

# THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1927

### WHAT MIGHT BE DONE.

IT is not so much what we do but what we could do. When we limit our doing to the minimum that we can get away with, instead of stretching it to the maximum that we could do, we are unjust to ourselves and to the community we live in. Plato defined justice as "every-one doing and having his own." If everyone in the community did his own—that is, his own best, received his lawful own from everyone else, we would have an ideal community. We have not yet arrived at the stage when we will do our best even for ourselves, to say nothing of what we shall do for the community. Seeing that the possibility of such doing was recognized over two thousand years ago and that we have not yet arrived, there seems little hope that we shall see it in our day and generation.

Most of us work strenuously for ourselves, when we alone are to be the beneficiaries, but when it comes to doing for community or province or country, "vile self often gets in." It is then that the question arises, "How much is in it for me?"

We are slowly overcoming the human failing of selfishness. The spirit of Christmas pulls at our heart-strings once a year and gives us, for the time being at least, a community outlook, and the spirit does not always pass as soon as the Christmas tree is dismantled, it lingers and we are all better men and women. Let us, then, do our best to lengthen the season, let us not weary the Spirit by our penuriousness. It will remain with us while the fruits of our generosity and our charity are visible.

### ENCOURAGING.

IT is perhaps encouraging to find some Liberal newspapers demanding the abolition of nuisance taxes—taxes which when imposed by the King Government, these same newspapers declared were just and necessary. A great hurrah went up from the Liberal press when the King Government reduced the income tax, but while reducing this tax with one hand he was building up taxation in other directions. The Government is now gloating over its expanding revenues, and Finance Minister Robb made some definite gestures towards further reductions when expatiating on those he had made. The Halifax Chronicle never finds any fault with the King Government immediately before an election and approves of everything it does when in power, but boldly calls these taxes by the name generally applied to them, especially by Conservatives and even by some Liberals—that is, Nuisance Taxes. The Chronicle declares these nuisance taxes should be abolished, mentioning the Sales Tax as particularly offensive, and advises the restoration of the drop letter postage.

Possibly our Liberal contemporaries may have had a hint from Ottawa that these reductions are going to be made and to make an announcement to that effect in order to check the dissatisfaction which is perceptibly growing in the ranks. The situation throughout the country is not looking well for Liberalism. There has been too much shuffling and twisting, too much backing and filling at Ottawa of late to please even the most stalwart of Liberals, and the party is beginning to do some thinking. The nuisance taxes were strongly opposed by the Conservatives, and it is well known that they are not in the Conservative program. This early gesture towards their abolition may help some, but the promises of the Liberal party are now taken with a grain of salt and are rarely believed in until they are implemented.

### SOUTH AFRICAN PROBLEMS.

A correspondent, in a private letter written at Grahamstown, South Africa, on the 13th of November, remarks that "the great news in politics here is the settlement of the 'Flag Controversy,' by a peaceful compromise." It doesn't appear yet whether the flag that is to be our National, as distinct from our Empire flag, has any artistic excellence. But there is a great sigh of relief going up at the agreement and the passing of another crisis. Canada's success in League of Nations circles has produced a great effect here. "Die Burger," the paper of the extreme Nationalists, says: "Today, a happy co-incidence has brought it about that Canada has been the instrument to obtain the indispensable seal of unequivocal international recognition of our freedom and independence." And now the most extreme—those who yesterday were most extreme—anti-Imperialists are satisfied that they can have the benefits of membership in the Empire without any restriction—that they need worry about on national self-determination. So that 1927 has seen the settlement of two of our great problems. The Indian community out here is well satisfied with the agreement reached and with the coming of an able representative of the Indian Government to watch over their interests. The Native problem remains. There is not likely to be an agreement about that. But even the extremely unlikely sometimes happens; and we may hope that the two other agreements may encourage and hearten the leaders for a supreme effort in regard to this—which is the most to be desired of all."

### THE RAILWAY DISPUTE

THE dispute between the Board of Railway Commissioners and the Canadian National Railways has almost reached the dagger-point stage. The case for the latter is set out in this issue and is interesting in the fact that it gives the story from the Railway's viewpoint. As to the Railway's statement that it has reduced the freight rates by 20 per cent, as provided by statute on the recommendation of the Royal Commission under Sir Andrew Rae Duncan, only the freight experts can settle it. The latter claim that a reduction of only 16 per cent, has been made, and they ought to know. It is only a matter of figuring and there should be no difficulty in settling the question. We have no doubt that it will shortly be settled now that it is in the open. Whether Premier Baxter can or can not prove his contention—and he generally does—he deserves the thanks of the people of the Maritimes for opening the subject.

