

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN Visit to Japan Recalls Hearn

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THURSDAY, MARCH 27th, 1919 TO CELEBRATE PEACE.

It is now anticipated the Treaty of Peace will be signed before Easter and that Queen of Festivals may yet be celebrated with a Christian on a new era in the world's history. It behooves us in this blessed province this island that has so much to praise God for, to make satisfactory arrangements for the due celebration of the great event. Of course, church services are a sine qua non and it may be left to the various churches in town and country to make their own arrangements for joint or individual celebrations. But there ought to be more than that. There ought

to be two great official services—Protestant and Catholic—in the capital of the province taken part in by all the organizations of the province and thereafter an adjournment to some central place such as the Market Hall, or if the weather be fine, the Abegweit grounds, where orations suitable to the occasion may be delivered. Let there be a great Te Deum from the heart of the people to the Almighty for the great mercy vouchsafed. Then let the people rejoice in a public holiday and give the newly organized Abegweit Club an opportunity to organize the sports.

SIR ROBERT BORDEN'S FUTURE.

Quid-nuncs have been busy lately with the future of Sir Robert Borden. He has been "slated" for High Commissioner in London, a peerage with a place in the British Cabinet and the Ambassadorship to Washington. There is no doubt Sir Robert would adorn any of the positions and there is no office in the gift of the King too good for him. But there is little prospect of the Prime Minister donning his present mantle yet awhile. He has not accomplished the work to which he put his hand in 1914 when he brought joy to the Mother Country by unhesitatingly aligning Canada on the side of liberty, freedom and righteousness. Sir Robert is busy at the Peace Conference, and has just made it clear that neither Canada nor any of the other Dominions wishes to be mixed up in future with any European

differences in which the Empire is not involved. In other words, Sir Robert maintains that the League of Nations can get on as best it may without the assistance of Canada so long as the interests of the British Empire are not at stake. To this Australia and the United States say amen, acknowledging that Sir Robert expresses their own sentiments in the matter. It is expected Sir Robert will be kept busy in Europe until Easter, when he will return to Ottawa and resume the leadership of the Government. Sir Thomas White, who has done admirably as acting premier, and has won high encomiums from his own party and the Opposition as well for his tact and diplomacy will then bring down his budget and the work of the session will proceed apace.

GOOD NEWS FOR FARMERS.

Another victory for co-operation is announced from St. John. The potato growers of New Brunswick were feeling so intensely the effect of the high price of nitrates that they approached their competitors in Aroostook County, Maine, with a view to joint action. The farmers of Carleton, Victoria and Aroostook held a meeting four weeks ago and entered their emphatic protest against the almost prohibitive cost of fertilizer which was quoted at \$90 at the mill and \$90 delivered in Aroostook County. Resolutions were adopted calling upon the Governments of the United States and Canada to enquire into the fertiliz-

er situation which the farmers said was such as to make potato growing prohibitive. Many of the producers declared they would turn their acreage into grain if they could not buy fertilizer at reasonable prices. The corporation which conveys nitrates claimed that war conditions still prevented them reducing the price, but after the resolutions were passed and without waiting for the Governments to interfere, the corporation announced a cut of \$35 per ton, making the price f.o.b. St. John \$61.00. It should be now possible for P. E. I. farmers to get a supply.

FOOLING WITH FREE TRADE.

The Opposition at Ottawa undoubtedly deserve credit for successful party tactics in springing their tariff amendment on the House at the eleventh hour and fifty-fifth minute. The debate on the address had petered out and no amendment had been moved by the Liberals. Talk-worby, long-winded, gas-inflated speeches had poured incessantly for a month from the sparsely filled Opposition benches, but never a hint that the solidarity of the Government forces would be challenged. Then when the debate had practically closed, and the Government had moved for the preliminary supply vote to enable it to carry on until the main votes had been passed, Mr. McMaster, the financial critic of the Opposition, came forward with an amendment calling for free trade on selected articles and fifty per cent. preference on others. The amendment, of course, was not intended to be taken seriously, but merely as a trap to catch Free Trade Unionists and to embarrass, if possible, the forces of the Government. But the Opposition reckoned without that stalwart Free Trade Unionist, Dr. Michael Clark of Red Deer. "Red Michael" was not to be caught with any camouflaged bait, however tempting.

