

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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President Lieut. Col. W. Chester S. McLure
Vice President J. R. Burnett
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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink."

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1938.

Who Is Responsible?

Last October our Board of Trade were successful in getting the members of the Maritime Board of Trade to a resolution stressing the immediate necessity of providing additional ferry service to handle the rapidly increasing traffic...

Another objection was, of course, that the old steamer is necessary in emergencies and that to undertake extensive remodeling during the winter months, when she might at any time be required to substitute for the S.S. Charlottetown...

Now what has happened? Last week the ferry steamer was seriously crippled by the loss, first, of a forward propeller and then by the breaking of one of the blades of the after propeller...

This example of lack of foresight and of disregard for federal obligations to maintain efficient and continuous winter communications coincided with the visit here, on a sorrowful mission, of our influential representative, Finance Minister Dunning...

There should be an investigation into this matter and the responsibility for such blundering placed where it belongs. The railway authorities could only have acted with the sanction of the Transport Minister...

The Status Of The Press

Sir Samuel Hoare, British Home Secretary, is manifestly in accord with the Supreme Court of Canada on the question of the freedom of the press, as a necessary bulwark of representative government...

Our U. S. Trade Trend

A recent news story from Washington contained the following sentence: "Canada, which took merchandise valued at \$510,000,000 in 1937, or 33 per cent more than in 1936, was the second largest foreign market for American exports..."

An adverse trade balance with the United States of \$111,000,000 in one year is one which should give Canadians cause for thought and analysis. Those imports are equivalent to a per capita expenditure of practically a dollar a week for every man, woman and child in this country...

ments a reviewer, it is interesting to speculate that if the dollar a week had been spent on Canadian merchandise, wherever possible, it would have meant a tremendous increase in sales and lead to the absorption of many of Canada's unemployed by industry.

A few years ago, in an advertisement released by the Dominion government, it was estimated that manufactured goods with a value of \$5,610 provided work for one man (presumably for one year). If that estimate is true, then the Dominion's imports from the United States last year represented employment for 9,000 Canadians...

Editorial Notes

Gustavus III assassinated this date 1792.
To-morrow, the wearin' o' the green, and all that it means.

More people seemed to be interested in the Junior Hockey Championship than in the European situation, judging by the calls received Monday night.

How long can the city stand relief expenditure at the rate of \$2,300 per week, and what are the Federal and Provincial Governments going to do about it?

Being democratic parties, both the Liberals and Conservatives must have meetings of their Association executives to discuss the vacancy in Queen's, the election for which has been fixed for Monday, May 2, seven weeks hence.

From now on bachelors will be barred from holding civil service positions under the Fascist regime in Italy. All civil servants over 60 years of age have been retired and replaced by young married persons.

Dr. William Allen, head of the department in the faculty of agriculture, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, has been appointed agricultural commissioner for Canada in the United Kingdom, a newly-created post. He will take over his duties in May.

In a Forum letter headed "More Taxes Coming," by "Consumer" in yesterday's Guardian our correspondent said a market woman used to supply him with cream but stopped doing so because one bottle "was confiscated without paying for it, by a policeman, for testing, and she was notified she must take out a license before selling any more."

Production of creamery butter in February amounted to 7,507,335 pounds compared with 8,344,456 in the previous month and 7,615,695 in February, 1937. Increased production was recorded in six provinces while three reported declines as compared with the corresponding month last year.

Returning Officer Gaetan Valois, announced final figures for the Dominion by-election in Argenteuil showed 4,939 votes cast in the 66 polls for Georges H. Heon, successful Conservative candidate, compared with 3,281 for L. Legault, Liberal, and 405 for Maurice Navion, Labor-Liberal.

Alberta has offered to yield to the federal Government its jurisdiction over the small loan business, thus becoming the first Canadian province to commit itself in this fashion to aid the Dominion to curb "loan shark" evils and generally to regulate the small loan business.

Sir Charles McRae, Sheriff of London, England, and Lady McRae were in Montreal en route to Saint John where they sailed for London on Saturday. They were not very favourably impressed with Montreal sidewalks and did not hesitate to say so.

