

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1934.

PAARDEBERG

The parade of South African war veterans to St. Paul's Church yesterday is a reminder of the passing of time, and of the fact that it is thirty-four years this month since the momentous siege of Paardeberg and the battle which ended with the surrender of Cronje and the termination, virtually, of the war. Sixty Prince Edward Islanders enlisted in the Boer War, and about seventeen survive, among whom are many who also performed gallant service in the Great War. In keeping with the anniversary, the South African monument has been draped in black, with crossed flags—a tribute to the memory of Roland Taylor and Alfred Riggs, Charlottetown volunteers who paid the supreme sacrifice. On Tuesday evening the South African war veterans will hold a reunion. The years have not dimmed their vivid recollection of the hardships and adventures incurred, and there will be many reminiscences exchanged when they gather round the festive board.

THE UPTREND

A stock argument used by Liberal orators in Parliament this session is that the evidences of economic recovery in Canada are due to the improvement in United States effected by President Roosevelt's policies. Of course, the Liberal leader, Mr. Mackenzie King, maintains there are no evidences of economic recovery, but this contention is so at variance with facts ascertainable by every intelligent selector that his supporters prefer accepting the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports as authoritative, but have endeavored to transfer the credit from the Bennett Government to Mr. Roosevelt. This explanation, however, fails to account for a fact to which the Toronto Globe (Liberal) calls attention in a recent leading editorial. It says:

"The valuable reports of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics give indication that business activity is speeding up. The pace of recovery from the depths of depression is more swift in Canada than in the United States, although our neighbors to the south have spent vastly greater sums from the public treasury than Canada in proportion to population, to set business going again."

The Globe, after analyzing the evidences of Canada's trade recovery, says:

"The steady increase shown in tonnage of freight, despite a very great falling off in the movement of Western wheat to the seaboard as a result of the poor harvest last fall, not only indicates increased activity in forest, mine and factory, but leads to the conclusion that the margin of profit on the business done is distinctly greater than it was a year ago. If the relation of value to profit in internal trade is at all in correspondence to that indicated by export volume and value, as shown in the advance of wheat, bacon, and similar export commodities, shippers of freight are making at least fair profits, and are no longer carrying on business so hold their factory organization together, as many wise and patient business men have been doing for the past three years."

DISCORDANT ORGANS

The Eastern Chronicle, the New Glasgow weekly edited by a Liberal member of the Nova Scotia Legislature, takes to task the Halifax Chronicle, professedly the leading organ of the party in the Province, for a grave misstatement of fact. It seems that the Halifax Liberal paper recently carried the picture of two Liberal politicians and announced that the appointment of one of them as Speaker of the next Legislature, and of the other as Sergeant-at-Arms, had been discussed and decided upon at a Liberal caucus. To this announcement the New Glasgow Liberal paper takes exception. "It is just as well to be truthful in such matters," it says, adding emphatically that "there was never any discussion, or even mention, at the caucus, nor were any such proposals even whispered."

Since the New Glasgow editor in his political capacity was presumably present at the caucus, he of course speaks with authority. On the other hand, as official mouthpiece of the Macdonald administration, the Halifax newspaper also is presumed to have been authentically inspired. When such oracles disagree, what is the rank and file of the party to think?

What will strike readers in this Province as curious is that such freedom should be taken to discuss what did, or did not, transpire in caucus. If the two Liberal "Chron-

Notes By The Way

The F. L. A. Monthly states that female officers serving in Russian vessels visiting the Port of London are not entirely a novelty. Early this year the Soviet vessel Kuban brought a grain and grain products cargo to Millwall dock. She had a woman as chief officer, though without a distinctive uniform. A sister ship of the Kuban, the steamer Kion, was for a while commanded by a woman, though on the vessel's last visit London she was in charge of a man.

Lord Beaverbrook has been describing the late Andrew Bonar Law as "a great Canadian." Andrew Bonar Law was a Scotsman, and the accident that his parents happened to be in Canada at the time of his birth didn't alter that fact in the least. His people didn't stay in Canada, and Bonar Law himself was reared, went to school and lived all his life in the Old Country. Claiming such a man as a "Canadian" is nonsense as that Mary Pickford is a Canadian.

