THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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CELESTIAL VISITANTS

The Leonid shooting stars are due this evening. That, at any rate, is the prediction of astronomers. It is just 100 years ago this Wednesday night, after midnight, that thousands of these meteors blazed across the skies by the hour. That was their last big show. They are due three times a century. Perhaps on this occasion it will require a telescope to see them. Twenty times since 902 A. D., however, the Leonids have been mistaken by some people for the end of the world. Mayan heiroglyphics record them in stone, as "falling hairs," a fair description of how they look streaking overhead in luminous trails.

They are blue-green, travel very swiftly, are often as brilliant as the brightest star, and sometimes leave a bright train which lasts several seconds. They speed so fast that the atmospheric friction completely consumes them, so no Leonid is ever reported as having struck the earth. But last November, for the first time, Harvard astronomers, by turning spectroscopes on their light, discovered part of the materials composing Leonids. They contained bits of iron and calcium. Tonight, if they are seen at all, it will probably be about midnight.

SIGNS OF RECOVERY

Convincing evidence of business recovery in Canada is furnished in the current issue of the Financial Post, which notes that the physical volume of business in Canada is currently 14 per cent. higher than at this time a year ago. The corresponding figure for most countries is more nearly 10 per cent.

Other key figures in Canada show in many cases an even better margin of improvement over the same month a year ago. In almost every case the figures show September, 1933, results as compared with the same month in 1932.

	Increase
Automobile sales	31.1%
Steel ingot production	66.5%
Bank debits	17.0%
Electric power output	16.4%
Pig Iron output	440.0%
Exports	36.0%
Imports	12.3%
Cigarette consumption	28.0%
Employment:	
(a) in manufactures	2.7%
(b) in all industries	4.2%
Vol. of business	14.1%
Business failures (number)	*22.1%
Wholesale prices	3.0%
Farm prices	15.7%
Car loadings	*7.1%

*—decrease.

Carloadings, it will be noticed, is the only item to make an adverse showing. This is due very largely to the shrinkage in grain loadings as a result of the much smaller 1933 crop.

Steady improvement in business mortality in Canada is indicated by weekly figures or failures under the Federal Bankruptcy Act as recorded each week in the Canada Gazette. In the first ten months of the year there has been a decline of 480 or 27 per cent. in failures recorded in Canada from the corresponding figures in the same period of 1932.

REPUDIATION

All the radical proposals that figured in the recent British Columbia elections were not put forward by the C.C.F. party. The Vancouver Sun, a sturdy supporter of the Liberal party, advocated the wiping out of 50 per cent in all Canadian debts and the reduction of all interest on Government bonds to 3 per cent or less for a two-year period. This scheme, says the Sydney Post-Record, was elaborated with many words and much rhetoric, but the verbiage does not modify to the least degree the character of the cunningly devised plan, which is nothing more or less than repudiation. It would mean the breaking of tens of thousands of contracts, and default on a large scale. This policy of despair may come, but one hopes that it will not, but that on the contrary a rising tide of prosperity and a greater era of business expansion than the country has yet known will make clear the way of honesty and good faith for the people of Canada. Even partial repudiation cannot fail to sap the morale of any nation that resorts to it.

MONS REMEMBERS

One of the most interesting news items in connection with Remembrance Day observance was the following message, addressed to General Sir Arthur Currie, from the Burgomaster of the Belgian city liberated from the enemy by the Canadian troops on the very day of the Armistice, Nov. 11, 1918:

"General:

"The City of Mons is about to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Armistice and of its liberation by the valiant British troops. In this circumstance the entire population of Mons recalls the very glorious day of November 11, 1918. Mons does not forget, either, the indebtedness she owes to you as well as to the heroic soldiers that you led to victory.

"Therefore we take pleasure in addressing this message of profound gratitude to you. Please accept, General, this expression of our sentiments."

In view of Sir Arthur's grave illness, Col. Wilfrid Bovey, director of McGill's department of extra-mural relations, who served on Sir Arthur Currie's staff during the Great War, despatched the following cablegram to Mons in reply to their greetings:

"General Sir Arthur Currie, suffering from a sudden and serious illness, is unable himself to answer your message. On his behalf I send you, as I did in presenting you with the guns in 1919, his best wishes and thanks."

The "guns" referred to in Col. Bovey's cablegram were the last ones fired by the Canadian forces during the Great War. They were presented to the City of Mons a year later at a ceremony at which Col. Bovey represented Sir Arthur Currie and the Department of Overseas Military Forces of Canada.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The International Fur Workers' Union of the United States and Canada is one of five labor organizaitons indicted in New York in an anti-trust action, which involves also eighty individuals, sixty-eight corporations, and $85,000,000 worth of fur per year. It is claimed that the trade has been ruled by strong-arm methods and terrorism, which, evidently, does not mean the NRA.

