

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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MINISTER OF PENSIONS

The visit to-day of the distinguished Minister of Pensions and National Health, Col. the Hon. Murray MacLaren, C. A. M. C. C. M. G. B. A., L. L. D., M. D. C. M., M. R. C. S., F. A. C. S., F. R. C. S., Knight of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Commander of the Order of Avis, Portugal, accompanied by Mrs. MacLaren, must appear to them something in the nature of a return to the old home-stead, for although the Minister was born in Richebucot, Kent County, N. B., his father, Dr. Lawrence MacLaren was a practicing physician in this province before removing to New Brunswick. Col. MacLaren has had a very distinguished medical and military career, and is considered in the forefront of authorities on military hospitals and field medical developments and administration. During the Great War he served over-seas for five years, from 1914 to 1919, and received the highest commendations and distinctions from the Imperial Government. Col. MacLaren has represented Saint John-Albert in the House of Commons since 1921, and was appointed Minister of Pensions and National Health in the Right Hon. Mr. Bennett's cabinet in 1930. During his regime great improvements have taken place in the administration of the Pensions Act. Under the amendments to the Pensions Act in 1930 the Pensions Tribunal, consisting of nine members, and the Pensions Appeal Court, consisting of three members, were created. Necessarily with the advent of the new legislation there was a deluge of applications, which had in the first place to be made to the Board of Pensions Commissioners for Canada. In order to make possible the successful administration of the Act further amendments were prepared, under Col. MacLaren's direction, during 1931 whereby the personnel of the Pensions Tribunal was increased so that instead of there being four sections of the Tribunal sitting at one time there are now six. This has meant more rapid hearing of cases and greater satisfaction all round. Up to the end of November last the Tribunal had rendered no fewer than 3793 decisions, 1811 of these being in favor of the applicants and 1982 against them. The new procedure has resulted in the final settlement of a great many applications without judicial enquiry other than that carried out by the Pensions Board. The bulk of the work is now being done by the Board and by the Veterans' Bureau, thus materially reducing the work to be done by the Pensions Tribunal. The work of the Pensions Board, however, has greatly increased. No doubt during his brief visit here Col. MacLaren will be interviewed by members of the Legion, who may be interested in the administration of his department.

NO BANANAS

A few years ago a popular song reiterated "We have no bananas to-day." Echo of this is to be found in the split in the Liberal Party in the constituency of Royal, N. B., over the by-election taking place there this month. The executive of the Liberal Party in the constituency in their wisdom have decided not to oppose the return of Hon. Geo. B. Jones on the 27th inst. Mr. Jones, it will be recalled, was disqualified from holding his seat in the House because the firm of which he is a silent partner supplied merchandise on a small scale to the Department of Indian Affairs, contrary to the "self denying ordinance." The Hon. Mr. Yemiot made a great outcry about this in the House of Commons, creating such a commotion that Mr. Jones, realizing the untenable position his firm had made, immediately tendered his resignation, challenging Mr. Yemiot and

his party to contest his re-election. Realizing that discretion is the better part of valor, the Liberals have declined the challenge, and consequently Mr. Jones is likely to be re-elected without opposition. But there are protestants, chief of whom is Mr. E. S. Carter, Secretary of the Liberal Association of Royal, who argues that because the party is short of funds that is no reason why it should not fight the re-election of Mr. Jones. In protesting against the decision of the Liberal Party not to contest the constituency Mr. Carter declared: "I realize that in the past money has played an important part in election campaigns, but I absolutely refuse to admit its necessity"—which is tantamount to a confession that the cupboard is bare. This is proof of what Mr. MacKenzie King recently claimed to be the case at Ottawa, when he said the Liberal Party was in such a plight that it was owing the rent for its office, and had not sufficient funds to pay the stenographer. Notwithstanding the Beauharnois and other contributions—or perhaps because of them—the Liberal Party has fallen on evil days politically and financially and cannot raise enough money from its erstwhile supporters to provide for a by-election occasioned by its own initiative.

