

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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TUESDAY, JULY 19, 1932

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In to-day's Forum appears a letter from Professor Harvey, Archivist, Halifax, in connection with the proposal that the Prince Edward Island Historical Society be revived. Professor Harvey attaches to his letter an extract from a Halifax paper of 1881 giving a report of the first meeting of the original Historical Society including the members who enrolled. It will be seen the original membership was representative of the professions and public leaders of the day. The necessity for the continued existence of an Historical Society must be obvious to all who know the value of the systematic recordings of current events and happenings. The use of history is to give value to the present hour and its duty, to display a chart and compass for the rising and succeeding generations, and it is the main object of an Historical Society to give the facts and events themselves, leaving commentators to draw conclusions and adorn the tale. Of course, to begin with an Historical Society here would have to go back over the past and attempt to gather the data that has been left uncollected. As Professor Harvey mentions, there must be someone here having possession of the minute book and records of the original Historical Society. It would be an act of patriotism on his part to hand these over to the Public Librarian, as suggested by Professor Harvey, or hand them over to the resuscitated Historical Society. But whether these be in existence or not the aims and objects in the first instance of an Historical Society here would be to collect, as far as possible, the necessary information on which history could be based. We commend to the citizens the suggestions contained in President Harvey's interesting communication.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

No admission except to delegates will be permitted on the occasion of the Economic Conference at Ottawa. This is following the rule observed at the Imperial Conferences in London since 1923. Reports of the proceedings will be supplied officially. The official announcement reads: "The meetings of the Conference and of the committees and sub-committees will be private. Arrangements will be made for public announcement through the press of the general progress of the Conference, and of the conclusions reached. These publicity arrangements will be under the general direction of Hon. R. J. Manion." "It is proposed to make an exception to the general rule by providing for as large public participation in the proceedings of the opening session of the conference, which is to be held in the House of Commons on Thursday, July 21st, as the circumstances permit." "The arrangements for this session will in large part follow those adopted in the Indian Round Table Conference held in London in 1930. The conference will be opened by His Excellency the Governor-General, who will read a message from His Majesty The King. Provision is being made for admission to the galleries of privy councillors, Senators and members of Parliament, together with such guests from overseas countries as the limited facilities will permit. In view of the interest of the public, provision further is being made to broadcast the proceedings, and a sound film of the opening is being arranged. The Conference is a business meeting and it is the unanimous wish of its members to concentrate attention on their difficult and important tasks. So far as consistent with this object, provision will, how-

ever, be made to enable the visiting delegations to become acquainted with the capital and with such other points as their engagements will permit them to visit.

TIMELY ADVICE

Each summer sees an appalling toll of deaths from drowning. Such accidents happen here as in other Provinces, and the worst part of it is that many of these tragedies could have been avoided. Young people especially too often have an exaggerated idea of their skill and prowess in the water, and do foolhardy things as a consequence. This point is emphasized by the Ottawa Journal in a recent issue, which quotes some good advice by Johnny Weismuller, one of the greatest swimmers on the continent. Mr. Weismuller says:

"I am a champion swimmer, yet I would no more swim a half mile from shore alone without a boat in attendance than I would put a loaded gun to my head and pull the trigger. It is as dangerous as that. Don't show off, and just keep cramps in the back of your mind when you are tempted to swim out of sight or aid of others."

This is but common sense. People who can swim but a little or not at all should never swim beyond their depth; and the strongest swimmers die with death when they go long distances from the shore. Swimming, after all, is but good exercise, and there is no need to go half a mile from shore, or much less than that, to get all the exercise that is necessary.

FOX FARMING

In the current issue of United Empire, Mr. T. T. Melross, President of the British Fur Breeders' Association has an informative article on silver fox farming in the Mother Country and British Dominions, in which credit is given to Governor Dalton and Lord Strathcona as the originators of domestic fur breeding. Discussing the present markets and the prospects of silver fox farming Mr. Melross writes:

It can be estimated that practically the whole of the large quantity of silver fox pelts which are now marketed annually at the London fur sales is produced from animals bred in captivity. The silver fox, being originally the sport of the common red fox, is not produced in the wilds by nature in any large quantities. In former years, when the finding of a black fox in his snares was a red-letter day in the life of the trapper. In those days the market price of a natural silver-black fox was anything up to \$500; now, of course, in view of the increase in quantity which is made available, the prices are very much lower, but at the same time it can be said that the silver fox pelt is one of the few raw materials the price of which has not sunk below the cost of production. Prices have been low, but at the last sale of the Hudson Bay Company in London an increase of 50 per cent. was recorded for the better grades, while the cheaper quality registered an increase in price even more spectacular.