### EDITORIAL NOTES

While everyone is saying Merry Christmas, there should be a veritable epidemic of merriness and happiness.

It is not those who are under the influence of the spirit of Christmas that the police gather in off the streets. And the spirit of Christmas is not bootlegged, either.

Watch the children at their play, see how they overcome the difficulties they meet with or give up trying. See how they use their ingenuity in constructing something to play with or to look and wonder at. See how they help each other or refuse such help. See how the bigger boy takes care of the smaller boy or bullies over him. It is here the child reveals his or her true character, here also where the wise parents may check or develop the qualities which determine the coming man or woman.

### Notes by the Way

IT is quite clear that Old Age Pensions under the Federal Government plan will involve a very large new expenditure which must fall upon the taxpayers. What the aggregate may be will depend upon how many of the provinces accept the plan by action of their Governments and Legislatures. The maximum will be reached if all the provinces accept the Pensions Act. But the Act is so framed as to exercise a very strong and seemingly utmost compulsory influence toward bringing all the provinces under its provisions.

Any province not accepting will get no pensions for its aged people, but must still contribute through the ordinary channels of taxation to the Federal Treasury its proportionate share of the half of the total pension fund which the Dominion undertakes to pay. Ontario, a populous and wealthy province, having one-third of the Canadian people within its boundaries, claims to be already paying from year to year more than one-third of all Dominion taxes. Is it conceivable that Ontario will remain outside, her people forced to contribute one-third of the Federal Government's share of the pension fund and yet have no share in the pensions distributed?

Among the constitutional powers of the Dominion Parliament is "the raising of money by any mode or system of taxation." But the question arises, has Parliament the power to compel a Provincial Legislature to tax its people to provide pensions for people in other provinces while its own people can receive no benefit from such taxation? Of course it will be said that Parliament has no power to compel any Provincial Legislature to pass any act whatever. Yet we presume that the Old Age Pensions Act must in some way have been within the enacting power of Parliament, and that its constitutionality will not be seriously challenged. But if the Maritime Legislatures consent to accept the Act in its present form it will be under conditions which are practically compulsory.

Highway robberies by gunmen, singly, or in gangs, have been comparatively rare in the Maritimes, although these and bank robberies with gunplay have occurred at rare intervals. In the States and in Central and Western Canada the gunman has become a growing terror. And the hold-up gangs have had what might be called a run of luck that has made them bolder. In many cases they have done their dastardly work and made their escape without arrest, swift motor cars assisting them in their flight.

The pitiable case of forty men dying slowly in a submarine at the bottom of the sea off the New England coast, has awakened universal sympathy. All attempts to rescue them have failed so far, although divers engaged in the brave effort have exchanged signals with a few who are still alive by rapping on the side of the vessel. Many disasters to American, British, German and Japanese submarines occurred during and since the war, and the perils of the submarine service are constantly very great, far exceeding those of seafaring on the surface of the waters.

Canada's six leading industries are pulp and paper, flour milling, slaughtering and meat packing, saw-mills, butter and cheese, and automobiles in the order named. The value of their yearly production is set down at a billion dollars. All of these produce to the value of over 100 million dollars each. Forty other industries in the Dominion produce collectively two billions, making up a grand total of three billions.

That upon the Federal Government rests a large responsibility for the welfare of the Maritime Provinces, is the conclusion of the Toronto Mail and Empire. That this is shown by the Duncan Report, which has been partly implemented by the Federal Government, is pointed out by the Conservative Journal, which also takes note of another point in our favor. Referring to the exodus which has depleted our population so greatly, it says: "Not all the sons and daughters of the Maritime Provinces who have left to seek their fortunes elsewhere went to the United States. Very many of them are living in other provinces of Canada. By their industry and ability they are contributing to the prosperity of the provinces of their adoption. As a rule they do well wherever they go, and are an influence for good. The rest of Canada owes much to the people it has drawn from the Maritime Provinces. Partly on this account, it should readily lend a helping hand to put the Maritimes on a footing to obtain their full share of the benefits of Confederation."

Very naturally the Halifax City



By James W. Barton, M.D. A SERVICE STATION FOR THE BODY

Someone has said but a little while ago, that the physician is one residing in a distant planet, to be called on only in the moment of emergency, of pain, or suffering and disease, and then asked, in the light of such information as he can speedily gain, to bring relief and satisfaction and to prolong life. However as you know the physician of today lives right on the same planet as his patients and their families.