LIBERAL LEADERSHIP.

The Liberal convention has been postponed from June to September. In the meantime opportunity will be taken to boost one or other of the aspirants to the leadership. It is generally conceded that there is no one in sight who at present would command general support from both East and West. Fielding and McKenzie King have strong following in Ontario, but Quebec wants to have nothing to do with the former and the Western Liberals are opposed to the latter. The West has to be reckoned with in the choice of a Liberal leader, and Quebec also demands consideration. So far as the Maritime Provinces are concerned they are likely to accept any nomination that proves acceptable to the majority. They have no nominee,

prepared, and he said so in his usual vigorous uncompromising manner. It was too late in the day, he said, for Liberals to pretend to be Free Trade enthusiasts. For years prior to 1896 they had paraded the country with Free Trade in the forefront of their program. They took office in that year, and from then till 1911 when the country sent them about their business they did nothing to put their Free Trade promises into effect. Nay, rather, they had played up to the "big interests" and saddled the country with untold debt and contingent liabilities trying to serve the high protectionists and private interests. Dr. Michael Clark and his colleagues were not any longer going to be made tools of, or fools of, in order to provide food for an Opposition gala day, and so they turned down the Free Trade resolution as spurious counterfeit and of no intrinsic value. The Opposition, therefore, instead of gaining anything, except a reputation for "smartness," failed to embarrass the Government or to estrange any of its followers. What they did do was to compromise many protectionist Liberals from Quebec, whose only excuse for supporting the amendment must be that they knew it would not carry.

though they would be perfectly willing to allow McKenzie, the acting leader of the Opposition in the House to become leader of the party in the country. Quebec would acquiesce in this arrangement rather than that the West should get its way with the nomination of Martin, McKenzie King would fill the bill so far as Quebec is concerned, as he was anti-conscriptionist at last election, but on the other hand Western Liberals—or many of them—consider that "virtue" is an insurmountable barrier to his claims. During the next six months opportunity will be sought to "feel" the constituencies, and no doubt when the convention meets in September one or two names will be definitely before the party for selection.

Mr. Andre Bellessort, whose study of Japanese society was "crowned" by the French Academy, publishes in "Le Nouveau Japon" the impressions of his second visit to Japan which are translated in the New York Times. The most interesting part of this work is the chapter which he calls "The Adventure of Lafcadio Hearn." Nearly 25 years ago the original, distinctive, charm of style, and psychological eccentricity of this writer began to be recognized in France. In the days of his obscurity he translated some of Theophile Gautier's tales. He belongs, Mr. Bellessort says, to the family of Chateaubriand, Gautier, Baudelaire, Loti: "His exoticism, like theirs, is a reaction against the commonplace in modern life, that life which, all the same, will in its turn become antique life and awaken under the dust of ages as full of sorcery as Egyptian tombs. What distinguishes him is the uneasiness, some times reaching to positive anguish with which he hunts a country for himself, sometimes through space and sometimes through time."

Rousseau and Hearn

For Chateaubriand and Gautier exoticism is but a means of extending their eye ego or beguiling their melancholy. They are not real exotics till they get home. Where as Hearn is a "nomad with a patriarchal instinct."

Mr. Bellessort might well have included Rousseau among the ancestors or congeners of Hearn. His inveterate suspicion, his obsessions of persecution and neglect, his turnings on his friends, his morbid neuroticism are genuine Rousseau. Mr. Bellessort, who made his acquaintance in 1898 at Tokio, describes him thus:

"With fine regular features, his face would have been attractive had it not been for the accident which cost him his left eye and gave a strange dilation to his right eye. Beneath a forehead of graceful shape and in a delicate face, this enormous eye made the impression of the deformity of a Cyclops. His smile under his mustache had an incisive character out of harmony with his timidity, the timidity of an instinct which hesitates before the shadow of a hand. I felt that my visit was unwelcome to him and that he regarded me as a danger."

