

The Charlottetown Guardian

President: Lieut. Col. W. Chester S. deLure
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Editor and Managing Director: J. R. Bennett, F.J.J.
Secretary: Lieut. Col. D. A. Mackinnon, D.S.O.
Associate Editors: Frank Walker and D. K. Currie

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Where Nova Scotia Benefited

Further evidence of how the Bennett policy of the Imperial preference ("economic imperialism" to Mr. Mackenzie King!) helped Nova Scotia is thus given in the Halifax Chronicle (Liberal): "The figures for the lumber trade last year were very large, in 1936 Nova Scotia exported more lumber to the United States and the United Kingdom than either New Brunswick or Quebec. Last year's figures marked a tremendous advance over previous years, but the returns for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1937, put last year's figures in the shade. Last year the export of lumber from Nova Scotia to the two above named countries reached a total of 107,452,000 feet. For the year ending March 31, 1937, they reached the new record of 130,840,000 feet, an increase of 23,000,000 over last year."

If it wasn't for the Imperial preference on lumber and apples in the British market, the Macdonald Government wouldn't have been able to capitalize politically on the pick-up in these Nova Scotia industries. They would have had more unemployment to deal with, less provincial revenue to spend, and a harder time all round in obtaining a fresh mandate from the electors. And the irony of it is that the benefits under the Imperial preference policy are solely due to Conservative foresight and initiative at the Ottawa Conference of 1932. Liberal politicians did nothing but sit back and criticize. They continued persistently to criticize and to predict failure because Mr. Bennett, forsooth! had "driven too hard a bargain." It took years to prove that they were, false prophets, and they were able in the meantime to exploit the world depression and get back into power. Now they are enjoying the fruits of the Bennett Government's statesmanship. An amazing piece of luck for them! But history disproves the theory that luck of this kind is of any enduring advantage either to parties or to individuals.

Liberal Tax Increases

"The only two taxes increased were the gasoline and truck taxes, the latter being more in the nature of an adjustment."—Premier Campbell at Liberal meeting, York, as reported in Wednesday's Patriot.

What purpose, one wonders, is intended to be served by uttering and publishing misstatements of this kind? Since the Campbell Government came into power it has not only increased the gasoline and truck taxes but levied additional taxation on auto drivers, amusement patrons, chain stores, branch chain theatres, insurance companies, loan companies, banks, junk dealers, and others. Many of these new tax imposts were introduced at the last legislative session. All of them are in violation of the emphatic assurance given by Premier Campbell himself that the (still unbalanced) budget could be balanced annually without a cent of additional taxation.

Well might Hon. John A. Campbell, member without portfolio in the Campbell Government, exclaim at the last session: "We are tightening up everything so that the poor man cannot exist at all!"

Three Swimming Rules

Of all summer sports swimming is the most popular in this part of Canada. We should not forget, however, the toll of drowning tragedies which takes place every year. Dr. Robert A. Fraser, chief medical director of a large life insurance company who has analyzed the causes of these tragedies, points to three simple rules which should go far in checking the toll.

After a special study of hot weather accidents he gives this advice: "If every one will remember the following three rules many lives will be spared and much sorrow avoided: First, never go swimming alone; second, keep out of the water for at least one full hour after a meal; third, never dive into water until you are sure of its depth."

"These are just common sense rules," he adds, "yet failure to observe them probably accounts for the great majority of swimming fatalities." If there is nothing particularly new about this admonition, it goes to show there is also nothing new about the common human failings of carelessness and overconfidence. For it is shown that defiance of these simple rules is the cause of the grim list of deaths taken in the exercise of a sport which, if sensibly carried out, should be one of the most healthful and useful we know.

Churches Gaining Ground

Religious groups in the United States gained in membership, as a whole, during 1936 and continued to draw ahead in the steady increase in population, according to the annual statistical report made public recently by The Christian Herald. They are submitted as a "direct contradiction of pessimists who claim the churches have lost ground." In 1936 the total membership of all denominations and religious bodies in the United States reached 63,493,036, which represents a gain of 837,904 over the previous year. The Catholics remain the largest single denomination in the country, with a reported membership of 20,831,133, brought about through a gain last year of 221,837. Their total adult membership—13 years and over—was 13,025,788, with a gain of 1,07 per cent. Additional figures for the Catholic church show 31,303 ministers in 18,379 churches. The Baptists continue to lead all Protestant denomina-

tions, with an increase of 140,308 for a total of 10,332,005. The Reformed Presbyterian Church, not a large denomination in comparison with the Baptists and Methodists, comes second in the number gained, with 81,958. Lutherans are third, 43,905, and Methodists fourth, 41,798. Other notable increases in 1936 are: Unitarians, 38,026; Protestant Episcopal, 21,193; Presbyterians, 6,507. The Church of Christ, Scientist, and the Jewish congregations reported no gain.

