THE GUARDIAN

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President, Ian A. Burnett; Vice-President, Wm R. Burnett; Secy.-Treas., G. M. Burnett; Editor and Managing Director, J. R. Burnett; Associate Editor Frank Walker.

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1947

Regardless Of The Law

It is apparent from the statements of Premier Jones and his party followers that the Government, if re-elected, will continue to ride roughshod over the statute of this Province which provides for the taxation of liquor and tobacco for public health services. These special taxes have been collected for the past six years and have netted over half a million dollars altogether. Only one-tenth of this amount, however—some fifty thousand dollars—has been spent on public health (tuberculosis treatment); the rest has gone, illegitimately, into general revenue.

Strong exception has been taken by the Tuberculosis League to the Government's action in this respect, and rightly so. The Act under which this tax is raised was passed in 1941 for a specific purpose, and for that reason was agreed to by the Opposition. The preamble to the Act reads: "Whereas it is deemed advisable to raise a revenue for the purpose of defraying additional expenditure incurred in the provincial health services and particularly in providing facilities for combating tuberculosis: therefore be it enacted(" etc.

Still more specifically, Section 8 of the Act reads: "The tax shall be collected, accounted for and paid to the Minister by such persons, at such times and in such manner as the regulations may prescribe." The Minister referred to is not the Provincial Treasurer—as would be the case in collection of ordinary revenue—but the Minister of Public Health. It was obviously intended that the fund should be kept separate and apart. This has not been done, and the Government has stubbornly refused to rectify its improper course. The public accounts show that this health tax has been paid to the Provincial Treasurer, applied to ordinary revenue, and spent as the exigencies of government or opportunity demanded. In thus violating the will of the Legislature the Government has followed an absolutely indefensible course. It has forgotten apparently, that the first duty of any administration, as of the humblest citizen, is to obey the law.

The Soviet Union

The little state of Iran apparently feels strong enough to defy the pressure of the Soviet Union. It has rejected a treaty by which Russia was to enjoy the right of developing oil lands in northern Iran. This treaty was signed in April, 1946, by the Iranian government but the Majlis, or parliament, has refused to ratify it.

In submitting the treaty to the Majlis the government seemed to take no responsibility for it. The prime minister, Ghavam es Sultaneh, indicated that he had only signed the treaty under heavy Soviet pressure and apparently welcomed its rejection by the legislature.

Russia can say with some logic now that the treaty has been unilaterally broken by Persia but it is obvious that Russia itself is largely responsible for this result. By its occupation of Iran in violation of its agreement, by its promotion of the abortive revolution in Azerbaijan, Russia has invited the suspicion and hostility of the Iranian people. At the first opportunity they display these feelings.

Pearls & Rubies For Medicine

Many of us who have been ill have cause to regret the large amounts of money spent on bottles of medicines, pills and powders. Edward Ward, one of the BBC's team sent to report on the transfer of power from Britain to India and Pakistan, went to Hyderabad during his visit. There he found the inhabitants of the Nizam General Hospital being dosed with such priceless substances as pearls, rubies, emeralds, and even gold and silver. He didn't say whether a reluctance to the extravagant consumption of such treasures accounted for the cures wrought but he explained something of the methods of the strange hospital which, while it uses known systems of diagnosis such as temperature and pulse-taking, sticks to its own ideas in regard to the medicines administered.

Ward was shown around the hospital by the resident medical officer and said, "Two plates were brought to him with spoons full of bright-coloured, sticky medicine. 'Would you like to try some,' said the Hakim. Being somewhat overawed I asked if I could start on some pearls. 'Certainly,' said the Hakim, handing me a teaspoonful of opalescent biscuit liquid. Thinking rather of Cleopatra, I swallowed it, it tasted very good, like honey, with which, in fact, the crushed pearls were mixed. I asked with some trepidation how much of a dose such as I had just had cost. 'It's expensive', said the Hakim, 'about one-and-a-half rupees.' Well, encouraged by this I went on to emeralds, rubies, and a mixture of various precious stones as well as musk and amber. They all had powdered gold and silver leaf mived up with them too, there were bottles on the table, some with fair-sized uncut rubies, some with tiny seed pearls, some with calcined emeralds and rubies. It was certainly a strange experience."