Jekyll and Hyde

This eye "whose size awakened the idea of fragility," from that moment that you saw nothing else in his face but that, seemed "wonderfully beautiful." Then suddenly it would darken. It would become full of suspicion. The gentleness of his writings, reflected but a part of his nature; the other "was furtive and passionate." Mr. Bellessort gives a charming picture of Matsue, Hearn's first Japan, an "ageless city, a pure Japanese city, built, burned, rebuilt, returned and rebuilt for hundreds of years." Ringed with mountains at the mouth of a river and on the bank of a great lake whose waves

Daily Selections for Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. S. Louson

BEAUTIFUL HANDS

Such beautiful, beautiful hands. They're neither white nor small, And you, I know, would scarcely think That they were fair at all. I've looked on hands whose form and line.

A sculptor's dream might be; Yet are these aged wrinkled hands More beautiful to me.

Such beautiful, beautiful hands— Though heart were weary and sad, These patient hands kept tolling on. The children might be glad, I almost weep as looking back To childhood's distant day. I think how these hands rested not When mine were at their play.

Such beautiful, beautiful hands— They're growing feeble now; For time and pain have left their mark On hand and heart and brow. Alas! Alas! the nearing time, And the sad, sad day to me, When "neath the daisies, out of sight, These hands will folded be.

But oh! beyond this shadow land, Where all is bright and fair, I know full well these dear old hands Will palms of victory bear. Where crystal streams, through endless years, Flow over golden sands. And when the old grow young again, I'll clasp my mother's hands.

reflect its thousand balconies of wood. Its long streets are winding and narrow; gods are the only dwellers in others; in others dealers in antiquities and family affairs. He called on Mrs. Hearn in Tokio. In Hearn's room, the remotest in the house, the furthest from noise, he is perpetually remembered:

In Hearn's Room

"The night lamp burns; the incense sticks smoke; water, rice, bread, or flowers follow one another on the table of offering; and every evening the four children and their mother come to bow and wish good night to the invisible father and husband. Never have I had so keen an impression of a dead man's presence. I recalled what Lafcadio Hearn wrote about the familiarity of ancestor worship and the tenderness which surrounds the spirits of the dead. They honored, they are loved, you live under their eyes, you share with them your daily portion of joy and sorrow."

In Hearn's Matsue gardens the frogs of good luck and the innumerable family of snakes that have no fear of man are seen no more. Plants and trees and rocks and stones have entered into Nirvana, as he said they would. "They have entered there with him," says Mr. Bellessort, gracefully. "Only the gravel remains intact."

Among the Tombs of Japan

The Japanese themselves are naturally not enamored of an artist who loved old world Japan, thereby tacitly condemning the new society. "What would you think," a professor of the University of Tokio said, "of a stranger who admired nothing of France save the Middle Ages or the Renaissance? What would the English think of a stranger who wore mourning for Queen Elizabeth and insisted on weeping for Shakespeare's death?" Japan is doing great things and planning better while Hearn was hiding in the past and making spectral evocations. The world is for the living. One sympathizes with the fury of the young Futurists and Nationalists of Italy against the tourist installations, against the notion that Italy must be a mere treasure house of art and antiquities. Japan, like every other nation, has her life to live. Hearn was but a mediator among her tombs.

Victory Highway

Sir,—May I, as a soldier's Mother, say a word for the Victory Highway for P. E. I? Our boys fought that the world might have a larger, deeper, sense of freedom. The opening up of a Victory Highway would bring new life to the Island, would bring improved transportation facilities to the farmers and merchants, would give young people a larger outlook, give them more to live for in their own home towns. Most of those boys were brought up on farms. Don't you think if they could say one word for themselves, they would be glad to know that for all they had gone through, their work had brought some tangible, lasting good, to their own home, and their own people. They fought bravely and unselfishly not for themselves, but for others, they would not care to have their relatives sadly look at a pile of stone of a glass window as their symbol. Their work is not finished, it lives, and will go gloriously on, and the boys that have come back will "carry on" in their name. I am, Sir, etc.