LET IN LIGHT

The Hon. Dr. Manion, Minister of Railways, has a reputation for plain speaking and straight dealing. In his address to the Manufacturers' Association in annual convention at Ottawa he did not mince matters in refuting the unfair criticism of his department because of recent investigations into railway administration. He pointed out that the C. N. R. is the biggest problem Canada has to-day, and is in effect Canada's second national debt. Unless the situation is cleared up and the utmost economy effected the C. N. R. might easily swamp Canada, notwithstanding the return of prosperity to the country. We hardly realize what the figures submitted by Dr. Manion actually mean when he tells us that the railway consumes no less than \$57,000,000 of Canada's revenue annually in interest alone, and that it already owes \$1,000,000,000 of borrowed money to the government. Bringing this down to understanding figures it means that for interest on borrowed money every man, woman and child in Canada is taxed \$5.70 per annum; while, similarly, every one of the population is liable for \$100.00 of the money borrowed by the railways from the government. Each of us must pay \$5.70 interest and bear a contingent liability of \$100.00 for the privilege of having the National Railways run at a loss. Yet there are critics of the government who say that these facts should not be disclosed; that the investigations into the why and wherefore of the expenditure should not take place, and that, in fact, a "hush, hush" policy should continue to be pursued as under the regime of the Hon. W. L. MacKenzie King. We now know where the "hush hush" policy was leading us in the matter of administration. Too much of the light of day cannot be let in. It is one of the surest and most satisfactory safeguards of democracy that the public shall be informed, and kept informed, of how its affairs are being managed by the party in power. Dr. Manion is determined there will be no "hush hush" so far as his department is concerned.

EDITORIAL NOTES

According to the Ottawa correspondent of the Winnipeg Free Press (Liberal) the Hon. J. L. Ralston "would inherit the party purple if the present leader retired." This may be taken by Mr. MacKenzie King as a broad hint that the time for considering such matters is not inopportune.

NOTES BY THE WAY

In including himself in the category of "we farmers," the Prince of Wales can do so without any trace of affectation. The Prince has the knack of doing many things well, and farming is one of them, as the results attained through his close personal supervision testify.

From the English Channel to the Mediterranean Sea, according to the Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, France is forging a wall of steel for protection against her neighbors to the eastward. The late Andre Maginot, Minister of War, was father of the frontier fortifications that are to cost \$100,000,000 at their completion within two years. Military experts of Europe insist that the French fortifications far surpass in strength the great Hadrian wall in England built at the time of the Roman invasion, the great wall of China, and the World War Hindenburg line. Compared to the French wall of steel, these other fortifications were mere hindrances, not barriers.

Premier Bennett, interviewed at London, said that the employment situation in Canada has shown an improvement in the last few months and there is reason for restrained and reasonable optimism. From our own observation of conditions we would say that the Prime Minister's view of the situation is not unreasonable. There is undoubtedly some improvement in the employment picture. It may be due entirely to seasonal conditions, but it is apparent nevertheless. And because there is more employment, general business is better.—Border Cities Star.

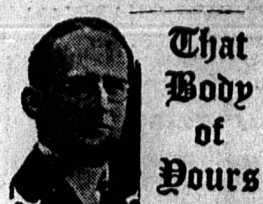
American Ambassador Mellon, speaking at a dinner in London, assures his British friends that "one Al Capone does not counter-balance millions of loyal and industrious citizens of whom one never hears." And he added: "Lawlessness and greed are not peculiar to any race or nation." Many critics, friendly and otherwise, of the United States, would do well to remember these words. There is crime in the United States, plenty of it, too much of it, but the great bulk of the American people, just like the great bulk of the Canadian people and the British people, are law-abiding and industrious. The weakness of the American system lies in failure to properly punish criminals and other violators of the law. Back of this, in large measure, is the system of electing judges and other officials connected with the administration of justice. When Uncle Sam discards this method there is no good reason why law enforcement across the line should not be as good as in any other country.

If nationalism is destroyed, mankind will be reduced to a hopeless dead level, avers Dr. A. N. Whitehead, of Harvard, representing the British Academy at the Royal Society of Canada meeting in Ottawa. Dr. H. M. Tory, president of the National Research Council, supplements this with the declaration: "No nation has qualified to take its place in the international arena until it has firmly established itself on national grounds. Canada has men of capacity to do this. It is up to us to provide them with the opportunity."

"Crime," says Dr. Simon, a former special deputy police commissioner of New York City, "is no longer an escapade; it is no longer a profession; it is an industry. Criminal gangs are armed with offensive weapons and the facilities for escape made available by the age of mechanisation. Vast financial resources are open to the underworld that were not there formerly to tap."

While Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald is discussing the possibility of another international conference to restore political and economic amity, the current news carries its own significance. Japan, driving into Manchuria, is warned by official Soviet organs to halt before proceeding too far. A new political crisis in Germany has overthrown the level-headed Chancellor Bruening, promising the restoration of the Hitlerites, and consequent renewal of alarm in France. There is a reign of terror, with bombing of the King's palace, in Yugoslavia. Serious riots with bloodshed accompany strikes in Spain. These outcroppings of a day's events are symptoms of widespread underlying conditions; but how effectively would the leisurely theories of a conference deal with them?

No one who has watched the situation believed that the battle waged in Canada by and in behalf of Communists was a purely local affair. Now it appears that one wing of the great international army is stationed on Fifth Avenue,



That Body of Ours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

ELECTRIC SHOCK

Every year as the warm weather approaches I try to advise my readers of the simple yet effective way in which people who apparently have been drowned can often be restored to consciousness. It is called the 'Schafer method,' and is now almost universally used. However now that electricity has become such an important factor in our everyday life, the number of cases of death from electric shock is increasing very rapidly. The use of the 'Schafer method' is just as effective in restoring victims of electric shock as with drowning victims.

Human life is always precious, and the little suggestions that can easily be followed by anybody may save the life of some human being, your own, or some loved one. The advice as issued by the Electrical Employees Association of Ontario, which is associated with similar associations throughout the United States and Canada briefly is: "Quickly release the victim from the current, being careful to avoid receiving a shock. Use any dry non-conductor (rubber gloves, clothing, wood, rope) to remove either victim or conductor. Do not use metal or any moist material. If necessary, shut off the current. Lay patient on his abdomen. Kneel astride the patient, opposite his thighs. Place the palms of the hands on the small of the back with fingers resting on ribs the little finger just touching the lowest rib. With arms held straight, swing forward slowly so that the weight of your body is directly over your palms. Keep elbows straight. Count one, two. Now immediately swing backwards so as to completely reverse the pressure. Count one, two, and then swing forward again. Repeat this pressure downward with the palms, and then taking pressure off, about twelve to fifteen times a minute.

Continue this without interruption until natural breathing returns—four hours or even longer. Keep the patient warm. Do not give any liquids by mouth until the patient is fully conscious. The patient should be kept lying down for some time after he becomes conscious. This prevents strain on the heart. This simple method is far ahead of all the old methods and even the new methods in use. Remember anybody can do the 'Schafer method.'

Beyond the dark horizon of the days It stirs again—the flowered storm of spring. A golden-fringed defiance through the haze Of sullen clouds. The far, faint trumpeting Of leaf and bud and bayoneted grass. Throbs in the muffled conduits of the earth; I sense the growing tumult as I pass These fields that wait the old, old, siege of birth. Not many dawns will break before dull clouds Will cleave away before the blue-bird's wing. And meadows will be riotous with crowds Of crocuses and dandelions that fling Their yellow banners in the teeth of death; Soon laurel will reconquer every slope. Dark streams will quiver with the south wind's breath, And the old heart be stormed again with hope.—Anderson M. Scruggs, in the New York Times.

The Poet's Corner

GOLDEN SIEGE

There had been suggested in Canada that the Conference at Ottawa should take up the subject of Empire currency. This was an inspiring theme, and while one must recognize that, in the end, the trade of every nation would be most benefited by a system of international exchange common to all peoples, in default of the prospect of the early realization of an agreement for this purpose, nothing could be so beneficial as a mutual monetary arrangement between Britain and her Dominions. Such an arrangement would seem to be within the compass of practical politics. All the Dominions, with the exception of South Africa, were in effect off the gold standard, and even the position of South Africa was precariously held in this respect. On the other hand, a considerable number of the nations of the world had allied themselves with sterling. In these circumstances it was not too much to hope that an extensive area in which sterling was the medium of exchange might be formed. They might ask him how his proposition with regard to silver would fit in to such a plan. For his part, if the nations of the Empire agreed, he would be ready to fix a ratio for silver to sterling; and he did not doubt that out of such a policy there would develop large benefits to the Empire in developing trade with the East. Addressing them that night as a great Imperial institution which had worked with unremitting zeal for the cause of the Empire, he was confident that however dark was the outlook in the sphere of world affairs today, there was an opportunity for Britain and the young virile nations which sprung from her shores to attain by mutual association a position of strength and prosperity

The Currency Problem

By the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Horne, C. B. E., K. C., M. P. (Precis of an address delivered at a meeting of the Royal Empire Society, London, on April 12, 1932.)

