

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1939

Fat Commission Pickings

Reference was made last week to the fee of \$10,000 tendered by the assistant Government counsel in the Bren Gun inquiry.

The Lesson Of Munich

The tremendous stride which Great Britain is making in air defence is reviewed in the Imperial Review.

A Sorry Record

The adoption by the House of Commons of a resolution favoring the enactment of a Dominion-wide system of unemployment insurance suggests the wide difference that exists, among a certain type of politicians especially, between practice and performance.

In this connection the Sydney Post Record (Independent) recalls that the late Bennett Government enacted a contributory unemployment insurance measure in 1935 and set up a commission to administer such a service for the Dominion.

The reason the King Government has done nothing in the direction of unemployment insurance was given to the House by Mr. Rogers in the course of the debate on the Neill resolution.

While it is gratifying to get this unanimous declaration of Parliament once more in favor of the principle of unemployment insurance, (says the Post Record) it is discouraging on the other hand to find that the King Government is still without any definite programme or purpose with respect to the matter.

contribution to the discussion was on a particularly low political level, and was destitute of any construction or helpful content.

Editorial Notes

Buller entered Ladysmith this date, 1900.

The King's assistant private secretary, Mr. Alan F. Lascelles, is visiting Washington en route to Ottawa to conclude arrangements for the Royal visit in May and June.

There are 73,463 school cadets in Canada spread as follows: Prince Edward Island, 986; Nova Scotia, 1,496; New Brunswick, 1,361; Quebec, 42,290; Ontario, 22,288; Manitoba, 1,878; Saskatchewan, 1,004; Alberta, 1,104; British Columbia, 1,036.

The January production of concentrated whole milk products amounted to 4,985,780 pounds compared with 6,249,005 in the previous month and 6,845,005 in the corresponding month last year.

Once more the beaver makes his appearance in Cape Breton, where he disappeared more than one hundred years ago.

In Ontario the Royal Visit Committee have decided that the Provincial Government will be responsible for the decorating of the public buildings in the centres to be visited by Their Majesties.

A hundred years ago Lord Durham's report on the government of Canada said: "When we want a bridge we take a judge to build it, it was the quaint and forcible way in which a member of a provincial Legislature described the tendency to retrench in the most necessary departments of the public service, in order to satisfy the demands for local works."

Up till last Wednesday Montreal had spent \$105,000 on snow shovelling. Then came a blizzard which blocked traffic in both city and country necessitating the City Council spending another \$10,000 to clear their streets and footpaths.

Hon. P. M. Dewar, Minister of Agriculture of Quebec, in addressing a farmers convention in Montreal, disclosed that his department had obtained patents on a new chemical weed killer and that the formula will be made available to municipalities and individuals who wish to use it.

The C. N. R. has lost a director in the person of Mr. James G. Murdock, mainly because he says he is opposed to spending for election purposes money in the city of Montreal.

"I am sorry that I misquoted Wordsworth! But it is very easy to go wrong when relying on one's memory. . . . I admit, of course, that it is possible to make a mistake through sheer ignorance."

A daily air-mail service linking Vancouver to Victoria and connecting the latter city with the transcontinental service to and from Toronto and Montreal becomes effective March 1.

Nanaimo Dramatic Academy won the right to represent British Columbia at the Dominion Drama Festival in April when its one-act presentation, "The Woman from the Voe," was placed first among entrants in the provincial regional eliminations by adjudicator George Skellan of London.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

An explorer says that wolf meat is very nourishing. So some people are eating wolf meat on the doorstep all this time without knowing it.

After playing truant from school for 73 years, David Bruce, aged 84 has returned to his studies in Inverness, Scotland. He boasts he is Britain's oldest "schoolboy."

The Examiner believes we have arrived at the stage where there should be no more of the kind of thing which is making it compulsory to carry insurance. As it is at the moment a driver may crash into a car, after which he announces he has no insurance and no money.

It is a mistake to assume that flying an aeroplane is comparable to swimming, skating, riding a bicycle, handling a boat, or even driving a motor-car.

The English are a sturdy race, no doubt about it. Not long ago the tight little island was quite agitated over the case of the citizen who wore his mask.

From the above it will be seen that, in order to compete successfully with producers in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia or Quebec, and in many states of the Union where ocean vessels are docked near at hand, the freight rates on goods to be placed at a heavy disadvantage in the matter of freight unless the ships called at the Island.

The fishery advisory committee which made an investigation on behalf of the New Brunswick government, and which submitted a report about a year ago, recommended among other things: "SHRIMP—That the (federal) department of fisheries be urged to carry on surveys to prove whether or not commercial quantities are available, as fisheries at different points along our coast have reported the presence of large quantities."