After absorbing the priceless treatment Ward was taken to the dispensary and shown the herbs, roots and even silk worms' cocoons which are used as medicine, also, the charcoal stove over which an infusion of herbs was being brewed, and other herbs soaking in bowls of water. "All this may sound primitive and old-fashioned," said Ward, "I suppose it is in a way, but the fact remains that these remedies work and have effected some remarkable cures." Nevertheless, Britain in this time of crisis has to stick to something cheaper to relieve her citizens' ailments.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

The politico-tempo is rising.

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Fourteen more days till the election.

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We are reasonably assured of fine weather till the year's end.

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St. Andrew's night supper tomorrow—"a feast of reason and a flow of soul."

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The condition of some of the roads is such as to make even Saints swear; then what must be the feelings of politicians?

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The Soviets are returning tit-for-tat to Canada in connection with the recent spy agitation. They are sure to make the most of the opportunity.

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The electorate so far has shown comparative indifference to the election campaign. It takes rousing public meetings to stimulate cold political reasoning.

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What satisfaction can Canada have from the fact that the recent Packers' strike cut Briton's weekly bacon ration from two ounces to one ounce per week?

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There is something a little shady about the Ontario retail merchants' request that they be allowed to light their store windows and compensate for the electricity so used by reducing lighting in the interior of the store.

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Ottawa is preparing to hold a referendum on the purchase of the city's electric railway. The company has what amounts to a perpetual franchise. Under its charter it may operate until the city decides to take over its assets at their full value.

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Nine seats are now vacant in the Senate. This would be an excellent time to commence making that body an effective voice of the Provinces as was originally intended but no doubt the appointments will go to "safe" men from a Federal Liberal point of view.

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Another accident has occurred up West involving a waggon without lights. If drivers of such vehicles knew what little chance there is of seeing them between two approaching automobiles they would be about as likely to jump out of a high window as drive at night without lights.

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Evidently the Nova Scotia Liberal machine makes no bones about demanding voting support from veterans in return for employment given them in government jobs. Political parties here would never dream of making such barefaced admission of partizanship, at least in writing.

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France's political situation is pretty much now what it was before Great War II—the practical impossibility of making a coalition government. This should be a warning to those here who seek to build up third and fourth parties in the state. The ideal is two parties with the settlement of undivided differences within the respective parties.

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This is from Lewis J. Moorman, M.D., quoted approvingly by *The Canadian Doctor:* "It is well for the general practitioner to remember that approximately 80 per cent of the people who call for a doctor are good for spontaneous recovery without the aid of medicine, but they would have a poor time psychologically without the advice of a wise doctor. When illness strikes, it is of paramount importance to know how to stay the storm, to soothe the soul, to quiet the heart, and restore psychological balance, thereby helping to establish physiological equilibrium. This is the general practitioner's perennial privilege, rarely the specialist's."

* * * *

John Knox, Scottish reformer, died this date 1672. He was the father of the Scottish Presbyterian Church; a martinet in both religion and politics; wherever he went and whatever he did, he succeeded in making people, including the Queen, sit up and take notice; installed Presbyterianism as the established religion (which it is yet) of Scotland. He was unequalled before or since as a social reformer: "I have learned to call wickedness by its own term; a fig a fig; and a spade a spade." "Nature doth paint women to be weak, frail, impatient, feeble and foolish; and experience hath declared them to be unconstant, variable, cruel, and lacking the spirit of counsel." But it must be remembered John was unfortunate in his matrimonial relations.

