

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

NOTES BY THE WAY

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Old Age Pensions

The emphatic assurance given by the Hon. J. D. Stewart, Conservative leader, that if elected to power he will introduce Old Age Pensions in this Province, will be received with great interest and satisfaction by all classes of our people. Since the introduction by the King Government of an Old Age Pensions Act by which the Provinces were made to contribute fifty per cent of the cost, this Province has been most unfairly discriminated against, inasmuch as it was unable to take advantage of the scheme though forced to contribute, in federal taxes, to its support in other and wealthier Provinces. The members and supporters of the Lea Government endorsed this scheme in their election platform of 1927, and pledged themselves to establish it "in a manner consistent with our revenue." This promise they have absolutely ignored during their four years of power. They made no practical effort, when elected, to secure a subsidy settlement from Ottawa which would enable them to pay fifty per cent of the pensions, nor did they bother even to ascertain the cost of such a scheme or the number of pensionable persons in the Province until, a few months ago, they ordered a census to be taken by their road superintendents, obviously for the purpose of again misleading the people into supposing that the Government had some constructive policy in mind.

The Bennett Government, on the other hand, stands pledged to 100 per cent of Old Age Pensions. Despite the present critical economic situation, Premier Bennett has already implemented his pledge fifty per cent. The federal administration will now pay 75 per cent of Old Age Pensions, leaving the Provinces for the time being, to pay 25 per cent, instead of the 50 per cent which they had to pay under the King Government. Mr. Stewart now feels that the time is opportune for this Province to take advantage of the Old Age Pensions scheme. He has confidence in the Bennett Government fulfilling its pledge to the letter, and he feels assured, in the meantime, that by economy and proper administration this Province can meet 25 per cent of the payment as required. More than this amount, as Mr. Stewart properly said, has been wasted by the Lea Government every year in expenditures which have been of no advantage whatever to the taxpayers of the Province.

Hon. Mr. Stewart's word, it is admitted even by his opponents, is his bond. That he will carry out, if elected, the promise he has made with regard to Old Age Pensions, will be taken for granted by all who know him, personally or by repute.

Now For The Election

The inspiring convention at Murray River on Saturday afternoon, at which Messrs. Maynard F. MacDonald and John D. MacLeod were nominated as Conservative candidates for the Fourth District of King's, concludes the nominating conventions throughout the Province, so far as the Conservative party is concerned. All the candidates have now been chosen, and are ready to take the field as soon as the Lea Government has mustered up courage to announce the election date. The confidence and enthusiasm of the Conservative party workers is in significant contrast to the attitude of the Liberals, who have so far failed to nominate half their candidates, and are making every effort to distract attention from any discussion of provincial issues.

Mr. MacDonald is to be heartily congratulated, both upon his happy recovery from a serious illness and upon the ovation tendered him on Saturday when he again received

the unanimous nomination as Councillor for his constituency. As a legislator he distinguished himself under the Stewart Government by his sound judgment, business experience, and ability to speak his mind clearly and convincingly; and the electors will make no mistake in returning him with a handsome majority in the coming election.

His colleague, Mr. MacLeod, is wielding his first lance in a political fray. He is widely known and esteemed throughout his district, and is of the calibre that will make a first-class representative in the Legislature. At Murray River, as at other conventions, the Conservatives have found no lack of able candidates. Usually it has been necessary to choose by ballot from among several nominees any two of whom would do credit to their district. This is as it should be. It indicates the confidence of the rank and file of the party in its leader, its policies and its principles. It also indicates the strong conviction, which is increasing as time goes by, that the Lea Government has already been tried before the bar of public opinion, and is but awaiting the "coup de grace" which will be administered to it by the people on election day.

The Tax Boosters

Brazen bluff could scarcely be carried further than in the streamer heading on Saturday's issue of the local Liberal organ, which states that gasoline prices have been "boosted by high protection." The fact is that contrary to the predictions of the Liberal press, gasoline prices in Canada have been reduced under the Bennett Government.

It is the Lea Government that has boosted the price of gasoline. One of its first acts in assuming power was to increase the gasoline tax from three to five cents a gallon.

Since the last session of the Legislature it has increased the tax by another cent per gallon, this time by Order-in-Council. In other words, the Lea Government has increased the tax on gasoline 100 per cent since coming into power.