In the Montreal Gazette's notes of Canadian history we read that on November 10, 1766, Colonel Jonathan Eddy, a settler in Nova Scotia, who sympathized with the revolting colonists in New England, had raised a force in Maine. Reaching Fort Cumberland in what is now New Brunswick, he sent a demand to Colonel Joseph Gorham to surrender the fort, which was not only refused, but a counter-demand was made for Eddy's surrender. The latter twice attacked the fort, but was each time repulsed and Eddy and his men were driven across the border and the "Eddy rebellion" was at an end.

ED NOTE ... .

Mr. C. T. Pearce, president of A. McKim, Limited, Canadian advertising agents, has just returned from a business trip to England, where he spent seven weeks. He reports finding improved business and industrial conditions, especially around London and the home countries. He said: "In England there is a marked sense of well-being that is missing on this continent. It is probably due to the more balanced outlook and mentality of the people who did not fly off at unsound tangents when they were faced with economic difficulties. There is no ordered or preconceived plan of recovery there as there is in the United States at the present time, but without any ballyhoo or shouting about it the people themselves are drawing out of the depression."

Notes By The Way

The Prime Minister has attributed the satisfactory emergence of Canada from the effects of the world-wide depression to the stability and steadiness of our population. If he were less modest, says an exchange, he would have added the the policies of his own Government—first, in protecting domestic farmers and workers; secondly, in securing preferred markets in other parts of the Empire; and, thirdly, in maintaining the national credit at a high level—have been the determining factors in bringing the country through the trying experiences of the last few years.

The ex-convict who wrote the recent series of sensational articles on Kingston penitentiary left that institution several years ago, and does not know what the conditions are there today. He has been writing ancient history, which ignores the far-reaching reforms carried out there since the present administration took over, and especially during the past year or two. Independent visitors, clergymen, journalists and others, who have investigated the institution seem to be unanimous that it is fairly and decently conducted. Clerical members of presbyteries, which some time ago adopted resolutions condemning, on hearsay, the administration of this great prison, have lately been sending in apologies for having joined in these resolutions.

Mr. Harris Watson, Canadian Trade Commissioner in London, referring to general conditions in the United Kingdom, states that it now seems safe to predict that unless some severe and unexpected check should be experienced during the concluding three months of the year a degree of improvement will be attained in trade, industry, and finance which must exceed the anticipation of all but the most optimistic.

It looks remarkably as though General Italo Balbo became too popular in Italy for Mussolini's comfort; therefore the air marshal is to be sent to govern a distant province overseas until his light burns dim and its effulgnece no longer rivals that of Il Duce. Mussolini is quite the ancient type of benevolent tyrant, giving himself wholeheartedly to the good government of the state and the prosperity of the people, but he must be the whole works. Humble subordinates are suitably rewarded so long as they maintain full humility and definite subordination.

The point in the United States terminating its extradition treaty with Greece is hard to see. It will make it impossible for the United States to extradite criminals from Greece and equally impossible for Greece to extradite criminals from the United States. In other words, each country will be burdened with the other's criminals.

Building and construction contracts awarded in Canada during October were greater than in any month since November, 1931. It is becoming increasingly difficult for the pessimists to maintain the position that the worst is yet to come.

Sir William Clark, lamenting the effect of many current distractions, such as the radio, the motor car, bridge, and the films, on the reading habit, has voiced a conjecture that has been in many minds: "Where is it to end?" asked the British Trade Commissioner. "Will the next generation or the next generation but one read at all, in the serious sense of the word?" Most thoughtful people will concur in the view expressed by Sir William.

It would seem that the emphatic expression of world opinion has had some effect upon Chancellor Hitler, since a Berlin despatch announced that he had issued an order that there is to be no discrimination against Jews in the distribution of winter relief, and that special committees will deal with their appeals. In one of the German universities a Jewish professor is said to have been recalled because of his peculiar qualifications for the position, and the Prussian premier has lately declared that their would be no extreme discrimination against Jewish business men in dealing with public contacts. This may be only a gesture to impress a critical world, but it indicates that world criticism has at least some effect.

