

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1924

CHRISTMAS 1924

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night and lo the Angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the Angel said unto them Fear Not! behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. . . . And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the Heavenly Host praising God and saying Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace, good will toward men.

A Merry Christmas to all. This is the universal salutation throughout Christendom this morning. And it is a real wish. The world, as a whole, was never happier, never better than it is at this moment. There are some dark spots, some shadows of sorrow and sin, but they are but as specks in an infinite ocean of light. True, the specks intrude themselves unpleasantly upon the vision, true there are shadows and dark caves and precipices over which men and women are falling but the great plain on which humanity is moving is level and safe and to the vast majority even to the saddest and the poorest there is and has been more of sunshine than of shadow, more of pleasure than of pain, more of joy than of sorrow.

Nearly two thousand years of Christianity have left their mark on the world, an indelible mark, the mark of continuously growing righteousness. Wherever Christianity has been planted justice, charity and good will have sprung up; and the Gospel promises of two thousand years ago are being literally fulfilled; the sick, the blind, the lame are being healed and the poor are being cared for. It is safe to say that not since that first Christmas in the little town of Bethlehem has the greatest of Christian graces, Charity been more a evidence throughout the Christian world than it is today.

In our own City and Province the Christmas Spirit is truly alive and active and willing. The various appeals on behalf of the poor and the sick and the lonely have been most generously responded to, while there may be sorrowing hearts, while doubtless there are those who cannot be wholly comforted, many who "the hard, rough pathway tread" are being made to feel that they are not forgotten.

EDITORIAL NOTES

You feel good this morning. Santa Claus woke you early didn't he?

Now let us all go to church and thank the Giver of all good gifts.

The stores did a thriving trade all week, especially Tuesday and yesterday.

Peace on earth to men of good will, in the churches especially at this season.

After today our Presbyterian brethren will be busy with the battle of the ballots all over the land.

Always let us remember, and especially at this season "The youth of a nation are the trustees of posterity."

Nature is a wonderful pacifier, and the pity is it cannot be depended upon always at the right moment. The Communists of Paris staged a big demonstration for last Sunday, and the French Fascists having arranged a counter demonstration serious riots and blood shed were expected. But Jack Frost unexpectedly appeared on the scene, reducing the Communists ranks to a shadow while the "Antis" thought discretion the Europe may be no bad thing.

better part of valour and did not demonstrate at all.

The Railway has leased the Hotel Scribe, Paris for a period of forty years at a rental based at the rate of 5 per cent on the purchase price. The purchase price was \$2,733,693 so that means \$136,684 per annum rent plus \$15,000 the rental value of the floor space to be retained for use by the railway. The lessee will pay insurance and maintenance. The railway is lucky in getting so well out from under a white elephant, but it is a lot of money to have tied up in such a fool enterprise.

The difficulty Germany has in forming a government is explained in a lucid summary of the situation in The Spectator. It is agreed in the writer of German parties, two blocs emerged with some definiteness: a right-wing bloc, which fought under the old black, white and red flag, was definitely monarchist, hostile to the Dawes Report, and intransigent to the Versailles Treaty; and a left-wing bloc, which fought under the new black, white and gold flag, was strongly Republican, favourable to the Dawes Report, and advocated a general policy of Fulfillment and Conciliation with the rest of Europe. The result of the elections was as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Party Name and Percentage. Includes Nationalists with Land Union, German People's Party, Centre, Bavarian People's Party, Democrats, Socialists, Communists, Middle-class Business Party, Hanoverians.

This list may easily be divided into the two blocs, as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Bloc Name and Percentage. Includes Right-wing bloc (Fascists, Nationalists, Middle-class Business Party, Hanoverians) and Left-wing bloc (Democrats, Socialists).

"This leaves unallotted the German People's Party, Centre, Bavarian People's Party, Communists."

Table with 2 columns: Party Name and Percentage. Includes German People's Party, Centre, Bavarian People's Party, Communists.

