity.

The farmer is required to fence in his dangerous bull, and the citizen to muzzle his mad dog. Why should not the government also be required to house under restraint its public corrupters, by the longest odds a greater menace to the community than either mad dog or mad bull?

By proper methods the mad dog and the mad bull can be subdued into usefulness to their owners. Law enforces those methods upon them. In like manner the vicious wards of governments may be transformed into useful citizens. The reformatory systems of civilized communities has proven this beyond discussion.

The House of Correction is not exclusively curative; it is also a wonderful preventive. The very fact of its existence and purpose is a form of terror to the would-be wayward youth, who is thereby restrained from exercising his evil inclinations—lest he become an inmate. It is the educator of thousands of homes whose moral training of children is made easier by the bare fact of its existence.

Home and school and church training have their first place in the records of wonderful results, but it is most rarely that any of these reach the proteges of governments—the juvenile delinquents—and as the home and church are doing their best to care for their flocks, so should the State put forth some effort to reform the offspring of their systems. The home can never reach these.

Y am Sir, etc. REFORMER

Every man hears only what he understands.—Goethe.

He has his Rome, his Florence, his whole glowing Italy, within the four walls of his library. He has in his books the ruins of an antique world, and the glories of a modern one.—Longfellow.

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