The news that Ramsay MacDonald is shadowed by two plainclothesmen from Scotland Yard whenever he walks abroad, if true, shows that revolutionary terrorists are busy in England also. However, there will be little general anxiety; only a sense of irritation that such miserable malcontents dare to intrude in the most settled country in the world.

The calling out of retirement of former President Gaston Doumergue to take hold of the affairs of France in an effort to bring some semblance of order out of political chaos, recalls the fact that about seven years ago Raymond Poincaré, also a former president of the republic, answered the call of his country to emerge from private life again to tackle a serious problem of statecraft. And in both cases the crisis resulted from an impasse between two branches of the Socialist group—the Radical-Socialists and the Socialists. Poincaré stepped into the breach after seven governments all preponderantly representative of the left-wing had been defeated within a space of two years and one month. He formed a national union cabinet and was effective, temporarily at least, in straightening France's financial angle.

An eminent United States medical man, Dr. Glendinning, has written an interesting book on the subject of the human body. The doctor claims that it is futile to become over-anxious as to physical ailments or length of life. He has reached the conclusion that there is not much that can be done by the individual to lengthen life and that the age span is virtually set at birth. This authority does not pretend to say that drunkards, opium addicts or those who deliberately injure their health through neglect or debauchery, will live as long as those who follow a sensible program in regard to care of their physical system, but he emphasizes a sensible freedom from worry as to this, that and the other concerning bodily health.

What is generally anticipated will be the great struggle of the parliamentary session at Ottawa as to be drawing loose. The fight will rage around the question as to whether the Central Bank is to be privately or publicly owned. All parties are agreed upon the need for such an institution. The question of its government that opinions differ, and it is around this that the discussion will take place.—Ex.

Canadians, like Americans, have a lively interest in the Washington Government's proposal to place a definite check upon such unbridled speculation as has in the past distorted the records of Wall Street. In his recent address to the Toronto Board of Trade, Premier Bennett said that stock market operations have in the past few years, been responsible for more financial and domestic tragedies in Canada than the United States than any other single cause.

The inquiry which the Government is instituting, through a special parliamentary committee, into the spread between producer and consumer prices for farm products, and into wages and working conditions in certain industries, is evidently intended to be one of the important features of the present session at Ottawa. It is to be a very thorough inquiry, but with little prospect that it will go far enough to result in any material benefits to producers, consumers or workers this year.

The new Canadian flag design, submitted for public consideration by the Media. Some of the designs lack one important feature. It does not include the Union Jack. There is too much British in us Canadians to accept a flag design which does not include the flag of the Motherland. Let us have a distinctive Canadian flag, but let us use the Union Jack as the foundation for that flag's design.

Unquestionably, of course, there are many individuals whose feet seemingly are set in the paths of virtue and whose checks of respectability hide atrocious crimes skillfully concealed from the world. Everyone has heard the story of the good bishop who sent a telegram, "All is disappearing as by magic," and the bishop disappeared between night and morning. But we are quite sure the great majority of individuals are not hiding any secret crimes, cheating the penitentiary by their success in covering up the fact that they stole money from a trusting employer or poisoned a wealthy neighbor.

Traders from Northern Canada arriving in Winnipeg report that the greatest fur catch in history is in progress. Phenomenal catches are being made in widely scattered points in the interior—traders at Fort Chipewyan, Alta., each having anywhere from 1,000 to 3,000 fox skins, besides other pelts. The fur trade has increased business greatly; huge quantities of supplies are being shipped daily to the outposts. Both airplanes and dog teams are busy bringing out pelts and returning with goods. The markets are good, and the traders are happy. The old-fashioned winter is not being complained of by the trappers and dealers of the frontier pelts.

That Body of Hours

By James W. Barba, M.D. FOODS AND OTHER SUBSTANCES WHICH CAUSE ALLERGIES

Although the world allergy is gradually becoming better known, the subject itself is growing so rapidly that the average individual cannot begin to keep up with it. It would seem that about 1 in every 10 to 15 persons is allergic that is susceptible or sensitive to certain substances.

Years ago some individuals found that eggs, even fresh eggs, did not agree with them even when used in such preparations as custards or ice cream.