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In view of tariff changes it is interesting to have an Englishman's views on farming. Dr. C. E. M. Joad, one of the best known of British philosophers, who has been for so many years one of the mainstays of the BBC's Brain's Trust, is also a farmer. He became one fairly recently and finds that a life spent on the land is not the thing of ease, peace and plenty that the average townsman likes to think it is. Dr. Joad concluded a BBC talk on "Life at Home" by making four observations about a farmer's life. "First, money. The expense is terrifying. . . . Secondly, pride. All my life I have been . . . writing . . . teaching . . . talking. . . . I am an old hand and my word goes. In farming I am a comparative ignoramous . . . incompetent in the use of my hands and congenitally incapable of dealing with machines. . . . Nobody dreams of taking my advice and my word, when uttered, emphastically does not go. Thirdly, remoteness. To go to the farm is to forget the world . . . you live in a world of your own. Fourthly, the thing is expensive, arduous, humiliating and terrifying. But there are moments—God knows why—of rare and unexpected happiness."

-Notes By The Way-

The modern view is that alcoholism is a disease. It is strange how so many people willingly expose themselves to it. Most of them boast that they can use alcohol without abusing it, and look with scorn on those who cannot exercise the same measure of control. — Toronto Star.

In Vancouver, under amendments to the Criminal Code, a man charged with being a habitual criminal, on conviction can be given an indeterminate prison sentence. It is a sensible law. The folly of turning loose on society, a chronic and confirmed law-breaker ought to be obvious. — Ottawa Journal.

What does the word "Ontario" mean? A reader of Ontario Government Services submitted this question, and after digging around a bit the derivation was found. "Ontario" originally was the Iroquois word "kanadarie," which means "sparkling blue water." It was used to describe the waters of the lake that is now known as Ontario. Later, "kanadarie" was corrupted to "Ontario," and the white settlers gave the name to the land along the lake's shores for an ever-extending area, explains the Ontario Government Bulletin.

November is the brown month. There is brownness on the meadows, swamps and uplands. Little brown leaves cling to the scrub oaks on pasture hillsides and brown windrows of leaves are banked against walls, rail fences and in ravines at the edge of sidehill orchards. Furrows of Fall plowing are moist brown ribbons, carved in precise winding rows along the contours. Each day the sun circles lower in the sky and each day time drops farther downhill. Among northern hills and valleys countrymen lift their eyes each morning to the granite ledges that cap evergreen mountain slopes. This is snow-dust time. Before Squaw Winter sends its first falls of snow the stratus and nimbus clouds lightly brush the hilltops with snow-dust.— New York Times.

Anybody who knows the first thing about Canadian conditions must realize that short-term, hand-to-mouth policies in industry and government are as unworthy, not to say cowardly, response to the great opportunities which abound in this Dominion. An era of exploitation, of "quick killings", of hit-or-miss development is giving way to an era of responsible collaboration between science, industry, government and finance. The government's leadership in this direction has since the war been less vigorous than many Canadians expected. The excuse up to now has been that it was preoccupied with problems of reconversion and decontrol. Signs that it may be casting about for something positive and constructive in the way of a development policy are at least encouraging. — Winnipeg Tribune.

Farmers of Western Canada who operate within the Palliser Triangle would be foolish indeed to turn a deaf ear to the warnings and a blind eye to the signs that the Great Plains area of this continent is very probably going to undergo another period of low precipitation. The rainfall in August, September and October of this year has not provided the moisture which is required. The snow in the coming Winter will make little contribution towards a desirable seed bed for next Spring, and the outcome of next year's seeding will be dependent upon bountiful and timely Spring and Summer rains. It would be poor business to ignore this situation; preparations that are possible and feasible should be made for such an eventuality. — Moose Jaw Times-Herald.

James C. Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians has struck again. Having decreed last month that the recording industry should expire as of Dec. 31, he now would administer the same fate to all cooperatively sponsored musical programs on the networks. Ostensibly, the union leader maintains that if one nation-al program is sponsored by many different concerns in different cities it discourages such concerns from offering their own local shows with local musicians. This, of course, overlooks the whole appeal of the "co-op" program in radio; for several individual concerns to do collectively what they could not afford to do individually. But the economic facts of life long ago lost their appeal for Mr. Petrillo. Whether it is to be one or two businesses that must face extinction apparently is of no moment to a man who is thoroughly convinced that everyone is out of step but himself. —New York Times.