The enormous amount of gold which Great Britain is now holding in her Central Bank and at the Exchange Equalization Reserve Fund will ensure that the events of 1931 will never recur again with their embarrassing and degrading conditions.

The Fathers of Confederation about whom we hear so much, would never have recognized themselves in the gilded frame in which we have put them. They were just run-of-the-mill politicians. White-haired gentlemen are apt to think that they were all giants in those days, and that we are now cursed with a plague of political pigmies.

NOTES BY THE WAY

One of the most grisly tragedies now being staged is the latest treason trial in Russia. It is not abate its grimness that objectively it show up as a howling farce. The self-confession, the readiness to provide evidence for the own guilt, the acceptance of crimes for which the accused provide all the worst adjectives make the thing fantastic.

Japan's Government has won a prize for the prize for the Government which has the greatest success in disquising unpleasant fact in pleasant language. The British Government takes its claim by calling the "Distressed Areas" have "Special Areas," and the United States by naming its "slump" a "recession."

For fifteen or more years British governments supported the League, the League policy was faced, a League, tried-through the League—to get disarmament. If now, after that long and patient experiment, the League policy work, that it doesn't provide "collective security," and doesn't secure peace, not said to disarmament, why shouldn't it say so?

A news item appearing in a Detroit paper by correspondents of two men, charged with kidnapping four young people and forcing them to drive to Toledo, Ohio, and then to a field in a field of ice, with no land visible and only a few hungry seagulls to link the party with civilization.

Another thing which delayed the part was that the captain lost the way. For an hour the S.S. Charlottetown was in a field of ice, with no land visible and only a few hungry seagulls to link the party with civilization. We think of any number of things. It sounds like a football signal to us, but evidently it meant the boat was out of bounds.

Canada's tobacco crop last year was valued at \$17,000,000 three times the worth ten years ago. Eighty-five per cent consumed in Canada, the rest being exported, chiefly to Great Britain. As the quality constantly improves, Canadian tobacco promises to become as famous as the country's wheat.—Moncton Times.

Are those who blame Mr. Chamberlain for his policy and accuse him of shapine it in response to the threats of foreign dictators saved to the defence of the expedition of the British government—hard realities—by proving their charges are mere conjectures? Why then, Chamberlain, did you not use a mightily force if he is accepting dictation from those most likely to fear Britain's power? And why announce the Comm'nwealth's support of the Anglo-Italian "friendship talk" in a Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

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Further Comments

On P. E. Island By Liberal Scribe

(One of the newspapers accompanying the Rowell Commission here was Mr. J. B. McGeachy, of the Winnipeg Free Press, who is a member of the Commission. The following article by Mr. McGeachy appeared in the editorial page of a recent issue of the Free Press.)

It is a mistake to suppose, as we did in geographical innocence, that you get to Prince Edward Island in a quick trip by rowboat or other small craft. From Halifax to Charlottetown takes all day and includes a deep sea voyage on a stout ship complete with decks, foghorns and jolly tars who exclaim "Aye aye, sir" or "Ship ahoy" as the case may be. It was this vessel which lately took the Rowell Commission and party across the sea to the garden of the gulf, then regretfully under the weather and looking more like a polar ice cap than a greenhouse.

The first part of the journey from Halifax is by land to Cape Tormentine on the north coast of New Brunswick at which point, surprisingly, it is needed to get off the train. Coaches are backed into the ship's hold and carried across. An old trick to maritime people, no doubt, but surprising to the landlubbers.

Passengers with none of the seagoing spirit may stay below in a Pullman all the way to Charlottetown and ignore the Atlantic ocean. Hardier spirits who go aloft find a promenade deck where they can see the sea and a lunch room which puts up an excellent oyster stew and a lounge with a gramophone which for a time will play "The Work You Can Get It." Mariners are visible all over the place. The ship, part of the C.N.R. system, is crewed by a crew of 70 and to lose only \$1,000 a day.