Of all the industries which contribute to the economic life of the country, agriculture is perhaps the most difficult to control because of the multiplicity of influences to which it is fatally subjected.

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OCEAN TRANSPORTATION ITS POSSIBILITIES

By H. K. S. HEMMING

Ocean Freight Rates

Because of this series of articles I am daily being asked why it is that, while hundreds of millions have been expended upon fifteen or twenty other Canadian harbors from Victoria to Halifax, no attempt has ever been made to dredge the Charlottetown harbor otherwise equip it for ocean going vessels.

A complete reply to this question would fill columns of the Guardian but the outstanding reason for this seeming neglect is the fact that Prince Edward Island, being the smallest Province in the Dominion, with a correspondingly small representation in Parliament, has ever since Confederation, been treated as a poor relation in the Canadian family.

These facts are due largely to the Island's geographical position, which does not encourage the inter-Provincial intercourse that prevails on the mainland and particularly in Ontario and Quebec. Canadians generally know but little about this Island and therefore have no particular interest in its welfare.

In matters of this kind, however, a time is bound to come when conditions reach a point so serious that neglect of the past becomes realized and corrective action of a more or less drastic nature is taken. That time has certainly come to this Province and there are many reasons to believe that leading men in the Ottawa Government intend to do all they can to assist, including the opening up this Spring of the Charlottetown Harbor for ocean going vessels.

It is only quite recently that it has become generally known in Ottawa that, during the past forty years, from 12,000 to 13,000 tons of five persons each, have been compelled to desert their homes on this Island and seek a means of livelihood in the mainland of Ontario. Canadians generally know but little about this Island and therefore have no particular interest in its welfare.

From the above it will be seen that, in order to compete successfully with producers in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia or Quebec, and in many states of the Union where ocean vessels are docked near at hand, the freight rates on goods to be placed at a heavy disadvantage in the matter of freight unless the ships called at the Island.

N. B. Shrimp Industry

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The federal department already has taken action on this suggestion. A recent announcement from Ottawa says that experimental fishing operations looking to the development of a shrimp fishery off southwestern New Brunswick are being undertaken by the Dominion department of fisheries and will be continued throughout February and March.

At the present time the only shrimp fishery in Canadian waters is carried on at few places on the British Columbia coast, the total landings in 1928 amounting to only 150,000 pounds. While the British Columbia shrimp fishery extends over practically the whole year, present information indicates that it is chiefly in the winter months that these little shell fish are accessible to the fishermen in any appreciable quantity.

Within about above, below, Sprites elemental, Night and Day, Winds and thunders, frost and snow. And wild things only know their way.

There, late, a linnets dipped; I saw Him smooth his rimped smock, and then The falcons of his eager straw Got me the words I give my pen.

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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.

MR. TANTON REPLIES

Sir—Let me first congratulate Mr. Jay upon his discreet retirement from uncoth dictation and clumsy argument. And, secondly, on his adoption of a subject of public interest, expressed in language to command respect.

It is not always, however, safe to leave discarded garments around, especially when plumed for burlesque display. There are always those imitators around who delight like Topsy, to parade in borrowed feathers. Even the dunghill is not safe from muck-rakers.

To tickle his fancy let me quote a few, much more to the point, if he can only comprehend:—"Whom the Gods destroy they first make mad,"—"Barking dogs don't bite,"—"Fools rush in where Angels fear to tread," and—"Hell hath no fury like (Milk) woman scorned."

It would be a marvel if in my sixty or more years before the public, attacking giant wrongs such as the liquor traffic, the milk combine, the ways of the political exploiters and the underminers of healthy national morality, I did not receive a share of intimidating threats from cowards and bullies, and of cues banking at my heels.

None of these have ever succeeded in blackmaling me into the silence they covet, or prevented my "heaving to the line, let the chips fall where they may." I find often that a backward glance at the heel will send the cur yelping, tail between its legs, to its master's back door, whining for sympathy and a corner for refuge.

Mr. MacKinnon is not alone in his "disgrace" over the exposure of the milk combine, except that the others were too discreet to "rush where Angels fear," and have submitted silently to the castigations, the penalty of greed. It may interest him to learn that in Quebec another judgment has been added to the list of pronouncements that "price fixing" in living commodities is unlawful in British territory, thus driving another spike into the coffin of his darling outlawed Act.

May I add that I have no "glass house" on which to fear his some-throwing exercises, even if he should slip from slime pits were in themselves missiles of danger.

I am, Sir, etc.

LEWIS P. TANTON

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