

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1925

TAKING A CHANCE

In the current issue of the Quarterly Review there is a very interesting and illuminating discussion on "The Ethics of Gambling" by the Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, Dr. J. H. Bernard. It is not our intention to review this article, but merely to make a few extracts to indicate its purport. The writer distinguishes sharply between betting on chance and betting on skill or knowledge. There is a wide difference backing a horse which we think we have reason for believing to be superior to his competitors and betting that a coin will turn up "heads" when it is tossed. In the one case we are acting on knowledge and calculation—or we think we are—but in the other, losing or winning is a matter of pure chance.

Simple forms of betting on chance are to take a ticket in a lottery (always supposing it is honestly conducted), or to put a sovereign into a sweep on the Derby. No element of skill or knowledge can help us here. We take the ticket, or draw the number that falls to us, and we can do no more. The question before us is whether there is anything wrong in betting that takes any of these forms. If we can afford it is there anything wrong in amusing ourselves by taking a chance, trying one's luck? Money is a trust, and to spend it carelessly, whether on betting or on extravagant amusement, is always wrong. But we are not dealing with that aspect of the matter.

What we are trying to discover is whether there is anything wrong in betting on the fall of a coin, even if we are prudent enough to keep our losses within due bounds. When the case is so stated, it is plain that the unethical element in betting is introducing change into his life. If we pay, say 25c an hour, for the pleasure of tossing coins, then we know what we are doing and how much our amusement is going to cost us. We are quite entitled to make such payments, having regard to other and prior claims on our income. But we are acting as no rational being ought to act if the price of our amusement is not fixed at all, so that it may cost us a dollar an hour, or on the other hand if we win, may gain us a dollar an hour.

This is a consideration that is not always recognized. Chance adds a peculiar zest to many forms of amusement. Its presence excites us, and it ministers agreeably to the distractions of our thoughts for a time from the serious business of life. Why should we not throw away insignificant sums of money on a harmless pleasure, such as an hour at the roulette table or the wheel of fortune, or similar game of hazard may bring? In other words, the plea that is urged is that it is not unethical at times to abandon the rational ordering of life, and to deliver ourselves up to chances over which we have no control. That is what a man does who takes a lottery ticket or stakes a coin on the spinning of a wheel. The defence that it amuses him is not a sound defence, although a very natural one in some cases. People who pass their lives in uninteresting routine ought not to be severely blamed if they endeavour to escape from the intolerable monotony of their lives by staking a quarter now and then on an issue of pure chance.

the desire to escape from the monotony which is common to every class. And in every class the vice develops the self-regarding instincts into hideous and criminal proportions. It is a menace to the success of any government, of whatever political complexion, which does not look ahead before it leaps. The plea that to play games of hazard is a legitimate way of escaping from the dullness of routine is not sound. This line of escape is not only dangerous; it is wrong. It is not in keeping with the dignity of a rational being deliberately to introduce chance into life. Could we justify the universalising of the principle which lies behind the betting chance? The question answers itself. It is quite true that the presence of chance adds charm to many innocent amusements, but that is because, far from introducing it voluntarily, we are fighting against it and trying to eliminate its influence by the exercise of our keenest wits.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The large delegation to Ottawa on Maritime rights will focus attention on our claims. Never mind the Jeremiahs about storms to come, let us enjoy the fine weather in the passing.

The Circus has got off to a flying start and all it wants is a combined effort to bring it in a winner, financially and otherwise.

It was rather unkind but clever of Mr. Donald Sutherland, M. P. to describe W. T. R. Preston, the King government so-called "shipping expert" as "a barnacle on the ship of State."

Ottawa exchanges announce the presence there of half a dozen P. E. I. K. C.'s engaged debating appeals before the Supreme Court. It is not of our own bar is so fully represented in the highest court, all able debaters too.

The Prince of Wales will find many Britons in Chili and Uruguay when he visits there this summer. Most of the big enterprises there are financed by British capital and managed by British citizens.

If the "magic cloth" radio invention prove practicable all we shall have to do in future is to carry about with us an earphone and small coil of wire and we shall be able to "listen in" at Ottawa, New York or London at any street corner or on our own door step. Next we shall be seeing things at an equal distance.

It was time the weather improved for the sake of the unemployed in our big cities. A Toronto contemporary announces that that city's expeditions on relief to unemployed in the way of food supplied through the House of Industry and other channels during the present month amounts to \$65,000. This is the largest amount for any one month in the city's history.