He is a part of the everyday life of the community. However, there are still a great many folks who will not call a physician until the last minute. A pain attacks them during the day, is present with them during the first hours of the night, and then about 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning, when they are exhausted, with vital forces at their lowest, they hurriedly send for the doctor.

Others are somewhat more sensible than this and when they have any pain or ache, they consult the physician so that if any help is needed, the physician will be able to give it immediately.

But there are others who show more sense than either group. One of the possessions they value is their motor car. To keep it in good running condition they go to the regular service station, and in addition to seeing that there is a supply of gas, oil, and water, they have the service man go over the engine, tires, battery, battery connections, brakes, body, in fact every part, and thus keep it in its best possible condition at all times.

They not only have the car in this shape but they have the peace of mind that such knowledge gives. And yet that car of yours is not in any way as valuable to you as that body of yours.

What is my point? That you should not of course delay in having any pain or other body disturbance investigated, but should also go to your family doctor and have him overhaul you at least once a year.

Don't go to him for repairs after some trouble rises, but go to him as you would to a service station, have him examine you thoroughly and outline diet, rest, exercise, and other health habits, that will enable that body of yours to go along day by day doing its best work for you.

### Daily Selections FOR Guardian Readers

December 22, 1927

THE MASTER BUILDER.—Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. Psalm 127:1.

PRAYER: "The Lord is just, a Helper tried."

### AT BETHLEHEM

At Bethlehem, while people thronged, A low sob charmed the night. About, a winter stillness reigned; Above, the stars flamed bright. It was a babe's first fitful cry That caught the pilgrims' ear: They could not know that time began As they were listening near.

Wonder of the centuries That Love could come to earth In fullness, as a Mother hailed A lowly baby's birth! And greater wonder of the years, That men could turn away, Refuse to see the glory shed Above the pilgrim way!

There still abides a wondrous light Upon that little town That shall not pass from mortal sight So long as stars look down.

### DAILY LESSONS IN ENGLISH

By W. L. Gordon

WORDS OFTEN MISUSED: Do not say "I shall speak relative to that matter." Use the adverb "relatively."

OFTEN MISPRONOUNCED: Italic. Pronounce first i as in "it," not as in "write."

OFTEN MISSPELLED: epistle; note the tie.

SYNONYMS: careless, heedless, imprudent, indiscreet, incautious, improvident.

WORD STUDY: "Use a word three times and it is yours." Let us increase our vocabulary by mastering one word each day. Today's word: ILLOGICAL, contrary to sound reasoning. "Your explanation is too illogical."

Council desires direct connection of their city and port with the Canadian Pacific Railway system. All the older Provinces contributed toward the grants and subsidies which led to the building of the C. P. R. Canada's first transcontinental railway. And today all the provinces, old and new, with the exception of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, enjoy the benefits of both the great railway systems. Why should two of the Maritime Provinces be denied the benefits of railway competition which all other provinces enjoy?

### That Body of Hours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

Someone has said but a little while ago, that the physician is one residing in a distant planet, to be called on only in the moment of emergency, of pain, or suffering and disease, and then asked, in the light of such information as he can speedily gain, to bring relief and satisfaction and to prolong life. However as you know the physician of today lives right on the same planet as his patients and their families.

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### Son of the Sea Home for Xmas

There is something about the sea that broadens men, develops men, that places the successful master mariner in such a position that to him most stories of adventure are as a twice-told tale. One of these successful sons of the sea is Captain Thomas E. Kirk, who left Summerside some 25 years ago, a ragged little urchin of 13 hard-fought years and who returned to visit his old home town of 13 hard-fought years and who returned to visit his old home town again this week, a master of the largest sailing vessel in the Dominion and an adventurer who had ranged the seven seas, reaping his harvest of experience, adventure, hardships and fortune.

It was about 25 years ago that "Teddy" Kirk, in the course of one of his hectic days in Summerside, was heckled by a big bully who repeatedly knocked him down in the mud. With the courage born of desperation young Kirk turned on the bully and in a struggle that will forever remain in his memory, licked his tormenter, to the evident satisfaction of an onlooker, the late R. T. Holman, who patted him on the shoulder and said, "Teddy, my boy, you licked him all right. Take a lesson from that, don't be afraid of obstacles, be the same pluck you showed now and you'll make a man of yourself. Come in and I'll fit you out with new clothes."

Captain Kirk says he certainly did need clothes right then, for in the struggle most of his scanty garments had gone as forfeit to the fruits of victory, but he took Mr. Holman at his word and came out of the store, completely clothed in the way of vegetables. "And that was no little," says the Captain. The words of Mr. Holman, together with the kindly interest shown, made a great impression on the young lad, and, several ships being in port at that time, he got aboard one bound for Sydney as a stowaway, determined to make the sea his home and to rise to the rank of captain, which was the highest position his mind could then imagine.

