

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1932

JOINT ACTION

For the first time since the outbreak of hostilities in the far East, Europe and the United States have presented an united front against Japan. The first fruits of this united action has been a collapse in stocks in Tokyo, necessitating the temporary suspension of the stock exchange owing to drastic declines in all kinds of securities. It is generally understood that neither Japan nor China is in any position to carry on prolonged hostilities, neither having reserve funds, or being in a position to float war loans. This may be one of the reasons why Japan is carrying on a speedy campaign, never ceasing for a moment in her advance movements. First helter-skelter through Manchuria en route for Harbin, and then helter-skelter through China proper en route for Nanking. No individual protests from China, Russia, Great Britain or the United States seem to make any difference. These countries have now been joined in their protest by France and Italy, and thus represent practically a united world against Japan. The Investigation Commission representing the League of Nations sent out to Shanghai does not include representatives of the United States but Washington has offered, and Great Britain has accepted the offer to send a representative, holding a watching brief, the explanation being that as the United States is not a member of the League of Nations it could not have a member of the League of Nations Investigation Committee. In view of the fact that the Disarmament Conference is being held, and that the European nations are manoeuvring for a settlement of reparations and war debts, it is sincerely hoped that the joint action of the civilized world will be immediately effective in bringing to a close the "undeclared war" in China.

EVER ON THE JOB

Six months ago, in August last, at a time of severe crisis in the finances of Great Britain, the Bank of England borrowed \$250,000,000 from the New York Federal Reserve Bank, in association with other Federal Reserve Banks, and Banks of France. In November the Bank of England repaid \$100,000,000 of this loan. On Monday the balance of \$150,000,000 was paid, the Bank of England being able to do this without drawing upon its gold reserves. There was no flourish of trumpets in the accomplishment, the Bank of England merely looking upon it as the fulfillment of one of its business obligations. The crisis which brought about the necessity for this temporary loan was the selling by France of British bonds and securities, at the time when Britain went to Germany's assistance, to prevent her financial collapse. The Bank of England is still the ever present help in time of financial trouble in Europe.

LATE AUDITOR

It is with regret many of our readers will learn of the death of Mr. Paul F. Blanchet, Chartered Accountant, Saint John, which occurred at his home in Rethsay, N. B., on Monday after a brief illness. Mr. Blanchet, who was well known not only in Saint John but throughout the Maritime Provinces and other Canadian business circles, was a distinguished auditor, holding positions of responsibility in his profession, and commanding the confidence of governments of all parties. He was external auditor of the accounts of the New Brunswick Government under both Liberal and Conservative regimes, and held a similar position under the governments of the Hon. J. D. Stewart. It is interesting to note that here, both in 1927 and again last year, his firm's audit of the financial

ances of the Lea Government was undertaken subsequent to the return of the Stewart Government last year.

THE LEAGUE'S MISTAKE

What emerges out of the conflict between Japan and China is the plain fact that the Japanese, both in their armed occupation of Manchuria and in the present conflict in Shanghai, are the aggressors. In both instances they have ignored the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes and have reverted to armed methods to maintain their rights. The question in dispute, as a writer in the London Spectator recently noted, would have been simple if a clear distinction had been drawn between the conflict between Japan and the League of Nations Council and the conflict between Japanese and Chinese. But the League Council let itself be entangled in an exhaustive and confused examination of the two affairs. That was what caused the difficulty. Out of a clear case they made an insoluble problem. They should have said to the Japanese: "Withdraw your troops from Manchuria; then we will immediately examine your arguments." Instead of that, they began with the arguments.

How is this mistake in method to be explained? Only by the weakness of the Council; but that weakness in itself demands explanation in its turn. The Council is weak in its composition. Its President is tired and overstrained. Out of its fourteen members there are a good half-dozen who count for nothing, who never express an opinion, who have no political weight. And the misfortune is that they are precisely the members who occupy the seats of the small nations, that is to say, the most disinterested nations, the nations which ought to play a principal part in an affair like this. The Great Powers, on the other hand, have been paralysed by their own interests.