Premier Mackenzie King does not wish to offend the Western Progressives by catering to the Maritimes so he told them that no more money could be spent for a while on public works and railways in the East. Such construction he said was needed most in the West. Of course his political life depends upon the West, but isn't a farce we should be compelled to submit to government?

Notes By The Way

Mr. Michaud, an Acadian French M. P. from New Brunswick, is reported as making from his place in Parliament the statement that it cost his constituents all that they received for from 14 to 18 barrels of potatoes to pay the price of one barrel of flour. Assuming this to be true of New Brunswick it would be approximately true of the Maritime Provinces generally. The average of 14 to 18 barrels would be 17 and is suggestive of the fact that it would have been much more profitable had our potato growers devoted a much larger acreage to the growth of wheat and a much smaller area to potatoes.

With an equal expense for fertilizer a crop of 25 bushels of wheat per acre might as safely be estimated as a crop of 200 bushels per acre in potatoes, with a much smaller cost in planting, cultivating and storing the crop of wheat. Much money is sent out of this province every year which would be kept at home were our farmers each to produce enough wheat to provide bread for their homes. Of course, last year was exceptional in the wide contrast between the prices of wheat and potatoes, due to the speculative inflation of wheat quotations which could not be foreseen.

The price of wheat has fallen considerably of late, but it remains to me to see whether it will rise again or fall lower. And it has often happened that while the price of flour almost invariably follows sharply any rise in wheat it responds much more slowly when wheat goes down. There is something of a world shortage in the wheat crop of 1924, which will be met, as usual by diminishing consumption owing to the higher price. Bread is still "the staff of life" and seems likely to rule fairly high until the next Canadian harvest is in sight, if no longer.

A point that will not escape the attention of potato growers is the wide difference in the cost of transportation by rail between a carload of flour and the number of carloads of potatoes which would have the same value. High freight rates militate sadly against the potato grower, and the prospect of any considerable reduction in the near future is not bright. Taking one consideration with another and having in view the experience of years before and since the war (rather than war prices) the raising of more wheat and less potatoes would seem to be a prudent course.

President Coolidge has outfitted himself with an electric hobby horse, on which to take his daily exercise. The mechanism of this steed is so arranged that when mounted thereon the presidential rider by simply touching a button at a trotting, cantering, galloping and even a bucking pace. The other day he made a mistake, pushed a wrong button and was violently thrown to the ground but without being seriously hurt. A member of the house of Representatives thereupon composed a poem on "Cal's Hobby Horse" and insisted on reading it in the House, which was done, notwithstanding strong objections made.

The poem was not of a high order of merit but called forth uproarious laughter. Here are a few sample stanzas:

Silent Cal is a more cautious chap Than the young Prince, brave and good. He profited by the Princely mishap, And bought a horse of wood.

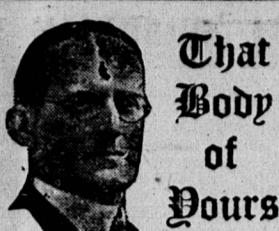
Electric currents fill its veins. Instead of thoroughbred blood, So it never gives its rider pains, Or throws him in the mud.

The "hobby-horse," 'tis easily seen. Is as silent as its master; It trots and canters in one spot, The "jockey" urging it faster.

In Homeric days, we will recall. During the famous Siege of Troy, A wooden horse within the walls That city did destroy.

'Twould not be very strange, indeed, If history should repeat, And discovery of the White House steed Should encompass Cal's defeat.

Floyd Collins many days imprisoned in a Kentucky cave and now found dead, was the subject of long daily despatches in ten thousand newspapers. During the same period two hundred men were killed by explosion in a German mine and



By James W. Barton, M.D.

SUGAR AND WEIGHT

Someone has been telling us lately that there are more stout men and women about, than there were a few years ago. Some of our older folks are pointing out that fifty years ago stout people were rather rare. They maintain that it was because everybody worked hard in those days, both men and women. That there was something for everybody to do. There were horses and carriages of course, but most people walked the ordinary distances to work or to market.

Now someone makes a suggestion that sounds very reasonable. He suggests that it is the tremendous amount of sugar used on this continent, that accounts for the increase in the number of stout people we see on our streets, and also for the general increase in weight in the average man and woman past thirty.

In former days sugar was a luxury. The system got all the sugar it needed from the starched in the vegetables. Sugar was not manufactured to the same extent, and was expensive to buy. It is stated that the world uses fifty times as much sugar now as was used a century ago.