Life on the restless blue made him familiar with many strange lands, Newfoundland, Labrador, California, Peru, the enchanted island of the Pacific, the Mediterranean, the Black Sea, Turkey, Russia, three times around Cape Horn. He had no education but to those who can learn, travel is the greatest teacher. Many of his hard earned dollars (and short pay and long hours were the seaman's lot in those days) were spent in buying school books, which he studied in his spare hours on board ship. So while others were playing the harmonica, the concertina, cards, swapping stories, Kirk so improved his natural ability that although he was not able to attend a navigation school, he passed all his exams with honors and eventually won his master mariner's papers.

And to him, as to other men who travel deep water, came big adventures. He lost one ship in a hurricane and spent several days in an open boat before he was picked up and carried to England. During the war he was chief officer in one of the large transports. Later he joined the Royal Navy. He was master of a mine sweeper that was torpedoed and he was rescued by a destroyer. There was mutiny on the high seas and single-handed he subdued a raging crew of Portuguese and Latin. One man died from the effects of a reveler's wound, there was a trial when the ship entered harbor after which Captain Kirk was carried to his ship on the shoulders of shouting admirers.

Now he is spending the Christmas holidays with his family in Halifax. While visiting his old home town he was much impressed with the fine stores of Summerside, the large amount of business that is being done there, the wonderful improvement in the residential section and said that in his opinion Summerside is one of the finest towns of the size he has ever visited. Among the many

changes he noticed were the Prince County hospital, the new English church, Brace, McKay & Co.'s business block, the new store of Sinclair & Stewart, Ltd., the large, exclusive, the Holman store, the new theatre, the bank, the curling rink, the civic building, the new armory and many other public buildings that have been erected since he was a bare-foot boy playing in the streets of Summerside.

To study the secrets of birds' flight, two French scientists have invented a device to be attached to the back of a bird to record all of its motions.

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### The Land We Love

By Frank Yeigh  
Historic Halifax  
Q. What is the history of Halifax?  
A. Early in 1748, the British Government having decided upon the necessity of a fortified and permanent establishment on the Atlantic coast of Acadia, determined on the site on which Halifax now stands, by the Indians, on account of the magnificent harbor and contour of land giving splendid opportunity for fortifying purposes. Early in 1749, 1200 men with families who had volunteered for settlement left England, each supplied with a liberal grant from the British Treasury in May of that year, a fleet of 13 transports and a sloop-of-war entered Chebucto Bay, to Halifax Harbour now in honour of Lord Halifax, President of the Board of Trade and Plantations who had played a principal part in the establishment. Work was begun immediately under the direction of the Military in laying out streets, erecting dwellings and shops and constructing a strong palisade of pickets for the purpose of combating with the hostile Indians who were numerous at that time.

### HOUSEHOLD SCRAP BOOK

By ROBERTA LEE

Dish Towels

Cut cotton crepe into one-yard lengths and it will make very serviceable dish towels. They require no hemming, nor is it necessary to iron them.

Colds

A good remedy for a cold on the chest is turpentine and camphor, to which add a few drops of eucalyptus oil. Shake thoroughly and apply to the chest, then place a warm cloth over the chest.

Meats

Meat should be seasoned after it is partly cooked. Putting the salt in before the meat is cooked partially destroys the flavor.

### THE CHARM OF THE SASKATCHEWAN

The following, written by Mr. E. M. Bryenton, of Swift Current, brother of L.V. Bryenton, of Lorneburg, was published in the Swift Current Sun, June 29th. Mr. Bryenton is a P. E. Islander, and wrote the verses on his return from a visit to his native province.

I would fain use the pen of a poet To indite what I sometimes dream As I stand on the rugged old hill-side By that winding Saskatchewan stream.

I can hear the soft murmuring waters And the sigh of the wind through the glen; And it seems to me they're the spirits Of the race of departed Red men.

Who were thrilled with the glory of sunsets, Drank deep the fresh nectar of morn; Who were charmed with each bright bud of Nature And rich hues by the singing-birds worn.

Saskatchewan's current has often Known the dusky chief's swift gliding boat; But the hopes that his strong soul imprisoned He has not left a page to denote.

We have pity for those heathen people Who roamed over this vast prairie land; But, although they knew not the Creator They were thrilled by the works of His hand.

It's the Pale-faces now know the River, Not so joyous as Red men of old, Not so friendly with Nature's sweet spirit, We lose much which our summers might hold.

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