Now, it appears that during the Election the German People's Party swung steadily towards the Right, and may now be allotted to the right-wing group. The Centre and Bavarian People's Parties are Catholic, and so anti-Socialist, but they have always worked for Fulfillment and for a Republic, and can therefore be still allotted to the left-wing group. The Communists are an absolutely unknown factor, which had better be left out of account, although they are obviously more likely to vote with the Left group than with the Right, if they vote at all. Excluding them we got the result:—

Table with 2 columns: Bloc Name and Percentage. Includes Right-wing bloc, Left-wing bloc.

The present Reichstag will have 493 members. Therefore a clear majority is 247. It will be seen that the parties of Republicanism and Fulfillment secured a fairly clear victory over the Monarchist and intransigent parties, and just secured an absolute majority of the full house. Thus we think it fair to say that the German Elections have resulted in a mandate of reason and moderation to whatever new Government is formed. Certainly the centre of gravity in the new Reichstag has shifted from the two extremes, which have lost badly, towards the centre, which has gained and has finally come to rest perceptibly to the Left of where it was in the old chamber. After all, no great turnover of opinion could be expected in seven months, since the last Elections were held. Some Government will in the end be formed, and the one thing which is obvious is that from where ever it draws its support, it will have to be of a moderate and tempering character, which in the present state of Europe may be no bad thing.

Notes By The Way

Sir Henry Thornton, although mildly criticised at times in Canadian newspapers has received many complimentary tributes in the daily press. He is not unmindful of these attentions, and being a shrewd politician, in a recent speech he paid a high tribute to the moral elevation of the newspapers of the Dominion. He expressed himself as satisfied that "they represent a higher standard of patriotism, public service and honesty than exists in any other country he has visited."

The Third Provincial party in British Columbia made a great deal of noise over there before and during the last provincial elections. They were ambitious and hopeful of obtaining control of the province but only succeeded in electing three members. Before the election they had criticised both the older parties, but most severely the Liberal Government led by Premier Oliver. Now the three Provincials are being taken to task sharply for "always voting with the Government!" Some politicians are built that way.

In the British Columbia Legislature an amendment to the Law regulating the speed of motor cars on the highways was adopted which only restricts the driver not to endanger the lives of others, and upon this unprecedented abolition of the speed limit both the Government supporters and the Opposition agreed. Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia are now pretty much in the same boat as to speed regulation. Drivers must carry cards showing that they are licensed to drive and must not, under heavy penalties, "drive to the common danger." After all, what do speed regulations amount to on a country highway with a clear track and no constable in sight?

It was frosty but not unkindly weather we had for a few days before Christmas in our fair Province and we may be well content with our lot when we read of 62 degrees below zero in Prairie Land. Of course such a deep "dip" only happens once in a long period of years and two or more thousand miles away. We have had nothing colder than 22 below zero in 25 years past here. Add 40 degrees to that and think of what those Western Progressives suffer! Not even Crow's Nest freight rates would tempt us to swap winter weather with them.

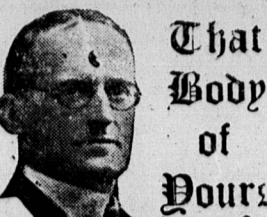
There were a plenty of elections in 1924 so far, in the United States, Great Britain and Germany and in sundry spots in Canada. The new year always brings its tale of civic and municipal elections in Quebec, Ontario and beyond the Lakes. But all these will be overshadowed in the home circles of Canada by what may be called the Presbyterian general election of 1924-5 just now beginning after a spirited campaign of twenty years. This will be the third of the varied series of elections touching the same question of Church Union.

The points at issue have been stated, debated and argued with more than political warmth and fervor, at firesides, in the streets, in halls and church edifices, in presbyteries, synods and general assemblies, in a hundred newspapers, in half a dozen legislatures and in the national parliament, by ministers and elders by eminent legal counsel, by doctors of divinity and principals of colleges, collectively pouring out words innumerable as the sands on the sea shore. All of which has created no small stir among the good Presbyterian men and women of the land. The originators of the movement surely started something!

The ballot box has sometimes settled great commotions and controversies, after which the land had rest. Let us hope that its operation may prove equally effective for good in the present emergency and that all concerned may accept its verdict.