This commodious craft, the "S.S. Charlottetown," ordinarily makes the eight-mile trip to Charlottetown in 50 minutes, but one of the Commission's crossings took two hours and a half. At this time of year the channel is nearly closed by the ice. The voyage is mainly a job of cutting ice three feet thick. Nothing makes you feel so much like a pioneer as sailing through the ice.

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formation and can only report that when rum appears, and is of a quality and richness adequate to counteract the chilling blast of winter, by it, we passed the first night in Charlottetown dreaming peacefully of ice packs. Later events there will take another instalment.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

INCREASE AIR SERVICE

Sir—With the great delays and partial disruption of the car-ferry service due to heavy ice and propeller trouble, it seems strange that the Post Office department has not arranged for an air mail service to connect with the Maritime Express. In times like this all the letter mail for Prince Edward Island might well be carried by air. And if a forenoon flight from Moncton were available many commercial men and others would certainly take the air trip of less than an hour rather than endure the discomforts and uncertainties of ten or more hours on the rail trip from Moncton, not to mention the working day gained. To encourage travel, the rate for the morning flight should be somewhat lower than that for the afternoon trip while the cost to the Post Office for the two round trips per day should certainly not be double that for the single trip now provided.

PROGRESS

Surely our P. O. Inspector and our Island representatives at Ottawa will wake up and realize how greatly Prince Edward Island's service could be improved during the few weeks of heavy ice that lie ahead by extension of our air service. Perhaps, too, the necessity of ferrying mail car might be obviated, thus releasing space for two extra cars of freight.

EDUCATION REFORM

Sir—Much has been written within recent times regarding reform in the public school curriculum in this province. Contributions have ranged from the simple efforts of earnest teachers, somewhat obscure and untremulous labours of the intellectuals. Some splendid ideas have been expressed in a correspondence of a voluminous and widely divergent character. Not only have the advocates of reform carried their case to the press, but special committees have been wrestling with the problem, joint meetings have been held and recommendations have been forwarded to farmers' meetings for ratification. In addition, no doubt government departments have been approached in the interests of what is described as urgent necessity in educational matters.

Concentration of reform forces seem to be centered on the complete elimination of Latin, French, Geometry and Algebra from the common school studies, and a substitution thereof of a broader course in English, agriculture and social and economic studies. The argument is advanced that this change would bring about a much more efficient form of education in a community that is predominantly rural, and would more effectively equip our young people to assume life's responsibilities.

I have every respect for these whose interests in rural development prompt suggestions for the social and economic advancement of our people, but I cannot see how the program projected will ever solve this problem. As a matter of fact, not one advocate pro or con has advanced a real solution. I admit, however, the interest and enthusiasm that leads to the advocacy of even a questionable experiment. These

plions of public improvement are at least heading in the right direction, and will travel some distance before their vehicle of reform and progress is abandoned. I am partly in accord, however, with some of the representations that have been presented. I am very strongly behind a proposal to enlarge the training in English, but it would be a mistake to completely eliminate Latin, French, Geometry and Algebra. Reduce them, by all means. Take away one half of the time devoted to home study would be released. Geometry, particularly, is the bugbear of average students, and its reduction would relieve the student of labor and worry, that would be reflected in a broader knowledge in more immediately essential subjects. The intensified study of mathematical problems is not for the mind of tender years, but should come when greater maturity in years and less complicated branches have been reached and explored. Overloading the mind of children of eleven to fourteen years of age with Latin, Algebra and Geometry tasks, smacks too much of mental cruelty. Leave these studies for later years, more advanced teachers, and release the time for other purposes.

The common school course is undoubtedly weak in an adequate English training. Broaden it out into a more comprehensive literary and reading program, involving the simpler and more beautiful selections of age with Latin, Algebra and Geometry tasks, smacks too much of mental cruelty. Leave these studies for later years, more advanced teachers, and release the time for other purposes.

With earnest thou gazest Comes boding of terror, Comes phantasm and error, Perplexing the bravest, With doubt and misgiving. But heed are the voices, Heard are the Sages, The World's and the Age's: "Choose well; your choice is Brief and yet enduring.

Here eyes do regard you In Eternity's stillness; Here is all fullness, The World's and the Age's: "Work, and despair not!" —Thomas Carlyle

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