There was now in Great Britain a very notable movement in favour of the reintroduction of silver into our monetary system. Many people would remember a similar movement in this country in the nineties, of which the late Lord Balfour was one of the most prominent figures. He never lost his belief that, sooner or later, this question would once more force itself upon the attention of our people. Today, opposition to the silver view has very greatly dwindled. In the United States of America there is a most active propaganda in favour of silver. At the present time there were before the American Congress two Bills dealing with this subject. One sought to enact the monetization of silver at the ratio of 16 ounces of silver to one of gold; the other was to the effect that the Government should purchase silver up to the amount of 5,000,000 ounces each month and against this metal reserve should issue silver certificates. Recently in the House of Commons at Ottawa, the Canadian Minister of Commerce made an important speech in which he expressed his strong view in favour of a bimetallic system, and it is being strongly urged in Canada now that the subject should be brought before the Imperial Conference at Ottawa in July. It is a subject in which India is vitally interested, as it holds a vast store of silver whose value is of great importance to the Government because a portion of it forms the reserve against a large issue of rupee paper. To the discussions at the forthcoming Imperial Conference he looked with enthusiasm for the settlement of a matter which he believed, was of vital importance to the prosperity of the world. In the attempt to raise wholesale commodity prices, which the Macmillan Committee described as the prime objective of all statesmanship at the present time, no safer method could be taken than that of adding silver to the world's monetary system. It afforded a well-controlled plan of inflation because its use was restricted by Nature herself. On this matter their opponents spoke with two different voices. One section vociferated that there would be such a production of silver as to create a glut in the market; while the other section cried aloud that not enough silver could be produced to make an appreciable difference in the amount of metal backing which would be available. They could be content to let these two voices drown each other. In truth, the largest proportion of silver produced today came from mines in which it was retrieved in conjunction with lead and zinc and copper. Silver would only be produced in increased quantity when the world required more of these other metals; that is to say, when the trade of the world was prosperous and when it therefore required more currency.

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understood and wrote a charming introduction to the volume of his Complete Poems. Drummond was an Irishman born, who came to Canada in boyhood. He died in 1907 and is buried in the cemetery of Mount Royal. Sir Andrew's recollections, according to the report, were informal. Meeting Drummond first in 1890, he carried the company back to the nineties "in a manner at once graphic and natural." In 1890, Sir Andrew and three other young men, one being 'Tat MacKenzie, the noted Canadian sculptor—these four shared the rent of a house at \$400 a year, payable quarterly. The owner was prompt on quarterday, and the money was ready for him, for in that thrifty time, "people counted their earnings." The landlord called for his rent on the day of Sir Andrew's first meeting Drummond who was a guest at dinner. But here are the words of the narrator: "We had eaten well, and I think I'll tell you about that. I have never told this story before, but it is worth a word. Next door to our house was a cookery school and several young and pretty girls were learning the art. We knew them. It was a question as to what happened to the food the girls cooked. I can tell you: it came in to us and we didn't pay anything for it. If we had not taken it, it would have been thrown away." Well, soon after dinner the landlord knocked. Drummond turned and whispered, "Have you got the money?" They had the money, "all in dollar bills, one hundred and one of them. The man used to spend hours counting them because he usually found a dollar over—he was honest—and we always gave him the dirtiest bills we could assemble." We see that the four young and thrifty fellows were practical jokers. That business over, Drummond read some of his poems. And it was seven years before they were published. Reference was made to the early resentment after they appeared and to Fréchette's defence—"no single line of caricature." Sir Andrew has ever been for the French-Canadian: "I say now, as I have said before, that the Province of Quebec is the last refuge of civilization on the American Continent. . . . There is now a renaissance among the French of literature, sculpture, connoisseurship. . . . The French spoken in Quebec is as good as that spoken in provincial towns in France, and the best English spoken in Montreal is that spoken by French people.

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