Others found that certain drugs, useful drugs, disagreed with them and they were thus denied the benefits of these drugs.

Then hay fever victims, especially those that had their attacks about the middle or end of August, discovered that it was the pollen of the rag weed plant that caused the symptoms.

A little later it was discovered that certain of these same substances caused asthma and even eczema, so that one of these sensitive individuals was said to have a hay fever-asthma-eczema complex.

But now the substances to which these allergic individuals are sensitive are so numerous they run into the hundreds.

It seems strange that substances which are harmful to some individuals, substances that are wholesome for nine out of ten individuals, and some substances that are actually necessary to good health can cause various illnesses in those that are sensitive or susceptible to them.

In addition to the pollen of plants, eggs, and meat, there are various kinds of animal fur and feathers which cause symptoms. Lately also it has been found that perfumes, toilet articles, and smoke and dust may cause hay fever, hives, asthma and eczema.

Very recently even light, heat, and cold have been found to so affect the workings of the body that the above illnesses occur.

Doctors men tell us that the above illnesses—hay fever, asthma, hives, eczema—are not the only ones which can be traced to various substances, and that other conditions such as stomach and intestinal ailments, diarrhoea, dizziness, etc., that will not respond to treatment may be due to "allergic" substances.

You can thus see that the first thought in the treatment of any of the above conditions may, in future, be trying to find the substance or substances causing the symptoms.

My songs were once of the sunrise: They shouted it over the bar; First-footing the dawns, they flourished, And flamed with the morning star.

My songs are now of the sunset: Their brows are touched with light But their feet are lost in the shadows And wet with the dews of night.

Yet for the joy in their making Take them, O fond and true And for his sake who made them Let them be dear to you.

—W. E. Henley.

Railway Excursions

(Amherst News and Sentinel) "The railway systems in Canada that have been making a specialty of cheap excursions cannot take it amiss if the advertising notices should contain some warning to prospective tourists in regard to securing proper identification letters. It is stated that on the recent excursion to the New England States a number of tourists had to leave the train at Vancouver simply because they had forgotten to secure this necessary document. There was nothing to identify them to immigration officials, and since the law on both sides of the line is increasingly strict in regard to immigration these unfortunate passengers had no way out of their predicament except to return home. Some of them, it is stated, were from Cape Breton and other from Prince Edward Island. The monetary loss to them by reason of such a fruitless trip, must have been considerable.

This does not exempt them from personal responsibility in the matter, but where a few words in the advertisements or advance notices would call this essential to the minds of tourists, it would seem that the railways should not neglect to do this even in their own interests. Dissatisfied customers are a loss to any business. Further than this the railways might consider whether their responsibility is being met with the provision of motor cars to haul the trains and heating conditions to warm them. Should they not see that the same principle of service operates on excursion trains as on any other? Does a cheap fare involve a lesser service?

Everyone knows there cannot be such immediate profit in connection with these excursions unless there is a large patronage, but they have an ultimate effect. If well conducted, to make railroad travel more popular and to meet the competition that has been forced on the railways from other sources. This popularity ought to be a permanent ideal and need to be kept in mind in relation to even such a matter as a cheap fare excursion.

That Butter Question

"When this Government look off-ice the butter situation in Canada was as follows: Millions of pounds had been shipped into Canada from the dominions of Australia and New Zealand. On top of that our milk and cream, as I said before, had been turned back from the United States so as to increase the production of our dairy products to the extent of about 25,000,000 pounds more butter or 15,000,000 pounds of cheese. The right hon. leader of the Opposition has stated that if he were returned to power one of his objectives would be to put the tariffs back to the point where it was when he went out of office. That would mean that at the present time the duty against New Zealand and Australian butter would be from one-half cent to one cent per pound. If that were true, making all allowances for extra freight and handling charges butter could have been shipped into this country from New Zealand in April last for a little over twelve cents per pound. It is a very simple matter to follow that back and to find what price would have been quoted for butter fat to the farmer living inland. To ascertain what the result would have been we will take one week, namely that ending April 15, 1933. The price of No. 1 butter in Montreal ranged from 30 1-2 to 31 cents per pound. For the month of April, 1933, Australian finest quality, which is comparable to Canadian butter, averaged in London 12 cents per pound. Allowing for one cent duty that butter could have been laid down for 13.46 cents, or a difference of 17.29 cents per pound less than the price our butter was bringing in Montreal. Applying this to the approximate production of 5,500,000 for one week represents a loss of \$880,950. That is the effect of the statement made by the right hon. leader of the Opposition. If his statement were put into dollars and cents instead of remaining, as it stands, a more or less theoretical statement, it would have cost the producers of Canada in the one week in April of 1933 which I have mentioned a little short of \$1,000,000.—Hon. Robert Weir, Minister of Agriculture, in the Draft Address debate in Parliament, Feb. 15.