Notes by the Way

English literature is flourishing, just now more than any other. German literature is suffering under the spurt caused by Hitlerism. French literature, although unimpaired, suffers under the opposing political ideas. At the moment the spitting words are reducing the standard instead of increasing it. There is a split of political ideas behind the English literature as well, but on the whole the century-old democratic ideals have given English writers a pedestal which will remain as that. This is why they can work with greater equanimity, greater sense of creative power. There is no nation in the world which does not want translations of contemporary works from the English language.—EX.

The outside world cannot be blamed if it begins to suspect that Germany is bent upon stirring up trouble, possibly war, over the English and that the Leipzig "incident" is really part of a carefully calculated effort to involve England and France in that trouble as virtual allies of the Nazis. Fortunately for the peace of Europe, the British Government, speaking through Foreign Secretary Eden, has announced that it will have no part in any joint naval demonstration against Spain.—Baltimore Sun.

One indication that Germany does not intend to engage in a war with France by forming a junction with the Italian fleet in the Mediterranean, for taking drastic retaliatory action against Spain is seen in this. It is unlikely that she would permit her ships to be bottled up in that sea. Going through the Straits must place them as a pledge of her good behaviour to her former enemies.—EX.

The Englishman's idea of bathing is largely a matter of soap and warm water, and he is apt to express surprise on seeing that other people perform their ablutions in a different manner. The Americans have brought the art of bathing to a higher pitch than any nation since the days of Rome, and consider our methods splendid. They must place them as a pledge of her good behaviour to her former enemies.—EX.

October 31, 1918: "Dined with M. (Mrs. Bennett) at Barrie's. He told us that he had had Asquith (formerly Prime Minister) and Birrell (Augustine) to dinner the other night. Asquith had arrived with Asquith's daughter-in-law and another female friend that they should dress up as housemaids and serve the dinner. They did so. The daughter-in-law wore a black wig. Neither Birrell nor Asquith recognized the women. But after dinner, in the course of conversation, one of those maids is extraordinarily like my daughter-in-law. Barrie told his practical joke with great restraint and humor."—Arnold Bennett's Diary.

Physical training, though, must be kept within its proper boundaries. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," is true, but true, but it is just as true had all play and no work will give him all brown and no brains. There are children, fortunately few, who have no capacity for games. The average child is a healthy little animal and a rough-and-tumble is part of the fun in life. It has always been a question for argument whether it is right to march children into masses for any scheme of physical training. After all, a giant on the field would only be an ant to a bomber in the air.—Johannesburg Times.

For the first time in history sugar-cane and bamboo have been crossed. This scientific feat has been achieved by the Imperial Sugar-Cane Breeding Station at Colombo. Six years ago the same station produced, for the first time, hybrids between sugarcane and bamboo. The present hybridization is said to cover a much wider gulf in the plant kingdom than the precious one.—Indian Press Union.

An English authority has calculated that in the first quarter of the present century an average of more than 13,000,000 working days were lost in Britain each year in industrial disputes. A large proportion of this loss he declares has been due to the inept handling of men and situations, and expert study of the psychology of negotiations and of industrial relations would lead to improvement of technique which would prevent minor irritations becoming open clashes.—The Cape Argus.

A patriarchal figure is King Yees III of Swaziland in South Africa, carrying in his right hand a badge of royal office resembling a cat-o-nine-tails. It may be a fly whisk corresponding to the royal fan or royal umbrella of Oriental monarchs. Such things are not to be laughed at. There are fifty million colored British subjects in Africa, and the British Empire, like its famous predecessor, the Roman Empire, has made it a point to respect local customs and manners.—New York Times.

Finland has paid the installment on its debt to the United States due June 15, and in the United States people are again speaking of Finland as the only country to pay its war debt. The fact, of course, is the Finland has no war debt, for the war brought Finland as a sovereign state into existence.—Moncton Transcript.

Behind The Headlines At Ottawa

By Dean Wilson

Ottawa is usually a quiet Capital during the summer months, but that is not true this year because there are many officials who are here right now who would be on their vacations in normal times. There are many reasons for this unusual situation, but two causes stand out. One is the tremendous development of Canada's foreign trade, which carries with it many momentous problems, especially in recent weeks in view of the proposed trade treaty between the United States and the Motherland, and the readjustments of the principle of bilateral agreements in place of the old general accords and economic interlocking actions within the British Empire. The other point is the rapid rise of industrial operations in Canada and the effects of this increased activity on the labour situation.