Editorial Notes

A survey recently made by the Food Research Institute of Stanford University, California, comes to the conclusion, subject to reservations concerning unusual weather conditions and unforeseen increases in sowings, that the world wheat crop for the coming season may show a decrease of approximately 150,000,000 bushels.

It is Premier Lea's duty to the taxpayers of this Province to discuss provincial issues and give an account of his stewardship in the coming campaign. That, as Hon. J. D. Stewart pointed out at Saturday's convention at Murray River, is what Mr. Lea is being paid for as Premier. It is not his duty to go from one end of the Province to the other, rehearsing the issues of the last federal campaign. If Premier Lea sticks to his own job in the coming election, he will have his hands full. If he doesn't, he will go out anyway.

With two and a half million dollars revenue collected and expended since it came into power over and above the revenue received by its predecessors, the Lea Government borrowed another half million for highway work and increased the liabilities of the Province by over three quarters of a million. This is what Messrs. Lea and McIntyre call "broadening out." It is what the tax payers call unprecedent extravagance and criminal irresponsibility.

The postponement of the Imperial Conference which was to have been held at Ottawa this year involves no actual loss to the cause of Imperial trade; on the contrary, it extends the interval in which the British public may have an opportunity of instructing a new Government. The trade agreement between Canada on the one hand and Australia and New Zealand on the other effected within the past few days places the relations between these Dominions on a more favorable basis while in all probability the political uncertainty in Great Britain is likely to be set at rest before the Conference is held. In the circumstances which have developed since the Conference was held in London any attempt at reaching a satisfactory agreement at present would have been futile so that in the interest of extra Imperial trade the postponement of the Conference was the wisest course.

Germany like most of the other nations of the world has keenly felt the pressure of the world wide depression. The national budget fell short four hundred million for the fiscal year. To make up for this deficit a system of drastic retrenchment has been agreed upon. Half the money required to balance the national budget is expected to come from the reduction of expenditures, and the other half from the new taxes imposed. This was in accordance with Chancellor Bruening's policy who insisted that Germany first set her own domestic house in order, ere any national appeal could be made for the revision of reparations. No doubt an effort will be made to secure readjustment of the reparations after matters have been further thrashed out in the Reich. In the opinion of well-informed observers another critical political struggle in Germany is inevitable. It is therefore quite understandable why the Bruening manifesto refers specially to the "imperative need" for a modification of the reparation policy.

One of the strangest features of the recent earthquake in the British Isles, France Norway and Belgium, is said to have been the appearance of rainbow phenomena preceding the earthquakes. It is described as a peculiar "arc of orange hue resembling some huge bridge of light" which thousands of folk in London are reported to have seen late on Thursday night and which residents along the coast declare they saw far out to sea near the time when the quake occurred. Dr. Whipple, superintendent of the Kew Observatory, testifies that he never saw anything like it, and describing it as a sort of midnight rainbow stretching in a northerly direction all across the sky. It is recalled that a similar phenomenon was reported as preceding by a few hours the earthquake which took place in Japan last year. But if this aerial manifestation has anything at all to do with the quake disturbance, scientists are unable to give any explanation of it. Such visitations serve to remind us at least of the incredibly stupendous forces that are at work within the awesome crypts of the cosmos upon which we dwell.

At the recent annual Empire Day dinner of the Royal Empire Society in London, Dr. Drummond Shiels M. P. under Secretary for the Colonies declared that the ties of sentiment between Britain and the Dominions were stronger today than ever they were. Speaking of the Colonies he saw in them also great possibilities of trade development. He agreed that the Empire had experienced the wave of world depression, but added that if Britain, which had been bold in war, were equally bold in peace, the depression would be overcome.

The Montreal Gazette says: "Unveiling of the cenotaph in Lafontaine Park to the memory of 966 children killed in accidents in this neighborhood, mainly on the streets which was to have taken place on Tuesday, has been postponed. Since the announcement was made on Thursday there have been more fatal accidents, and if the ceremony is put off for any length of time, the figure 966 will have to be changed to something like 1,000. The deaths come almost daily, and seem to be increasing in this 'no accident year. There is negligence somewhere." Commenting on this the Telegraph Journal says: "Certainly there is negligence somewhere. The motorcar toll of life is becoming beyond bearing. Statistics assure us that those who cause fatal accidents are the comparatively few, a small proportion of the motoring public. Unfortunately it is as often as not a careful driver who is killed in a motor accident through the fault of a careless driver. But if the actual number of careless drivers is few, it should be fairly easy to deal with them, and authorities everywhere

The Phantom Bell Ringers

A Story of the Auld Kirk, Charlottetown. (By J. Edward Rendle, reprinted from The Prince Edward Island Magazine of December, 1930.)