Chairs Of Humor (Vancouver Province) Mark Twain was born in 1835, and next year in the United States they are going to celebrate his centenary in style. One of the things that some of them are preparing to do, if we can take the New York Times account of it, is a thing that will cause Mark Twain himself to look down and smile from his place in Abraham's bosom. They are going to establish in his honor a university chair in humor. The scheme is apparently so far incomplete in detail, but already an advertisement has been placed in the land among univertit-ies, doing whatever it is that a professor of humor may be supposed to do.

We should like very much to know what the incumbent of an American university chair in humor will be supposed to do. The New York Times suggests that he "would go about the colleges for the purpose of promoting humor." How will he do it? We know of course that they have chairs in all sorts of funny things in some of the American universities, and we have even heard of a chair, or at least a course, in dish-washing. But dish-washing is something that can be taught—or anyhow it is something that you can plausibly suggest ought to be taught, considering what a job it has to be done in the world. But how are you going to teach humor?

It will be said of course that you can study humor, and that if you can study anything it ought to fall within the curriculum of such a universal culture as it is the business of universities to foster. It will be said that the Mark Twain professor in humor at the university of so-and-so could suitably give courses of lectures in Huckleberry Finn or the Jumping Frog of Calaveras, with special readings in the bit where Tom Sawyer distinguishes between the degrees of European nobility by explaining to Huck and Jim the nigger that "when a duke gets drunk, you can't hardly tell him from a king." And perhaps there will arise empirical schools of humor in the universities, which will discover rich resources of humor in the universities (and the professors) themselves.

But we must not get lost in these dialectical refinements. Broadly we think it is safe to stand on the proposition that humor is one of those things in life that can hardly be taught. It is a state of mind, and it is in every state of mind that can be induced, it is always much more a free gift to the children of men from the fairies that attend them at their birth.

By and large, we suspect, people are born with or without humor, or with much of little or fair average, as people are born with straight noses or snub, and that there is equally little that can be done about it after God Almighty has dispensed his various gifts.

Suggesting a chair of humor, it seems to us, is very like suggesting a university chair in kindness or intelligence or patience, long-suffering and charity. A better scheme for importing humor into the American universities would be a comprehensive re-examination of the works of Mark Twain.

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Beauharnois Echoes

(From Hansard, Feb. 15)

Mr. J. S. Woodsworth: "The hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Young) is reported by the Weyburn Review, of November 2, to have stated: 'Referring to the Beauharnois case, Mr. Young said money had been sent by this corporation to Winnipeg to help the C. C. F. I hope the hon. member for Weyburn made no such statement, as it is absolutely untrue.' Miss MacPhail: 'The Liberals got it all.' Mr. Woodsworth: 'It is preposterous that a member who is a supporter of a party that has had to pass through the valley of humiliation with regard to the Beauharnois case should try to unload any share of the blame upon any member in this corner of the house.'"

I would direct the attention of the house to the fact that there is now pending a suit for \$63,972, launched against Sweeney by the executors of the Sifton estate. According to the press, the brothers of Mr. Sifton claim that he executed an advance payment of \$4,000 from Mr. Sweeney when he undertook the furthering of Mr. Sweeney's interests with the understanding that \$50,000 additional was to be paid over by the administration of Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, then Prime Minister, approved the Beauharnois canal plan. The Siftons maintain that their brother in fact rendered the required services to Mr. Sweeney so effectively that the development of the Beauharnois project was approved by two orders in council dated March 3, 1929, and June 25, 1929.

In view of the circumstances of the kind I think it behooves the hon. member for Weyburn to make the statement which he is reported to have made."

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