Consequently officials in various departments of the Government are very busy studying the two national developments, and their efforts to keep up with the situations compel them to give long and laborious hours to enable the wheels of Canadian commerce to move properly.

Right now two important reports are holding the attention of Ottawa, and they are the Economic Survey of the Colonial Empire, which is an issue from the British Government, and the surprising statement of the Board of the American Federation of Labour.

The object of the Economic Survey of the British Empire is to facilitate the solution of many problems involved in the expansion of world trade by any member of the Empire, and the disclosures therein, including important figures, are being studied by the Canadian officials with a view to judge the likely effects of some changes in Canada's policies in the near future, and about which are many rumours along Parliament Hill. It is shown in this report that the Colonial Empire with a population of more than 50,000,000 people, has an annual import valued at \$19 per head, and a total value in export trade of approximately \$1,194,710,000. It offers great trade possibilities not only between various sections of the Commonwealth, which already enjoy a number of special preferential rights, but also for world commerce since it is a secret move that the future trade policies of Great Britain will include an historical change in which the Motherland will be receptive to any plan which opens up these large Colonial markets for purposes of trade in order to satisfy a world hunger for raw materials and to create a better balance of trade. This means that in time there will be an important economic change, and the Motherland will no longer take 30 per cent of her imports from the Colonies, nor ship more than 49 per cent of her exports to these markets. Canada will then enter the scene by making a very serious and determined effort to extend her present economic position in these Colonies and this will be accomplished without relaxing in the slightest degree in the endeavours to increase her exports to every possible area around the globe. This, of course, is in strict conformity with the momentous decisions of the recently held Imperial gathering in London, where certain ideas and policies were decided upon by the delegates, and although they were kept secret, yet all the exclusive disclosures of this column in this regard appear obvious now.

The other report which is causing quite a stir amongst the officials in the Capital is the statement of the American Federation of Labour, and which shows that the labour situation in Canada is far better and quieter than it seems to appear on the surface. To the surprise of everyone it is now clear from this report that there is no real reason for any alarm in the Dominion on the subject of the rivalry between the American Federation of Labour and the Committee for the Industrial Organization since it is an authoritative prediction that Canada will not witness the disturbances and fights which have marked the rivalry between the two labour bodies in the United States. In fact, it is pointed out that the older American Federation of Labour (Continued on page 11, Col 8)

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.

RELIGION AND POLITICS.

Sir.—The recent letter appearing in the Guardian with regard to the relation between religion and politics was followed, no doubt, with interest by many readers of this paper.

I am not in sympathy with the opinions expressed by "J. F. W." and I do not understand how any one can take such a detached view of the responsibility of the Church has in the realms of statecraft.

While the general business of the Church, to use an understandable term, may be to change the lives of men so that they may go out to live the good life, and take a Christian course through this inner change, nevertheless, the social message of the Gospel is of nearly as great importance and, in fact, at one time it was of a really major importance in the utterances of leading religious teachers.

In studying the messages of the prophets of the Old Testament one is at once struck with the entirely different approach to daily problems which was theirs—the major note in all their writings was on the relation of the rulers to the people, and not primarily a personal message as that which we receive to-day from our pulpits. They were forever demanding from the rulers 'fair play for the people, square dealings in business; at any price, and above all, honesty within the government and when there was cause for censure they were the very ones who were in the forefront in the demands for the re-adjustment in the policy of the government in the person of the King as it then was in many cases these religious teachers were members of what we might call the Advisory Board of the Kingdom and in one particular case, that of Samuel, he was what might now be called, the Premier.

Within the past twenty-five years this great fact has been very much in the forefront and yet the Church in general, has been very backward in leading the way in business and social reforms, and is especially reluctant to check the governing classes in ill-advised moves and will only act when the situation is very acute and the germ of injustice has taken great root and yet we wonder why so many great minds while conceding the message of Jesus at the same time are full of distrust for the Church, or at the best, do not look to the Church for leadership.

The Church has a very great moral weight if only she would exercise it, and even in her weaker condition a united effort in her part on any special or individual problem would be tantamount to a victory for the forces which are trying to alleviate the sufferings of humanity because of the unjust balances in the world of business and industry. I have small sympathy with Communism, generally speaking, but without a doubt the reason why it appeals to so many now-a-days is because it, at least, promises to do something for the people while the Church, in most cases preaches a "grin and bear it" doctrine.