This is a time of depression is extremely anxious to see fur farmers, both here and in Canada. The British-bred fox is approaching a stage in its development where it can successfully compete with those reared in the Dominion, but it is still necessary, and in the opinion of the writer it will be advisable for a long time to import fresh blood from Canada. Upon registration in Canada a certificate bearing the breeding and pedigree details and carrying the seal of the Department of Agriculture and signed by an official on behalf of the Minister is furnished in respect of each fox. In spaces are provided for the transfer of ownership, each transfer being recorded in the books of the Association, after the manner of ordinary shares in a company. The same system has been followed in this country, with the exception that there is no Government control. By this means, ownership of a fox is as complete as the ownership of shares. This allows of silver foxes being owned by those residing temporarily in other parts of our Empire, who are due to retire in a few years, and as insurance of the risk of loss by death can be effected at Lloyds for a reasonable premium, it provides one of the most attractive investments possible for the official who desires an outdoor occupation upon his final return home.

NOTES BY THE WAY

From Saskatchewan comes the latest lesson that banditry is folly in Canada for the reason that escape of the consequences is well nigh an impossibility. Last week Corporal Leonard Ralls, of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, stopped an automobile to question three men suspected of being criminals and one of them deliberately shot him dead. The story has been told in the Guardian. The whole country was aroused and people flocked to aid the police. The bandits were reduced to two and finally to one and he shot himself. The two remaining ones will be tried and will receive the punishment they deserve. The Saskatchewan affair is a shining example in proof that crime is futile in Canada.

Mr. Magrath, Canadian chairman of the International Commission, in a recent letter said: "In your case my still hold to the advice of that great American George Washington, to keep clear of Europe. No one can interpret the needs of the future much beyond the period in which he lives. Washington's views were unquestionably sound in the earlier years of your country. Yet the power and prestige of the United States today in a council of nations would be a tremendous influence for good throughout the world." Proceeding from these introductory remarks, Mr. Magrath suggested that the two great political parties in the United States co-operate in an effort to assist the nations of Europe to come back economically and to arrive at a real measure of actual disarmament. In his view, it is difficult to see how there is much likelihood of world peace until the powerful American republic assumes its share of the burden.

Senator Borah offers a strong hint to the united forces of morality in the United States to nominate him as President, since he is not willing to take chances merely with the prohibitionists who asked him to lead them. Undoubtedly the united forces of morality in the United States could elect their candidate. The trick would be to get them out of the Republican and Democratic parties, where they have resided for so many years.

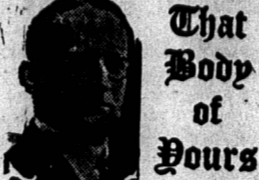
Canadians are good eaters, says the Farmers' Advocate. In addition to being the world's largest eaters of butter and eggs, we make a very good showing in respect to meats. In 1931 we consumed 148 pounds per capita. If we can stand it we may be able to eat our way eventually into better times.

Whatever tentative conclusion may be reached in an examination of the present situation, the fundamental good sense of the British people may be counted on in the long run. They will be apathetic, stolid and phlegmatic; they may glory in being thought stupid; but in this baffling and probably forever insoluble problem of the organization of human society they are not unlikely to assume the leadership in the future as they have in the past, deriving from experience and from the experiments of others the methods best adapted to their own particular character and temperament.—Lord Ponsonby.

The American people are looking for new leaders, for men who are truthful and resolute and eloquent in the conviction that the American destiny is to be free and magnanimous, rather than complacent and acquisitive; they are looking for leaders who will talk to the people not about two-car garages and a bonus, but about their duty, and about the sacrifices they must make, and about the discipline they must impose upon themselves, and about their responsibility to the world and to posterity, about all those things which make a people self-respecting, serene and confident. May they not look in vain.—Walter Lippman.

The Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. B. B. Bennett, has reiterated his conviction that the Imperial Economic Conference will result in Canada and the other parts of the Empire leading the world out of the depression. This indicates that Mr. Bennett and his ministers will do their utmost to make the conference a success, and contrast pleasantly with Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King's rather gloomy speculations on the event.

When a British soldier consumed American munitions he served America as he served his own country. It is not obvious that while the Americans were preparing an army which only fought in the concluding phase of the war the munitions they lent to the Allies were really saving the lives of the American soldiers? So far from War Debts representing sacrifice by those who lent them, the sacrifice was on the other side. It was



By James W. Bayton, M.D.

HOLDING YOUR BREATH

One of the tests for those wishing to enter the air service is holding the breath. After taking a long breath, the candidate holds it as long as possible, and with the ordinary healthy man this is about 45 seconds, and with a woman about 40 seconds. You have perhaps seen a professional swimmer in vaudeville stay under water a number of minutes which shows what actually can be done by training.

Another test is to blow the air all out of your lungs, and see how long it takes before you have to take in a breath. This takes 25 seconds in a normal man and about 20 seconds in a normal woman.

However you would be surprised how you can increase the length of time you can hold your breath, or do without breathing in some air, by exercise and training.

Opera singers have so trained their lungs or breathing apparatus that they can hold their breath two or three times as long as when they first began singing. Even the average individual can soon learn to hold his breath for a minute or more, by brisk walking daily, or slow jogging.

It is this slow jogging or "road work" as it is called by boxers, football players, and other athletes that develops the strong heart and the strong lungs needed in athletic contests.

Physicians are now making use of this simple test of holding the breath, in estimating the condition of the heart and blood pressure, and also in severe cases of thyroid trouble or goitre. In all these conditions the length of time the breath can be held is less than in normal individuals. The physician thus makes a test and then advises certain treatment, rest in some cases, less food in others, omitting certain acid foods in others. After some weeks the patient reports again, or the physician visits the home, and another breath holding test is made.

In cases of severe goitre where operation is necessary, the physician can, by making these tests from time to time, finally get the patient into such a condition that operation may be considered. He knows that the heart, blood vessels, circulation of the blood, and oxygen intake by the lungs are all so much improved that it will be safe to operate. It is certainly a simple but effective test.

London's 8,000,000

(Manchester Guardian) The first of the reports compiled from the census returns of last year is published. The area dealt with is the County of London. The population of the area within a fifteen-mile radius of Charing Cross has increased in the past ten years by 723,741 persons.

The increase in the population of Greater London is 9.7 percent, on the figures for 1921. This is nearly three times as great as it was in the preceding decade and nearly twice as great as the current increase for the country at large. This population was divided into 3,832,916 males and 4,371,026 females.

The largest contributor to this increase is Dagenham, with a population of 89,362, which is an increase during the ten years of 80,238. It is one of the few districts in which men outnumber women, the figures being 44,870 males and 44,492 females. Ilford has an increase of 48,897, with a total population of 131,061.

The population of the City of London and the 28 Metropolitan boroughs which comprise the administrative county of London declined by 87,520. In the administrative county the population numbered 4,397,003 persons. This is the third decade in succession in which the county population has shown a decline. Population has declined in 21 of the Metropolitan boroughs. The greatest decrease has been shown in the City, with a population of only one-quarter per cent. of that of the whole county, the figure of decrease being 19.8 percent.

The dwellings in the county now number 748,930, as compared with 720,004 in 1921, so that the net ef-

fect of all new building, structural alteration, demolition, and conversion to other uses during the past ten years has resulted in an increase of 28,926, or four percent, of the earlier figure. Concurrently with this four percent increase the number of private families has grown by 6.17 percent; and the average number of families per occupied dwelling, which was 1.51 in 1911 and 1.60 in 1921, has risen to the further height of 1.63. The two-person family has become increasingly predominant and with the three-person family now accounts for 45.6 percent of all families. Families of eight persons or more have been halved in numbers during the past twenty years, and now account for only four percent of the total. Considerable reduction has been made in both the numbers and proportions scheduled in the "overcrowded" category. The number of "overcrowded" families had been reduced by 20,885, and the population therein by 142,148. Notwithstanding the general improvement of the families of from six to ten persons in size at the recent census there were as many as 2,086 each occupying a room.