"O'er all there hung a shadow and a fear; A sense of mystery, the spirit haunted, And said, as plain as whisper in the ear, 'The place is haunted!'"—HOOD.

There has, perhaps, been no age in which certain phenomena have attracted such general notice as this, the latter party of the 19th Century, more perhaps among the educated classes than the uneducated; and it is certain there has been no period in which persons of critical and inquisitive intellect have more zealously sought to discover what is genuine in the apparent vagaries of nature than at the present time.

Nearly all of us believe in a future state, but how vague and ineffective this belief with the majority of persons; the number of people believing in Ghosts, a belief they allow to sit very lightly on their minds—they are afraid they will be called superstitious, a title convenient to attach to whatever we do not want to believe ourselves. But among these we find some who are not fearful of that bugbear, "Superstition," the gentlemen who furnished the facts embodied in this peculiar incident being among them.

Many an ancestral home, and many a sequestered spot in wood or vale, have some tale of supernatural manifestation connected with them—a weird legend handed down from father to son, a record of a woman's crime or of a man's perfidy; but, as a rule, the visitant from the other world seeks retirement, and but seldom ventures into the crowded streets, or public places. Some exceptions there are, of course, to this unwritten law, and among these we find the ghost, or ghosts, of "old St. James."

St. James' Church, the first Presbyterian place of worship in Charlottetown, is one of the oldest Protestant churches in the city, being opened for worship in 1828, and its walls have witnessed the triumphs and success of many celebrities of the gown. The Rev. James McIntosh, Rev. Robert M'Nair, the Rev. William Snodgrass, and the late lamented Rev. Thomas Duncan and some others have stood in its pulpit and received the ovations and attention of enraptured congregations. A strange place indeed for a ghost to select, but the fact of its appearance can be attested by many. The story which I am about to narrate is no fiction, and though names are altered, the occurrence referred to are all based upon facts that actually took place.

It was one of those sober and rather melancholy days in the early part of the autumn, when the shadows of the morn and evening almost mingle together, that my friend, Capt. Cross, who had risen with the sun that morning, could be seen making his way into town from his home, a little way out on Brighton Road; my friend was early astir, hastening to the stables of the "Royal Oak" to look after a valuable horse that a few days before had arrived in town from his father's estate in Devon.

The Captain had almost reached Black Sam's Bridge when he heard, as he thought, a ship's bell ringing—it was quite clear and distinct to him—8 bells. The Captain was confounded, the sound did not appear to come from the sea; rather as it were from the heart of the town. He stopped and heard the ominous sound again; this time he thought it was some vessel on her way out of the harbour, and the wind had carried the sound to him across the Pond.

He started on again, and hastened to make up the time had lost by this strange occurrence. He had reached the corner of Pownal street when he heard the bell again; no given number, but a continual dreary toll, as if it were some foreign ship entering our harbour and, not knowing the channel, was nearing the shore, made his way to the small bridge at the entrance to the gates of Government House. Here he stopped and scanned the bay—he looked up and down, no vessels seemed astir, the "Fairy Queen" had not yet left for Pictou. There was a strong wind blowing. It swept in from the Straits, ruffling the surface of our placid harbour, and making it quite difficult for three Indians in a native canoe who were paddling their

themselves keen enough to grapple with the situation. The trouble seems to be the too tolerant attitude of the public. There is too much sympathy with offenders and too little with those who are left to give. If the public would rise in its wrath and demand strict official investigation of every major accident, coupled with full publicity, no glossing of facts and relentless punishment of offenders, it might

way from their encampment at Warren's Farm to the landing place on Pownal wharf. Here he again heard the bell, this time in the town again. He thought no church bell would ring at this early hour. What could it be? The Captain now became deeply interested in his strange quest; forgetting all about his horse. He retraced his steps up Kent Street, and drawing near Pownal Street he heard the sound again, this time coming, he thought, from the belfry of the Kirk. Knowing it was unusual for the bell to ring at that still early hour, he decided to investigate the seeming mystery.