Now sugar is a good food, perhaps the cheapest and best energy producer in existence. It is so easy and convenient to use, that its tremendous use is only to be expected. However, although insulin now combats diabetes successfully, nevertheless there is no question but that most people take too much sugar, as sugar, I refer to the amount that is used in tea and coffee, and in all the sweet confections now at our command.

Pure sugar candy, and the various chocolate confections all contain a great quantity of sugar, and are all good foods and energy producers.

A chocolate bar, or a good fatty stick, will often allay fatigue. However my point is, that the day you eat your "box of chocolates" you should cut down on your vegetables.

Further if you put "lots of sugar" on and in everything, don't be surprised if you weight increases. Of course a little regular exercise would use up the sugar and prevent weight increase.

Daily Selections FOR Guardian Readers

FEBRUARY 18, 1925

THE LORD'S PRAYER:—Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed by thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever Amen. Matthew 6:9-13.

PRAYER:—Our Father, for this prayer given by our Lord to all mankind, we thank thee. May we prove our sincerity in using it by daily, brotherly practices, until the mind of Christ be fully ours.

A THOUGHT.

What is the sound borne on the wind. This sense of mystery, This spirit-touch that sends a thrill Into the heart of me? Oh 'tis a thought breathed by a friend. Into the evening air, On sweetest wings it flew to me, Like an echo of a prayer.

Across the white sea foam it came. On wind o'er land and sea. Until it touched a trembling chord Within the soul of me. I wakened to that gentle touch, And opened wide the door Of thought-land to my dearest friend. Upon that other shore.

Then back upon the wings of thought That bridge those miles of foam, I sent a message back to her, The friend I love at home. Oh blessed thought! that time or space Your power cannot control; You fly through spaces limitless While soul speaks unto soul. —Laura Bedell.

In one brief item on one day only. Mine explosions are only too frequent and have proportionately less news value at a distance, but the world never loses its interest in the dangers encountered by the adventurer and explorer, Franklin in the far North Livingstone in Africa are examples. Their adventures, endurance and sufferings appeal to the imagination and sympathy of all. It was this in Collins'

The 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.

BRADALBANE R. R.

Sir,—I would like to say a few words in behalf of our mail courier, Mr. W. W. McRae on Bradalbane, R. R. No. 1. Complaint was made against him without any foundation, in regard to the mail service we were getting this winter. Whether the critic had any grudge against Mr. McRae we are not in a position to know but one thing we will say and that is what no man can dispute that we got the best mail service that we ever had on Bradalbane, R. R., No. 1. We have got our mail every day all winter; we never missed a day, and that is a thing very few mail routes can say, in fact it is the only time we enjoyed the full system of a daily mail in the winter. I understand it was complained he only had one horse a ridiculous statement as I am in a position to assert, that he has three and as I consider myself a fair judge of horses, I am quite safe in saying that Mr. McRae has as good horses as ever drove a mail route; in fact one of his horses was raised in our section and was counted as good a horse as ever foaled in Springfield. We should give credit where credit is due. We have a good mail driver and we want to keep him, try our best to assist him in every way. We regret very much that an outside critic on the Mail Route at all would make reflections upon the service when a man is doing his best, under the trying condition of the weather and roads. I said before we have a good man and we want to keep him and not let the system go back to what it used to be, a mail in the winter time if the weather was fine. I am not saying this for myself alone, but I have consulted with nearly every man on the route including business and postal officials, and they all speak in the highest praise for our Mail Courier for the valuable service they got this winter.

I am, Sir, etc. BRADALBANE, R. R. No. 1. BOX HOLDER

THE RHODES SCHOLAR

Sir,—In your issue of this date there appears an article "Rhine Hill Gets a Rhodes Scholar" taken from the Halifax Herald.

We appreciate the prominence you have given this in your paper. There is however one mistake which I trust you will correct as many of Mr. Norton's friends would not understand why he should be preparing for the "Presbyterian Ministry." Mr. Norton made the decision to study for the Ministry of the "Christian Church" about three years ago and is a member of the Christian Church at Montague. Robert Homer Norton the recipient of the Rhodes Scholarship is the eldest son of Mr. E. S. Norton, of Bradalbane and nephew of the late Dean F. O. Norton, Ph. D., who for many years was Dean of the Department of Arts in Drake University one of the largest Universities of the Christian Church.

Mr. Norton is a member of Montague Christian Church of which his father is an Elder and early in his college career decided to prepare for the Ministry of the Christian Church and has been looked upon as one of its most capable and promising young men.