The latest conference over the war debts has broken down and Great Britain will make a so-called "token" payment next month in recognition of the fact that her obligations to the United States has not yet been cancelled. It should have been cancelled long ago—partly because the other powers have ceased to pay the Mother Country the money she borrowed for them during the war, and also because all the powers have forgiven Germany her obligations under the reparations agreement. As a matter of fact, most of the money advanced by the United States was advanced while the Allies were fighting its battles overseas simply because it was not in a position to put men in the line until the war was practically over. There is the additional consideration that most of the money borrowed in the United States was expended in the United States for munitions, foodstuffs and other war supplies.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

THE SILENT SYMPTOMS OF CANCER

The fact that the cause of cancer has not been found, and that cancer now stands near the top of the list as a cause of death, does not mean that there is nothing that can be done to cure cancer or prevent deaths therefrom.

Now that cancer clinics are being started in various centres throughout the world there is no question but that thousands of valuable lives could be saved yearly if these clinics were visited by those with suspicious symptoms, just as thousands of lives are being saved in baby, tuberculosis, heart, and other clinics.

Cancer usually starts in one spot, perhaps in a single cell, and in the early stages is painless. A painless tumor or lump therefore should not be disregarded.

A tumor observed by the patient or friends should be examined at once by a physician doing special cancer examinations.

However, it is the cancer that cannot be seen that is dangerous, as the patient may have few if any symptoms.

Dr. T. I. Bennett, in the Practitioner, says that X ray examination will reveal cancer of the stomach in the early stages.

The chemical examination of the stomach and intestine is important as few cases will fail to give a positive test for blood in the stools, or fail to reveal dependable evidence in a carefully made analysis of the stomach contents.

In ulcer of the stomach or first part of the small intestine, there is usually so much pain and distress and the symptoms are so clear, that the ulcer is soon discovered by X ray and other methods. Most of these cases are cured by diet and alkalis, and the remainder by surgery.

But in cancer there is not the clear cut symptoms, and all middle-aged individuals with any stomach or abdominal symptoms—stomach distress or fulness and a feeling that there is an obstruction between stomach and intestine—should not be unduly alarmed, but go to their physician or a cancer clinic and make sure that it is not cancer that is causing the trouble.

The point is that although the cause is unknown physicians and organizations have made it possible to save the lives of victims of cancer, if they apply for help early enough.

An Old Problem

(Financial Post)

When there is much discussion on the subject of poverty in the midst of plenty and of proposed methods of alleviation, it is worth remembering that the problem is a very old one, such as can be illustrated from the chronicles of the ancient Chinese. The trouble then as now was that commodities had to be transported to those who needed them.

A letter writer to the London Times relates the story.

State monopolies date from at least the seventh century B.C. The Emperor Kuan Tshung established a monopoly of iron and salt. Price regulation by State purchase was tried as early as the fourth century B.C.

About 110 B.C. the Emperor Wu Ti formed a sort of "brain trust" to restore finances. He had three advisers—two of them rich capitalists and a brilliant young mathematician. They confirmed the salt and iron monopolies. "Whoever makes his own implements or makes salt shall carry an iron ring on his left foot and his utensils shall be confiscated." The abolition of private trading was tried in order that the middlemen's profits might accrue to the State. Prices were high owing to transport costs and State purchasing. It was proposed to try regional planning. Distant provinces were to give so much produce free and by a system of exchange goods were to reach the capital at a reasonable price fixed by the officials. But the arrangement seems to have cost more than that which it superseded. Forty years later another ruler asked his economists to account for the misery of the people. They presented him with 60 different answers; but agreed that the monopolies and the officials should be removed. Prices were still higher.

About A.D. 10 Wang Mang established six monopolies. Prices were controlled by officials who held surpluses bought when the market was low. But the officials were corrupt and "the people stood weeping in the market places."

In the eleventh century the famous Emperor Wang Ngan Schi tackled the problem afresh. He appointed a Director of Transport, giving him a large fund to control prices and offset transport costs by judicious purchases. Traders could sell to the State or buy on credit against deposited goods. For this accommodation interest was charged. Apparently the system proved too costly for it was abandoned in 1128.

Human Values

(Ottawa Journal)

Honored recently by a great gathering on the occasion of his 67th birthday, H. G. Wells said some things worth pondering. Thus:

"Just now in many regions of the world there is an epidemic of intolerance which takes ugly and novel forms. It is all very well for the exceedingly lucky and pampered writer of radical ideals like myself to discuss in a villiant and facetious manner about book burning, but it is quite a different business in Russia, in Italy and in Germany, above all in Germany.

"The life of a sincere radical author in this country is largely sedentary.

"In Germany the radical writer and the original and honest writer follows an adventurous and dangerous trade. He is hunted and struck at through his family and friends and he will certainly be deprived of his property. He may be killed violently and disgustingly."