The Midsummer Idyll

(Montreal Gazette)

We take much more precise note of the seasons in their transitional moods and sharp contrasts than when nature, by gradual and imperceptible degrees, mounts to the full orb'd richness and beauty of her summer festival. There are vastly more poems about the fresh young charms of May and the flaming hues of September than about the pageantry of June and July. Nor should this be a matter of surprise. For all words drop down into prosaic impotence beside the wondrous picture that greets our gaze in the midsummer solstice of the year. And it is very much better to get into companionable touch with the things that grow and blow than to brood over botanical diagrams and scientific tomes. Better it is to feel ourselves caught by the deep pulsations of the world, with its Eonian music measuring out the steps of time, than to pore grubbingly over the most learned disquisitions about nature ever set down in cold print. For nature in her summer dress is instinct with a vibrant emotion that overtops all the stilted school jargon about laws, uniformities, propulsions and particles, as much as the sunflashing waves of a singing brook overflow the fixed pebbles in the bed of the stream. The gamut of light can no more be put into a desk-made formula than the soul-stirring strains of a musical symphony, with its effect upon the imagination, can be bound up with the inked score. "One impulse from the vernal wood will teach us more than all the sages can." And nobody in his right senses will wish merely to match his wits against the variety, wealth, wonder and superabundant charms of the summer landscape in order to fashion out some pet theory about nature's constitution and method. We may devoutly thank heaven there is something on the universe that cannot be standardized to suit our pedantic whims.

At midsummer the impulse comes over us to get away from the whole drab cycle of dry-blister impressions, and to breathe in rhythm with all clean things that rejoice in the fulness and beauty of their expanding life. And the opportunity is within our reach in the scent of a thousand herbs and blossoms and in the "gratful sweetness of the new-mown hay." What fragrance can excel the subtle perfume of the mown grass saturating the air after a shower has fallen upon the windows, or when they lie prone and crackle dry under the glance of the sun? What music can vie with that of the hidden brook that "to the sleeping woods all night singeth a quiet tune?" Or again, the sound of the wind gently whispering perfect sea-music through the trembling leaves of the trees? What makes the summer and tends most to impart to the landscape its summy aspect? Some will have it that the grasses and herbs, running into a myriad forms of green stalk and exquisite tracery, gives the scene its alluring spell. Others point to the colorful blooms swaying and tossing to every breeze like foam-bubbles upon the crested wave. One English writer tells us that if one thing more than another proclaims the arrival of summer, it is the mounds of the trees clothed with leaves so thick, that they stand like a solid hill over against the upper cloud, and that a bird peeping from the inside of this branched and leafy screen would see a quaint tapestry penetrated by innumerable "cracks" of daylight. What observer does not recognize the truth of this impression? Summer hangs golden all a-



REVELATION

Tho' I were bred in some unhal- low'd land Where no birds sing Nor random petals flutter from the hand Of timid daring spring; Tho' never had I seen the regal sun Invalde the skies, But dwell in livid darkness till it spun A weg athwart my eyes; Tho' all my life had been a wintry night Gloomy and dense, Yet loving you I should know spring's delight And dawn's magnificence. —Lionel Stevenson.

about the sky, and gloriously green all about the crowded spaces of the earth. Richard Jefferies aptly says: "Steeped in the perfume of flowers and the pollen to the music of the birds and bees, the atmosphere becomes a living stream." And no note of midsummer is more characteristic than the gay chirrup of the cricket to whom every blade of grass is as a tall tree. And what man could better read the idyll of good old summertime than honest Isaac Walton? "Turn out of the way a little, good scholar, toward yonder high honeysuckle hedge; there we'll sit and sing, while this shower falls so gently upon the teeming earth, and gives a sweeter smell to the lovely flowers that adorn the verdant meadows." Good old-fashioned poetry he calls the blanded notes of the summer landscape, and we think no holiday-makers or nature lover is likely to quarrel with this famous angler's verdict.