Hungarian Soldiers Ordered to Rejoin Their Regiments

BASEL, March 26.—The Hungarian Commissioner for Military Affairs, says a Budapest despatch today, has issued an order instructing all soldiers to rejoin their units without delay. "If the soldiers do not do their duty the Hungarian Soviet republic is doomed." He adds: "The revolutionary government requires armed discipline and it will create an army well equipped and disciplined."

HINTS FOR THE MOTORIST by ALBERT L. CLOUGH

DRYING OUT DRAINED ENGINE



J. A. M. writes: I keep my car in a cold garage and draw off the cooling water every night. When it is brought in hot, is it necessary to run the engine, after letting out the water, long enough to evaporate whatever liquid may remain in the system?

Answer: We do not consider it necessary or advisable to run the engine until the inside of the jackets are fully dried out. Moisture merely adhering to the inside walls of the cooling system can give no trouble from freezing, but pockets of water anywhere in the system may do so. Running the engine a while, usually shakes out what little water falls to run out through the drain cocks or brings it into the pump, from which it is expelled. If, however, you wish to run the engine to dry it out pretty thoroughly, you can safely operate it until the cylinder heads become too hot to touch with the hand for any length of time.

PECULIAR ANTI-FREEZE LIQUID



A. C. asks: What can you say about using a mixture of kerosene and water in the radiator during cold weather?

Questions of general interest to motorists will be answered in this column, space permitting. Address Albert L. Clough, care of this office.

Answer: It seems as if this must be a joke, because kerosene and water do not mix. If they are put into a cooling system, at the same time the water sinks to the bottom, and the kerosene floats upon it. The water is just as likely to freeze as though there were no kerosene near it. Kerosene alone is sometimes used as a non-freeze liquid, but the combination which you suggest is not worth considering.

TESTING SPARK-PLUGS



J. A. M. writes: I test each of the spark-plugs of my engine, by removing it from its cylinder, trying it on the engine, with the cable connected to it and running the engine on the other five cylinders. Should the plug being tested give a steady stream of fire, or should it come and go. It is true that a plug may act all right when tested in this manner and still fail to work properly when under-compression.

Answer: The spark at the plug under test should be perfectly regular, not intermittent, and if the engine is running at good speed, it should appear continuous. At low speed, each separate spark can be distinguished. When tested in the open air, a plug with a cracked porcelain or dirty insulating surfaces may spark perfectly, but when under-compression, the electrical discharge may pass through the crack in the core or over the surface of the porcelain and no spark occur between the points.

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MY UNCLE BILL.

My Uncle Bill was different from a lot of men I know. He never was ashamed, when asked, to say he didn't know. He never picked opinions from the other fellow's tree. However good a gardener the other man might be. He used to say: "Perhaps, he's right, but still I won't admit that I should think the self-same way until I've studied it."

"The Lord gave me a brain to use and eyes with which to see. With ready-made ideas, though, He didn't outfit me. He didn't send me down to earth to sit around and blink. And be contented with the things which other people think. He didn't say: 'You'll find your thought in books on any shelf.' I fancy that He hoped I'd do some thinking for myself."

"He sent me here with power to make my choice 'twixt right and wrong. To choose the lodge and church and school to which I would belong. And no man takes another's word for what is good to eat. For what with man's calls bitter food, another swears is sweet. And so with men's opinions I'll not quarrel or agree Until I've done some thinking and the truth seems clear to me."

IT IS ACTUAL RESULTS THAT COUNT

The popularity of Great West Life Policies can easily be accounted for when you read of such settlements to satisfied Policyholders, as the following samples, which speak for themselves.

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