While a close union of church and state in the past did not seem to be very workable, yet the Church surely could and should exert a more active influence in the everyday affairs of its adherents. Without considering at all the higher aspect of the situation it would be to the interest of the church to have her people in good circumstances because, after all, when the people suffer the Church also suffers, many lose faith in the Church and leave her borders, while many more, because of their straightened circumstances are unable to support the Church and become themselves, a burden to the Church they would like to support it is a very vicious circle, and the leaders of the Church seem to be blind to the probable outcome.

We wonder why the young people take such a small interest in the affairs of the Church I have spoken to many of them on this matter myself, and am in fact, a member of a Young Peoples Society (not connected with any particular church body) in which such subjects are discussed, and I can assure you that the reason for their indifference lies, in just the things I have been trying to point in this letter. They feel that the Church will do nothing for the working classes beyond the application of "salve" as they express it and they fear for the future of the Church should the economic situation grow worse instead of better.

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better. They realize the social aspect of the Bible, and they say that the Church is not living up to the teachings of her Founder. The Church by united action could accomplish wonders in the old world, and it is about time that she woke up and exerted her influence more strongly than she has been doing when she does this, the great mass of the common people will again flow into her fine buildings, and we will not find approximately 50% of the population, such as in United States, not connected with any Church organization, but all will see that here at least, is a champion who will see that their rights are protected.

I Am Sir, Etc. —ASPIRING YOUTH

RELIGION AND POLITICS

Sir.—Before closing the discussion of the above subject it is fitting that reference should be made to two very timely statements recently made by men of outstanding authority. One was made by Archbishop J. T. McNally upon the occasion of his installation at Halifax about a fortnight ago. In his address to the clergy of his diocese and under his jurisdiction he made a plea to dis-associate themselves from politics and from the sectional interests within a community. Such things, he said, were not within the province of the clergy. At the banquet tendered the Archbishop afterwards Premier A. L. Macdonald voiced the opinion of the large majority, if not all, the people both Catholic and Protestant in expressing complete approval of the Archbishop's views.

The second statement was made by ex-Prime Minister, Lord Baldwin who in a farewell address to the Conservative party in England counselled a "fight to the death" against the growth of extremist politics in Great Britain. "What are these extremist politics? Surely they include Nazism, Fascism, Communism, Marxism, Bolshevism, and many forms of Socialism such as some of the clergy are advocating." There is no greater authority in the English speaking world than Lord Baldwin and no one will question his right to speak on such a subject.

In this connection it is well to quote the opinion of Dr. Cody, President of the University of Toronto, a man who stands high in the religious and educational life of Canada. Dr. Cody says Canadians "are too apt to pick up the fads and follies of the United States." The Ottawa Journal comments, "We refuse, however, to worry about the situation. In the larger and more important things we go elsewhere for our inspiration. Our ideals of law and justice and public administration are founded in the broader and deeper traditions of Britain and so long as this is true the shallow trivialities of our fads and follies are of little consequence."

Lord Baldwin evidently looks upon the advocacy of many of present day fads and "isms" as almost "treason to the King" which must be "fought to death" to preserve our democratic form of government. It is most regrettable to many of the laity that an increasingly number of clergy are flirting with some of these "isms". The time is opportune to register a protest.

At a recent church meeting here a resolution was passed which was of a purely political nature. Whether the facts do or do not justify the resolution and there may be room for a difference of opinion as to that, a church gathering was no place to bring such a subject up. If political subjects are to enter our church gatherings how is it possible to promote fellowship or advance the spiritual welfare of the people? I am, Sir, etc. J. F. W.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

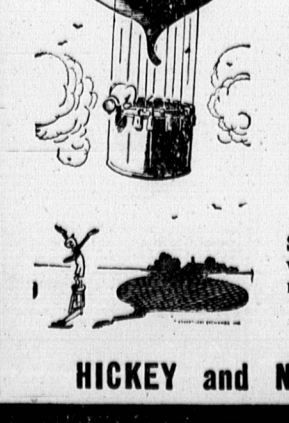
Sandy's landlady was never very lavish with her helpings at meals, but one day his portion was so small that the Scot looked up. "Haven't you made a mistake?" he asked. "No," she said. "What's wrong?" "Only that my name's Sandy, not Gandhi!"

advance the spiritual welfare of the people? I am, Sir, etc. J. F. W.

The Poet's Corner

SPECULA
When He appoints to meet thee,
Go thou forth—
It matters not
If south or north,
If bleak or sunny plot,
Nor think if haply He thou seek'st
to be late,
He does thee wrong.
To stile or gate,
Lean thou thy head, and long!
It may be that to spy thee He is
mounting
Upon a tower,
Or in thy counting
Thou hast mistime the hour,
But, if He come not, neither do
thou go
Till Vesper chime.
Be like thou them shalt know
He hath been with thee all
the time. —T. E. Brown.

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