Transportation Events

(Canadian Railway and Marine World)

The Great Eastern, then the largest steamship in the world, arrived at Quebec, July 6, 1931. Contract for construction of Grand Trunk Pacific Ry., signed at Ottawa July 9, 1909. Hon. A. G. Blair, Dominion Minister of Railways and Canals, resigned, owing to his objections to National Transcontinental Ry., and Grand Trunk Pacific Ry. projects, July 13, 1903. He was appointed Chief Commissioner, Board of Railway Commissioners, Feb. 1, 1904, which position he resigned, Oct. 31, 1904. He died Jan. 25, 1907.

First road turned on Crowanet Pass line, Canadian Pacific Ry., July 14, 1897.

First locomotive driven through the Rocky Mountains on Canadian Pacific Railway, July 15, 1884.

Oxford Branch, Intercolonial Railway, in Nova Scotia opened July 15, 1890.

Grand Trunk Ry. opened from Montreal to Portland, Me., July 16, 1853.

The Britannia, pioneer steamship of Cunard Line, arrived at Halifax, N. S., after 12 days' passage from Liverpool, July 17, 1840.

Railway from St. John to Moncton, N. B., opened for traffic, July 18, 1860.

Steamship Neptune left Halifax, N. S., for first government investigation of navigation possibilities of Hudson Strait and Bay, July 22, 1884.

Sir Sanford Fleming, former chief Engineer, Intercolonial Ry. and Canadian Pacific Ry., under Dominion Government, and a director of Canadian Pacific Ry., died July 22, 1915.

Ship Jonas arrived at Fort Royal, now Annapolis, N. S., with colonists from France, July 27, 1606.

Unique Arctic Expedition

(Exchange)

There is an expedition sailing into the Arctic that must be unique among the many expeditions that have voyaged amid Arctic splendors in recent summers. This one now on the water is unique for several reasons. It is led by that Arctic veteran, Captain "Bob" Bartlett, who conveys a dual interest. For he goes Arctic-ward to erect a monument to the memory of Admiral Peary, and when Peary was on the trail to the discovery of the North Pole in 1909, Bob Bartlett was the white man he took farthest with him.

The Arctic has its terrors, but while they barely may be imaginable, their compensating amenities have become familiar. The woman on the wharf who bade good-bye to this expedition accompanied Peary as his wife when he did his best geographical work in Greenland.

Peary's daughter, Mrs. Stafford, has been invited to unveil the monument being erected to the Pole discoverer. Fittingly enough she takes with her her own two boys, Peary's grandsons. The gathering partakes almost of a home town reunion. The materials for the monument are being transported by Capt. Bartlett, but he will pick up most of them at his home at Brigus, Newfoundland. When he sets in there he will drop off a few presents for his mother. He has on board for her a Jersey cow and two pigs. Did ever expedition so homely face the "terrors of the Arctic"? The thought must have occurred to Matt Henson, the white-haired negro who joined with Mrs. Peary in wishing the voyagers a pleasant trip. He recalled the day when he stood with Peary at the North Pole.

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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.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sir,—In view of the proposal to organize an historical society in Prince Edward Island it seems to me that the enclosed copy of an account that appeared in a contemporary Halifax paper of the organization of the Charlottetown Historical Society would be interesting. The society was organized on Monday, September 12, 1881 and must have functioned for some time, although I, personally, have never seen any of its proceedings. Perhaps the minute book of the society is in private hands and whoever has it will be patriotic enough to turn it over to the Legislative and Public Library, where it can be consulted by all who know how to use it. Likewise this account may give a lead to someone who will look up the island papers of this and subsequent dates to follow the fortunes of the old society. I do hope that something will be done to revive our interest in history before next summer, when the sixtieth anniversary of Confederation in P. E. I., is to be commemorated. I am, Sir, etc.

D. C. HARVEY Archivist Halifax, N. S. July 15, 1932

Canadian Place Names

(Mail and Empire) On July 15 the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway, under the chairmanship of Mr. George W. Lee, is formally to open the completed extension of the line from Cochrane to Moosonee, on James Bay. The ceremony will be conducted by Hon. George B. Henry, Premier of Ontario. It is expected that a number of prominent persons will attend the christening of Ontario's first and only seaport. In

Dr. L. B. EVANS of London, Eng.

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