PAST FATHOMING

Fresh evidence has come to light of the enormous and growing expanse of the universe. The astronomers in charge of the Mount Wilson Observatory in California have discovered two spiral nebulae in the constellation of the gemini. These nebulae are enormously more distant from the world than are any portions of the universe hitherto discovered, and they are described as moving away from the earth at the rate of 15,000 miles a second. The discovery is held to support the Jeans theory that the universe is like a great soap bubble, continually swelling. The new nebulae now located are described as being about 135,000,000 light years distant. As light travels 186,000 miles a second, all the reader has to do is multiply 135,000,000 by 186,000 by the number of seconds that there are in a year. He will require a very large piece of paper to hold the total at which he will arrive, and he will find no language with which to name that total. The more we learn about the vastness of creation, comments an exchange, the more we realize how infinitesimally small is this speck of dust upon which mankind builds its empires and its republics and pursues its ambitious objectives. Yet this is not the final word on the subject. Be the earth great or small, what difference is that to mankind? Wherein has our moral nature been altered by the prodigious discoveries of modern science? The wonder is, not that the field of the stars is so vast, but that man has measured it. "The earth," as Anatole France said finely, "is only a grain of sand in the barren infinity of worlds; yet if it is only on a similar position under the government of the Hon. J. D. Stewart, it is greater than all the rest of the universe. Nay! it is everything and the rest is nothing."

NOTES BY THE WAY

Nothing has been so heartening and helpful throughout this period of depression which is now beginning to lighten, especially in these later stages, as a new spirit which seems to be abroad in the land. Difficult to define in words, it is felt by all. Partly described by such terms as co-operation, "kindness" and "understanding," it includes something more—a unity of thought and action for the common welfare which has never been so marked in previous visitations of hard times.

Every newspaper knows full well how many people shirk responsibility in public affairs. People come to a newspaper time after time and want the editor to fire some hot shot which they dare not do. The editor asks them to sign their names to certain charges or statements, and it is surprising how quickly they crawl back in their shells. Plenty of ardent men want the newspaper to criticize this or the other person or thing, but they will not do it themselves lest they might "lose business." He's a newspaper no business to lose?—Exchange.

It is heartening to note the attitude of the British people toward the new taxation demands made upon them, says the Christian Science Monitor. Thousands are to be seen standing in line waiting to pay in response to the government's request that early settlement be made. It is no wonder the British nation has been inclined to depend in times of stress upon its ability to "muddle through." It knows of what it is made, and "muddling" probably is an adjective prompted more by modesty than by a desire to express exactly how Britain solves its problems.

There can be no doubt that the Italian Premier's pronouncement upon the subject of war debts is of first importance. Mr. Mussolini takes the position, apparently, that the world cannot return to normal conditions or reasonably good times as long as the shadow of old scores remains. He is for cancelling the whole list of financial obligations that constitute a hang-over from the war and making a fresh start all around.

Under the Bank Act, a balance is treated as unclaimed when no transaction on the account has taken place for five years. The Finance Department at Ottawa is now receiving from the banks the required annual statements of unclaimed balances, which total \$2,200,000. That is quite a large piece of change for Jack Canuck to forget about—especially in the tough year of 1931. But what is more impressive is the fact that in a great many cases this money has not been forgotten by the depositor. Most of the unclaimed money is unclaimed simply because it is not needed. It is a nest egg, safely tucked away in the bank, and despite the temptations and difficulties of hard times, the thrifty depositor leaves it there.—Exchange.

Foreign manufacturers are reported to be spending large sums for factory sites and factories in Great Britain, in order to overcome the anti-dumping duties which are keeping their products out of the country. One brokerage firm alone has sold more than \$2,000,000 worth of factories and sites. The rush to build plants, however, will come, we expect, when the British tariff policy is definitely settled and manufacturers discover what levies are to be placed upon their goods over the long term. The anti-dumping duties now in effect are admittedly temporary and in most instances the 50 percent levy imposed is more drastic than the regular tariff schedules will call for.

Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King in Winnipeg the other evening plunged the railway affairs of the Dominion into politics with a vengeance when he delivered his ultimatum that the Liberal Party stood ready to defend the Canadian National Railways from the attacks of partisan enemies. Mr. King declared the Liberal Party "would not suffer a railway monopoly controlled by entrenched and aggressive financial interests." It is too bad the railway affairs of the nation are taking such a definitely political tinge. With a Royal Commission trying to find a way out of our transportation troubles, Canadians had hoped there would be a result based on actualities, and not framed to suit the temper of the political winds.