A weapon that comes down as still As snowflakes fall upon the sod; But executes a freeman's will As lightning does the will of God; And from its force nor bars nor locks Can shield you—'tis the ballot box!

SOME IMPROVEMENT "Father," confessed the callow youth, "I have married her. We are two souls with but a single thought." "Well, you've gained something. A single thought isn't so many, but it is one more than I ever knew you to have before."



By James W. Barton, M.D. SACRIFICE

Ex-President Elliot, of Harvard, has stated that when he had to deal with a careless or reckless student, that his most successful argument in straightening the chap up was to appeal to him from the standpoint of the sacrifices that his parents, his friends, the world itself, has actually made, to give him the advantages he was enjoying. The appeal was so direct that it seldom failed to arouse in the student a deeper realization of his own responsibility to life itself, and a keener sense of gratitude for all that had been done for him. I have been wondering if you and I realized our responsibility to our parents, to their parents before them, to our health officers for their vigilance in preventing or cutting sort epidemics, to the patient investigators in the laboratories, who have shown us the causes, and how to prevent many of the scourges of the past.

And when you think of that body of yours, think of how dependent it is, and has been, on other people. Because by the sacrifice of other people you are enjoying health and strength. Your parents made sacrifices to look after that body of yours when you were a baby, and a growing child. The proper food, plaything, or indoors and out, that you might be encouraged to exercise your young body.

And so you owe it to them, to your own family, and to civilization itself to take care of what was given you. Does this entail sacrifice on your part? It may do so. It may mean that you will eat less, drink less, get out into the fresh air for a walk or to work when you may feel inclined to stay indoors. It may mean three or four minutes exercise night and morning to keep that body of yours symmetrical in outline, as you know it should be. You were given a body without any effort or sacrifice on your part. It seems only fair that you should take care of such a wonderful gift. Think of Dr. Elliot and his students.

Daily Selections FOR Guardian Readers

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

"Christmas comes but once a Year" When all is joy and gladness, And grief nor sorrow, sigh nor tear May tinge our hearts with sadness.

O blessed eve O happy morn! 'Tween which of Virgin Mary The Saviour of the world was born, In stable dark and dreary.

O was it chance, or was it choice, That in a place so lowly, Should first be heard the infant voice, Of our Redeemer holy?

Ambition, pride like birth-bound twins That hard it is to sever— Mong' angels' records first of sins— Oft side by side go over.

How meet 'twas then, that as a child, Adorned with graces ample, He taught us to be humble, mild, By means of His example.

Not to the rich, the proud, the great, Bright angels then descended, But to poor shepherds, keeping late, Watch o'er the flocks they tended

With tidings of the Saviour's birth In joyful words addressing; "Glorious high and peace on earth, To men good will possessing.

For worldly kings, of pomp and pride, Rich rob'd beyond the telling, No starry light appeared as guide To Mary's humble dwelling.

But wise ones saw in brilliant star The sign of incarnation, And hastened from the East afar, To offer adoration.

With gold and myrrh, and frankincense, Their tribute gifts composing, They tribute paid omnipotence, In Mary's arms reposing.

And as began our Saviour's life, In cold and dreary manger, From crib to cross 'twas ever rife, With sorrow, pain and danger.

From it may we this lesson learn, Whatever our post or duty, When meekly borne our crosses earn

Bright crowns of fadecless beauty, —M. C. O'Donnell

December 26, 1924. A STRENGTH AND REFUGE: O Lord, Thou art my God; I will exalt Thee, I will praise Thy name; for Thou hast done wonderful things. . . Thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat. —Isaiah 25:1, 4. PRAYER:—"Thy loving kindness, O Lord, is in the heavens;

The 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.

THE VACANT SEAT

Sir,—You are to be highly commended I think, for giving expression to Public Opinion regarding the vacant seat in the Senate and the proposed appointment of Mr. Nash. There is more of the Christmas, the Christian Spirit shown by the Guardian, towards the other Party than is exhibited by some of the churches. If the vacant seat in the Senate is anything to Premier Edward and to Canada it ought certainly to be filled at once; and you have shown that the constitution of the country requires that there shall be no delay about the matter—even though there should be some self-seeking politician in the House of Commons or the Cabinet who desires promotion and a permanent job.