I am, Sir, etc. (REV.) C. E. ARMSTRONG Montague.

Forty Years Ago

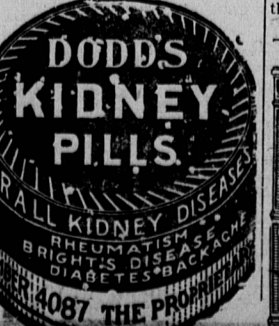
FORTY YEARS AGO A DISASTER AT THE CAPES (W. L. COTTON)

Forty years ago, at this time, the people of P. E. Island were greatly disturbed on account of a "disaster" suffered by the men engaged in the mail service at the Capes and seven passengers crossing the Strait from Cape Traverse to Cape Tormentine. Three boats left Cape Traverse at 10:15 o'clock on the morning of Wednesday, the 28th of January and nothing was heard concerning them until the following Friday.

The crews included—boat No. 1—

February 18.—Determination is one of your best gifts, and through your methodical, painstaking methods you can surmount great difficulties. You are careful and thrifty, a good planner, and have excellent governing ability. You are a general favorite among your friends and acquaintances, and should have a very happy marriage. Your birth-stone is an amethyst, which means sincerity. Your flower is a primrose. Your lucky colors are light blue and yellow.

YOUR BIRTHDAY



CANADIAN MADE CONTAINS NO ALUM. It is easy to make light, wholesome tea biscuits, cakes, etc., when you use MAGIC BAKING POWDER. Just follow the directions closely as to quantities and you never need fear the results. MAGIC BAKING POWDER. THE WHITEST, LIGHTEST. CONTAINS NO ALUM.

Captain Newton Muttart, Hector Campbell, Montague Campbell, Ephraim Bell and James A. Howatt; boat No. 2—Captain Muncy Irving, Alexander Muttart, Blucher Robertson, William Howatt and William Campbell; boat No. 3—Captain Hanford Allan, John Allan, James Trenholm and Daniel McGlasy. The passengers were: Dr. McIntyre, M. P., afterwards Lieutenant Governor of the Province on the way to Ottawa; James A. Morrison, a representative of J. F. McLean & Co., Halifax; Aaron Wilson of the International Hotel, Summerside; Philip Farrell, a messenger of the House of Commons coming from Sturgeo; Mr. Glyndon, a clerk in the store of J. H. Myrick & Co., Tarnish and a Mr. Malley of the United States.

The boats with their crews and passengers, were on the running ice all Wednesday night and all Thursday. Meantime there was intense anxiety particularly on the part of all the relatives and friends of those who were missing. The Post Office officials on account of the mails and indeed everyone in this community. It was known that the party were without provisions and that the men were on the most part ill clad, while the thermometer registered on Wednesday night and Thursday 16 1/2 below zero.

A relief party composed of John Hughes, (in charge) James Toole, James Wise, James Hennessey, James Donovan, Alexander McLeod and Michael Dooley was equipped by the Department of Marine in this city under direction of Mr. Artemas Lord, Agent of the Department of Marine and Fisheries; but they returned without affording any relief or even seeing the boats.

According to the report of one of the passengers the wind was blowing briskly from the Eastward when the boats left the "board ice" and the "running ice" was floating Westward at the rate of from three to four miles an hour. A snow storm prevailed during the latter part of the day and the thermometer averaged 1 1/2 degrees below zero. As the boats proceeded into the Strait the storm increased in violence. Soon the Captains lost their bearings and the boats were carried up and down the Strait by the wind, tide and current. The men became so completely exhausted before daylight that they could not proceed further towards Cape Tormentine. They had therefore to remain all night by their boat on the running ice. As darkness increased sleet and hail pelted down upon them with painful effect. Towards midnight the thermometer registered 16 degrees above zero and rain fell for a short time. After midnight the wind changed and there was a hurricane from the Northwest. The mercury in the thermometer fell to 16 1/2 below zero towards daylight on Thursday morning. Then, in the darkness, with but a few sparks of fire to warm them and a few drops of water to slake their thirst their sufferings really began. The third boat had to be broken up and the wood used as fuel for a fire, and the newspapers in the mail with their bags were added. But the fire was too feeble to warm limbs and bodies famished with hunger and thirst, chilled by exposure to the storm and freezing.

At dawn on Thursday, land was seen and supposed to be Cape Traverse. But a wide stream of lolly through which it was impossible to pass between the Party and the Cape. The running ice in which they were, drifted towards Crap-

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