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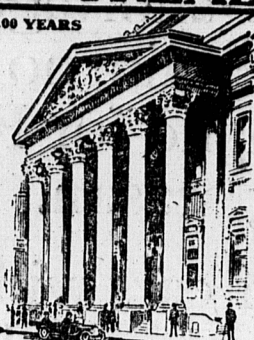
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THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (founded 1887) \$4.00 per year (delivered) in advance \$3.00 per year (mailed, in advance, in Canada, and \$3.50 for U. S. A.)

Manj. A. A. Barlett, President. J. H. Burnett, Editor and Publisher D. K. Currie, Associate Editor.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1920.

MR. KING'S NEUTRAL ATTITUDE.

The Toronto Globe, which in times past tended the altar fires of Liberalism pure and undefiled, is not satisfied with Hon. Mr. MacKenzie King's speeches during his tour of the Maritime Provinces.

The Globe observes: "To the vital question of prohibition Mr. King made no reference. His suggestion that the Grand Trunk purchase project should be referred to the people, presumably by referendum, is not a practical one, and leaves his own position undisclosed."

And the Globe adds: "But Mr. King cannot take a neutral attitude and expect any accession of strength in Ontario or Western Canada."

Mr. King told his St. John audience that attitude was all-important, more important than the questions to which an attitude was taken, but if he has only disclosed a neutral attitude on Liberal principles to the senior Liberal organ it can hardly be supposed that he revealed himself in a more impressive attitude to the wise men among the Liberal of the East.

EVIDENCES OF PROSPERITY.

Further evidence of continued progress in Canada is furnished in a building summary for 1919, published in the current issue of "Construction," a periodical devoted to building.

In Ontario a most remarkable increase is noted. London and the border cities of Windsor and Walkerville are well over the two million.

Unfortunately, with the exception of Halifax which appropriated over five millions, only two other Maritime cities are included in the list. These are St. John, N. B., and Truro, N. S., which appropriated respectively \$2,900,000 and \$155,000.

The total building operations for the thirty-eight cities included in the list amounted to \$73,684,453. Toronto has the largest total, amounting to \$19,420,000 an increase of ten millions over the previous year.

These are evidences of prosperity, evidences which are to be found not only in the thirty-eight cities named but all over Canada. They indicate permanent investment in real estate, employment, manufacture and confidence in the future of the country.

EUROPE'S DANGER.

"Great Britain is not bankrupt, says Sir George Paish, Advisor to the British Lord Chancellor but intimates that the world's trade is facing a collapse unless the United States comes to the rescue.

The Express fears that unless America comes to the rescue with substantial credits Europe will go bankrupt and Bolshevist, and it sees little chance of the United States erecting a ring fence that would keep out Bolshevism.

Modern Critic Assails Some Old Masters

Mr. Haywood Brown, the most readable, if not the most authoritative, of American literary and dramatic critics, finds fault rather violently with the United States Government for its choice of thirty works of fiction, which, through the Bureau of Education, it recommends to the public.

The Old Timers.

We present the Government list, which is supposed to have the approval of such authorities as Prof. William Lyon Phelps, of Yale; Prof. Richard Burton, of the University of Minnesota; Prof. C. Alphonse Smith, of Virginia, and Prof. Charles Forster Smith, of the University of Wisconsin:—

"Adam Bede," "Arabian Nights," "A Modern Instance," "Clarissa Harlowe," "David Copperfield," "Guy Ranning," "Henry Esmond," "Ivanhoe," "Joseph Vance," "Kidnapped," "Lorna Doone," "Luck of Roaring Camp," "Ordeal of Richard Feverel," "Pilgrim's Progress," "Pride and Prejudice," "Robinson Crusoe," "Romolo," "Tale of Two Cities," "Cloister and the Hearth," "Vanity Fair," "Vicar of Wakefield," "Last of the Mohicans," "Scarlet Letter," "The Pilot," "Les Miserables," "Three Musketeers," "Pere Goriot," "Anna Karantina," "With Fire and Sword," and "Treasure Island." It is to be noted that with the exception of "Joseph Vance," "Kidnapped," "Richard Feverel," "Luck of Roaring Camp," "Treasure Island," "With Fire and Sword" and "A Modern Instance," there is no book on the list that has been dead a long time that is truly; and we should not like to be forced to maintain that this half dozen represents the supreme accomplishments in English fiction since Dickens laid down his pen.

It Takes All Kinds.

We do not suppose that there are many warm champions of Fenimore Cooper, men who would contend, for instance, that he was as great a writer as Samuel Butler, or John Galsworthy; but the New York Tribune critic will probably be challenged when he protests against "Lorna Doone" being included. George Moore had likewise a low opinion of "Lorna Doone," while to others it seems as perfect a work in its way as "The Cloister and the Hearth"—something that occurred just once in English literature. Still less will Mr. Brown be permitted to "get by" with his impatience over the fact that Scott, Dickens and Thackeray are represented by two books in the list, though some may wonder why "Bleak House" was

Daily Selections For Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. S. Louson

COME HALF WAY

The politics of small boys is often as interesting as that of grown-ups. The other day we saw two lads, at a considerable distance from each other. One called to the other: "Come over here." The answer came: "No, you come over here." "Oh, come over here," renewed the former. The answer came: "No I won't. You come over here." There was a pause and then the first called out cheerily: "Come half way" and the other answered: "All right," and soon they were discussing the merits of a shingle boat the first lad had manufactured with his jack-knife.

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Report of Department of Land and Mines, Fredericton, N. B.

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not chosen in preference to a Mr. Brown says that if he had had the making of the list not more than ten or twelve of the thirty would have been included. He surely would have had "Huckleberry Finn," and so say all of us. Hardy, too, would have been represented and he says that Hardy wrote at least six novels any one of which is better entitled to reason we can at least give the compilers credit for originality, since "Tom Jones" is generally conceded to be one of the supremely great English novels.

with unappreciation of Conrad, but it is amazing to find anyone who loves novels who despises both Kipling and Conrad. Mr. Brown would have had both Bennett and Wells represented, one by "The Old Wives Tale"—we prefer "Clayhanger"—and the other by "Tono Bungay" or "The Research Magnificent"—we prefer "Mr. Polly" or "Love and Mr. Lewisham." In fact, we think that Mr. Brown will find most people agree with him that the list is wrong and few agree with his suggested improvements.

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