Now, I have lately talked with a good many persons of both sexes, men and women, and I find that nine out of every ten are in favor of the appointment of Mr. Nash. Of all those proposed he has been longest in the public eye; and his position as Managing Editor of one of the chief organs of public opinion in the Liberal side of politics has given the public a good idea of his ability and character; and he on the other hand has had a good opportunity to learn what the people of the Province need.

It is not necessary to raise odious comparisons. All those who have been proposed for the vacant seat have their good parts and their weak parts. But for an all-round good man of the Liberal Party, one who would fill the vacant chair with credit to the Province—there is none, according to public opinion, more suitable than Mr. Nash, and his appointment forthwith would be applauded as a fine New Year's gift.

I am, Sir, Etc. AN OBSERVER.

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA.

Sir—The rumor is abroad that in the new United Church of Canada, the property of members is liable to be taxed for the support of that Church. Will you permit me through your columns to give a most emphatic and complete denial to this rumor. There is not the least possibility of such a thing being done. Such a method of raising money has never been thought of and here is not the slightest provision in the Basis of Union or in the Act either openly or hidden, for such a thing to be attempted. In the Basis, mention is made of an Assessment by the General Council which shall be obligatory on congregations. This assessment is "obligatory" in the same way that the payment of a salary is now obligatory. This is simply the scheme that is in effect in the Methodist Church today and nothing further is contemplated. To think that this may mean taxation of property is ridiculous.

I am, Sir, Etc. G. A. CHRISTIE

My Birthday

DECEMBER 25.—You are generous, broad-minded, thorough, and trustworthy. You love travel and good reading, and are an intelligent and fluent talker. You are true and loyal to your friends, and devoted to the ones you love. You could succeed in many callings. Your birth-stone is the turquoise, which means prosperity. Your flower is holly. Your lucky color is pink.

DECEMBER 26.—You are fond of fun, and are generally considered to be good company. Depend more upon yourself, and don't trust others too much. You are a strong lover, and a great home body, but don't forget that love is the best thing to strive for. Your birth-stone is the turquoise, which means prosperity. Your flower is holly. Your lucky color is pink.

DECEMBER 27.—You are a strong lover, and a great home body, but don't forget that love is the best thing to strive for. Your birth-stone is the turquoise, which means prosperity. Your flower is holly. Your lucky color is pink.

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THE HOLY CHILD Hail, most Holy Child of Mary, Full of truth and grace, Who hast come in love and meekness To redeem our race; Unto Thee we bring our praises This high festive day, Hear us, O sweet Child of Mary, Hear our joyful lay.

Through long ages holy prophets Had Thy Birth foretold, Now at last, O dear Redeemer, We Thy face behold; Angels have proclaimed the tidings How Thou camst to earth, Lowly shepherds came to greet Thee At Thy wondrous birth.

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O little town of Bethlehem How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

Our Debt to the World

WHEN we contrast her condition with that of most foreign lands, Canada appears like a ship resting in a sheltered harbor. She is rich, happy and at peace. The very fact of Canada's good fortune makes her a debtor. She owes the debt of goodwill and kindness which Christmas revives and presses upon us as an obligation to those lands less fortunate than our own.

Over the crowded areas of Asia stalk the skeleton figures of war and famine. Over much of Africa hangs the dense pall of superstition and ignorance that have shrouded her for ages. Europe struggles with almost insoluble political and economic problems, and one Government replaces another, each in turn overcome by perplexity and despair.

Canada although she has a few troubles of her own, is a favored child among the nations, with many reasons for a grateful heart this Christmas. Let us remember our debts as we count our blessings. Let us aid all efforts to spread the light brought down from the skies two thousand years ago by One who "though rich, for man's sake became poor."

THE MUTUAL LIFE of Canada: Waterloo, Ontario

H. A. EBERS PROVINCIAL MANAGER 135 Kent Street, Charlottetown, P. E. I. 730

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