In other words, G. D. Shaw likes everything about Russia except the idea of living there.

That Body of Hours. By James W. Barton, M.D. THE CHILD WHO WILL NOT EAT. One of the mistakes some parents make is in thinking that if the child misses a meal or a couple of meals that it is likely to cause a serious injury to health. In order to get the child to eat 'something' they will allow him to eat mostly the articles of food that he likes, and by coaxing, promising a reward or even by threats they will perhaps induce him to eat a small quantity of the more nourishing or necessary food. Now there may be cases where such methods are necessary, and naturally there can be no criticism of these methods, but in the vast majority of cases, just a little training will give results. The first thing to remember is that the child will not die, will not even be sick if he misses one, two, or even three meals; there is enough food stored in his tissues to carry him along for a couple of days without any trouble. One of the first things to remember, as Dr. C. E. Hunt, Eugene, Oregon, points out, is not to discuss the child's feeding habits in his presence. Coaxing, threatening, pointing out the dangers of certain foods he doesn't like, is not wise. It gives him and his likes and dislikes of food too much importance in his eyes. What is considered the best treatment for these children who will not eat? Simply offer the child a well balanced normal diet, and no important article of food left out just because he doesn't like it. Three meals a day should be offered and absolutely nothing allowed between meals. If your youngster gets no other food a natural or normal appetite will be created, he will become hungry and want to eat. With this natural appetite, natural hunger for food developed, the digestive juices of the mouth and stomach begin to flow on sight of food, almost any food. Thus when he eats food that he didn't like before, it tastes so good to him owing to the extra flow of digestive juices, that it will remain in his mind as something very nice to eat, and he will eat it with relish in the future. Don't be afraid to let your child who will not eat do without two or three meals. It will only help him.

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A DISCLAIMER

Sir: It has come to my attention that a report has been circulated in Charlottetown to the effect that The Family Welfare Bureau and Children's Aid Society in Saint John are not giving satisfaction to the public. May I say that with one exception every welfare organization in this city, and this includes the churches and all the service clubs, is solidly behind The Family Welfare Bureau. It also receives a grant from the City Council. During the present season of unemployment its services are of the very highest value. In its case work it prevents over-lapping in charity and also fraudulent appeals, and brings to light deserving cases which are given temporary relief when necessary, and then referred to the proper source of further help. It also does a valuable work in rehabilitating families who otherwise would sink lower in poverty, and thus money is saved to the community.

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The Poet's Corner ENCOUNTER

He walked alone at dusk in the snow-bound woods. He walked, alone, at dusk, in the powdered woods, His footprints dark on the snow, and his figure dark As it slipped through the powdered trees beneath the moon; His slim black velvet figure chained in gold. And in his hand he carried a shining trap. For he loved the Queen, and sought the northern ermine To lie on her breast as soft as the fallen snow. But when he came to the pines as dark as he, And bent to fix his trap in the sandy soil, A grave white fox came up to watch his business, A freak of nature, as white as he was dark, And the fox and the stripling looked at one another Till the little ermines ran about in the moon, For the shining trap lay cast as an idle fiddle. Dripped from an idle feshet in the frost. And the ferns stood up, that were dead and stillly frozen Into a fronded crispness above the leaves; They stood, that had been unfurled as bishops' croziers Smithed in the green furnace of the spring.

But the youth in his black, with golden links of chain, And the fox in his freakish snowy coat of fur, Locked in each other's eyes while ermines ran, And the youth forgot his queen and the fox his vixen In silent searching look of beat and man. —V. Sackville-West in The Spectator.

A sentiment seems to be spreading that the bridge war has been more successful as a war than as a bridge.—Detroit News.

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.