Perhaps some of our young radicals, all for change, and so impatient of some of our institutions, are beginning to reflect upon these things. They have been tremendously aggressive. To their ardent spirits, the way to save the world was to change something or everything, and drive full speed ahead.

Also, they have been so contemptuous of some of the rest of us. We were so old-fashioned as to think that the world might be made better a step at a time. Some of us wanted people to know exactly where they were going. We believed in absurd, outworn notions like persuasion, reason, democracy, liberty, the integrity of the individual soul. We were blind to the fact that men ruled not by reason but by emotion and by violence. And we did not know that the betterment of the world is not effected slowly but catastrophically. In a word, we did not believe in progress through mere change, or through Will and Force. We were just "old fogies."

Some recent events in certain lands may bring a change. These superior radicals may not be so sure now that democracy has seen its day, or that Parliamentarianism is just muddle and swindle. They look at Germany. They see, as the New York Times puts it the other day, 70,000,000 people abasing themselves to the level of serfs, submitting to have their political institutions, their social organizations, their churches, their newspapers, their books, their feelings and their thoughts regulated for them by overnight edicts and decrees.

Perhaps, looking at these things, our radicals in a hurry begin to realize the value of things they have been finding so amusing and pathetic—the timid conservatives, the good old idea of Parliament with its checks and balances, the individual rights and liberties which were only pretenses for keeping the masses ensl'aved. Such things take on new warmth and meaning when it is seen what life is like in countries where they have ceased to be. As the New York Times put it the other day.

"Ardent young souls had got to believe that better worlds can be built only by hacking one's way through existing institutions and beliefs. They have now learned that it means hacking down human values and human beings."

The Poet's Corner

ABOVE THE CLOUDS

An Airman's Te Deum

Now Faith again has birth.
Of all the astral gifts, this is the pride,
A simple faith, alas, too oft denied
Upon the sceptic earth.
For in the air, it follows that I must
Cast doubt aside, and gladly take on trust
Each bolt, strut, wire, the fabric on the wings,
And half a hundred unsubstantial things
The which to doubt were Death;
And so with every breath
And every worldless beauty of the sky
My soul, for very joy, proclaims God nigh—
With gathering force until
I feel, despite the vastness all around,
That not one sparrow falleth to the ground
Without Almighty will.
And all his words come true;
Eye hath not seen, nor tongue of man may speak,
These glorious meads, which God Himself may seek
To think on Love anew!

—F. M. F. in the London Times.

Romance Of An Island

(N.Y. Evening Post)

From London there has come a report that a two-man exploring expedition is to set out for the Island of Tristan da Cunha, lying in the South Atlantic, midway between Buenos Aires and the Cape of Good Hope, with the object of bringing relief to its destitute and almost starving population of some two hundred persons. This is a curious climax to the history of Tristan da Cunha. For at one time the little island community, made up of the descendants of deserters and castaways from British and American sailing vessels, was very prosperous. It did a rousing trade supplying whaleships, which called there regularly in the course of their long voyages about either Cape Horn or the Cape of Good Hope, with potatoes and other vegetables.

One of the first settlers on Tristan was an American sailor named Lambert, "late of Salem, mariner and citizen thereof," who declared himself sovereign and sole possessor of the island group, "grounding my right and claim on the rational and sure ground of absolute occupancy." But, his rule was short-lived, and it was under the self-assumed governorship of a certain William Glass, a British soldier who remained on the island after the withdrawal of a British garrison stationed there for a short time after the War of 1812, that Tristan became an important whaling centre.

Glass welcomed any seaman from visiting ships who chose to remain and, after a number of colored women had been brought over from Cape Colony the population of the island gradually increased to about one hundred. The members of this mixed colony, over which Glass ruled in patriarchal fashion, by exchanging the products of their husbandy for such supplies as they needed from the stores of the visiting whalehsips, managed to live a comfortable life despite their isolation. After Glass's death in 1853, conditions grew less favorable, and with the decline of whaling in the latter half of the century it became increasingly hard to make life on Tristan da Cunha self-sustaining. Nevertheless, visitors continued to praise the good order in which the community lived, despite the absence of any written laws. The islanders were generally described as moral, religious, hospitable to strangers and industrious.

It is the complete disappearance of sailing vessels, depriving Tristan of the part it once played as a port of call in the South Atlantic, which has made necessary the present rescue expedition. Still, the island may yet know something of its old prosperity in a way of which the whalers of a century ago would never have dreamed. The possibilities of developing it as an air base for South Atlantic air services are to be investigated.

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