He crossed the street to Miss MacDonald's corner, walking up Pownal Street till he came to Fitzroy; here he heard the St. James' Church bell, no mistake, toll eight times, and lowering his eyes from the belfry to the entrance door, he beheld on its very threshold three women dressed in some white material, with uncovered heads and feet. The women seemed not to notice him as he now made his way toward them. The bell now struck again, and on glancing up, he saw through the apertures the form, as he thought, of another woman; to see the church doors close upon the three that stood on the steps. As he reached the church door, Davy Nicholson, the Kirk sexton, turned the corner from the manse, where he (Davy) had been inquiring the cause of the bell-ringing at such an unseemly hour, and not receiving a satisfactory answer, decided to investigate for himself. They both tried the church doors and found them securely fastened, and on looking through the small windows at the side of the door saw the retreating form of a woman ascending the steps that led to the belfry.

The sexton now made off to the manse for the key, leaving the gallant Captain on guard, who, above the roar and whistle of the wind, which was now blowing a gale, could hear the sound of foot-falls and voices in the tower above. The sexton, accompanied by the minister of the Kirk at that time Dr. Snodgrass, now arrived on the scene. The door being unlocked, the

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That Body of Ours

By James W. Barlow, M.D. SUN LAMPS SHORTEN THE HEALING TIME

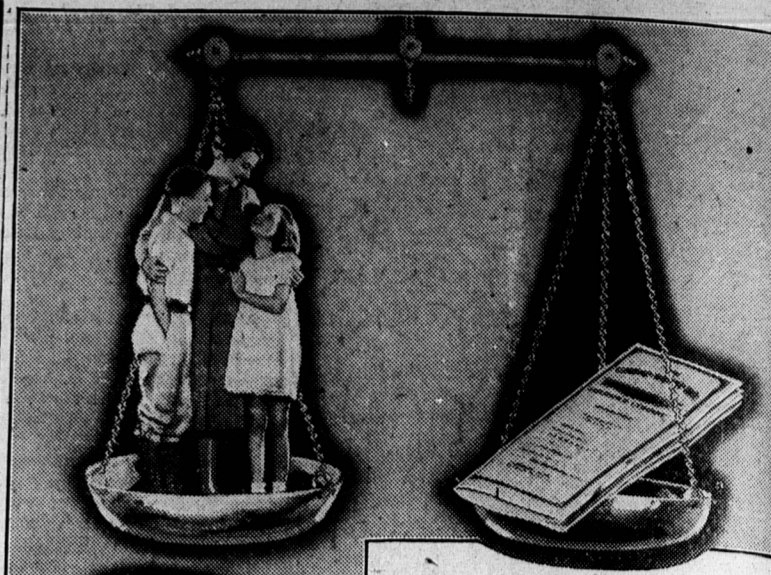
One of the discouraging things about treating old tubercular joint ailments a few years ago, was that so much sunlight was needed that cloudy or rainy weather interfered with the treatment.

This meant that it was many months often years before these joint conditions would clear up, and some of them never did heal. It is interesting then to know that these many months and years of waiting to get the healing rays from the sun are now unnecessary owing to the use of sun lamps in many orthopedic hospitals.

Dr. Anson H. Bingham reports 54 cases treated at the Metropolitan Hospital New York by these lamps which transmit artificial sunlight. These cases included all sorts of joint conditions, tubercular and others, treated during one year. The results were remarkable; old discharging sinuses or openings into the joint which had refused to heal for as long as three years, were completely closed, and the opening filled with solid tissue after a few applications of the sun lamp.

One case of hip disease which had been discharging for over ten years was healed by 8 treatments by the sun lamp, the treatments being given at the rate of two or three each week.

A number of cases of arthritis (chronic rheumatism of the joints) were "favorably influenced by the lamp, and made a more rapid rate of progress than those treated by mechanical measures alone. One of the most satisfactory features was the rapidity with which the pain was controlled. There were six cases of neuritis, that inflammation of the nerves which is so painful, very much like a toothache, only in shoulder, hip, arm, or other part of the body. Five of these were completely cured and one is still undergoing treatment. Ever since Finzen discovered the beneficial effects of the sun rays, artificial sunlight has been sought, and these sun lamps are the answer. Dr. Bingham states that the advantages of these lamps are:—



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