CIVIC AFFAIRS

Sir,—In yesterday's issue of the Patriot appears a letter signed "Hawk Eye" dealing with the subject of retrenchment in civic affairs. The writer wishes to thank Mr. Hawk Eye for the manner in which he has vindicated the action of the present City Council. I quite agree with him that it is much better to have the city's money distributed among the citizens without paying a contractor a percentage on his work, as the citizens thereby get the full value for all moneys expended. This has been the policy of the City Council, as, for example, in the case of the work done on the City Hall and Park breastwork during the past year. As all are aware, there was a federal and provincial grant for these two projects and the work had to be done by day's labor. In so far as at least as the building activities of the Council are concerned, Mr. Hawk Eye makes it clear that the City Fathers have acted with commendable prudence and judgment. I am, Sir, etc.

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Public Salaries In England

From "John Bull At Home" by Karl Silex. In the will of the late Earl of Oxford the English people discovered with considerable surprise that their former Prime Minister had died a poor man, and shortly before his death, after a political career lasting fifty years, had been on the verge of bankruptcy. Lord Oxford left an estate which, including his countryhouse, was valued at £2168. A few of his friends had come to the rescue in the nick of time. A year before his death they had guaranteed the ex-Prime Minister, who had no pension, and who, unlike Lloyd George had not made an agreement with the Hearst Press, an income of £2500 a year, and had also presented him with a testimonial in the form of a cheque for over £10,000. If he had not received this gift from his friends, among whom, in addition to eight peers, were four Jews, Rothschild Reading, Alfred Mond, and Bernhard Baron, Asquith would have ended his life in a state of complete penury. With her first book Lady Oxford made more money than the whole estate left by her husband. As a barrister Asquith would probably have been able to earn as much as Sir John Simon—£50,000 a year, Baldwin assured the cotton-manufacturers of Manchester that he had only a penny in the shilling of the money he himself possessed before he became a minister of the Crown. The patriot Stanley Baldwin drew up his private balance-sheet after the Armistice, and assessed his fortune at £500,000. Ten per cent. of this he presented anonymously to the Treasury as a contribution toward the liquidation of the War-debt. So if, taking him at his own word, we divide what remained by twelve, we find that Mr. Stanley Baldwin is worth barely £40,000. Lord Birkenhead actually worked for nothing. As an ex-Lord Chancellor he could claim what an ordinary Minister could not, a pension of £5000, but the £5000 he earned as Secretary of State for India was reckoned against this with the result that from sheer poverty he left politics and went into the City. Before he entered politics he was making £40,000 a year at the Bar. Bonar Law had saved £60,000 before he plunged into politics. Until shortly before his death Disraeli was harassed by debt, and neither his novels nor his marriage to a rich wife sufficed to put his finances on a sound basis. For Emdymon, his last book, he was paid £10,000, which was only just enough to clear his outstanding debts. The great George Canning died penniless, and on the motion of the Duke of Wellington, Parliament granted his widow a pension of £3000. Winston Churchill was a poor man until a cheque for over £6000 for his book on South Africa gave elbow-room in the political world for the Duke of Marlborough's grandson. At present, although he is far from being a pound millionaire his war books, which have a world circulation, have in a few years made him at least a mark millionaire. Lloyd George, who, like Birkenhead, managed to eke out his existence by writing newspaper articles by the gross, can put all the rest into his pocket. After his fall the Hearst Press purchased the rights in all literary productions. Once a fortnight he wrote an article for which the American syndicate paid £800 and which after publication was allowed to be reprinted by all and sundry. By this means Lloyd George made £20,000 a year for six years—that is to say, four times as much as he earned as Prime Minister. The salaries of English Ministers date partly from the year 1774, and partly from the first thirty years of the nineteenth century, when they were regarded as princely incomes. The fate of Canning, and, later, that of Disraeli prove that reality did not confirm theory. Nevertheless, before the War a salary of £5000 a year may have had some attractions for people like Lloyd George, though after deduction of income-tax it amounted only to £4750. Nowadays, however, with income-tax at 4s. 6d. instead of 1s. in the £ and with an additional super-tax on all incomes above £2000, all that remains is £3212, which, in purchasing-power, is equivalent to about £2000 before the War. It is obvious that no one can keep up No. 10 Downing Street on such a sum. English Ministers receive no entertainment allowance and even the much-vaunted £5000 a year is drawn only by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Prime Minister and the heads of such old-established Government offices as the Home Office, the Colonial Office, the War Office, and the India Office. The new Ministries of

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