Four hundred years after its invention, the click of the hand-driven knitting frame still is heard in thatched cottages around Nottingham — almost within sound of the mighty plants where hosiery is made by high-powered machinery. The hand-driven machine, invented by Rev. William Lee of Calverton in 1589, earns useful spare cash for countrywomen who turn out fine hosiery in their homes between household chores. Machines are loaned to them by several enterprising firms which send round vans to collect the finished articles. Though some of the hand-knitted machines now in use are 150 years old, they are far in advance of Lee's original frame, set with only eight needles to the inch. They are worked by a foot treadle propelling two yard-long rows of interactive needles. Home-knitting for spare cash is not confined to working men's wives. The wife of a Nottingham schoolmaster also helps the export drive in this fashion.— St. Catharines Standard.

The Poets Corner

POETS IN FALL

The poets have picked the fall to its bare bone.
And glowing were the words they used to tell
Of flaming autumn—tawny, russet, gold,
Of tingling, heady air. Now where they fell
The leaves lie— crumpled, lifeless and no line
Of verse can bring their vivid color back
Or make them dance again. And every tree
Stands naked, gaunt, and desolately black
The poets have picked the fall to its bare bones
And, wordless now, inspect the skeleton,
Until the winter shrouds it in pure white
For them to drape their snowy phrases on.

—Eleanor Owen Penick in Washington Star.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

HILLSBORO SUBWAY

"Senator Howlan submitted plans of the proposed Hillsboro Subway to members of the Legislature on Thursday. The company represented by Senator Howlan proposed to put a subway or tunnel across the River with tracks for foot passengers, carriages and railway trains, and all necessary apparatus, for $250,000, to be paid when the work is finished to the satisfaction of a Government engineer, by debentures bearing interest at 4 per cent, payable in thirty years. This offer is worthy of careful consideration."— Island Guardian, April 2, 1887.

A few days later The Guardian reported that a resolution embodying Senator Howlan's proposal was introduced in the House by Hon. Mr. Sullivan, and caused "the most lively discussion of the session." Mr. Sullivan argued that the annual interest of the money required would be no more than the yearly expense of keeping up the ferry. He spoke of the great advantage it would prove to Belfast and the communities east of the river. .

Hon. Mr. Yeo, leader of the Opposition, said the House had not sufficient information to come to an intelligent conclusion on so important a matter. The proposed subway would not do away with the need of ferry steamers. In many respects a bridge would be preferable.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson thought a subway much preferable to a bridge, as the latter would need constant repairing, and must have a draw in it, to allow vessels to pass through.

Mr. Sutherland asked where were the reports of the engineers respecting the relative cost of a bridge as compared with a tunnel.

Mr. Bell maintained that if the company was so anxious to try this thing as an experiment, in order to promote the larger scheme of a subway at the Capes, let them build the Hillsborough subway and run it and take the tolls, and the Governmemnt would grant a liberal subsidy. That would be more reasonable than to ask the Government to assume the entire cost.

Hon. Mr. Gordon urged the Government to "go slowly in the matter." He had come to the conclusion that it was going to cost a great deal more than the estimated amount.

The resolution passed on the following division:

For: Hon. Messrs. Sullivan, Ferguson, MacLeod, Arsenault, Bentley, Prowse, MacDonald, Gordon; Messrs. Blake, Gillis, J. MacLean, Kelly, Shaw, H. L. MacDonald, Forbes, Martin—17.

Against: Messrs. Yeo, Farquharson, Sinclair, J. R. MacLean, Bell. —5.

The House then went into committee, Dr. Gillis in the chair, and after some time the resolution was reported agreed to.

The Bill, however, fared less luckily. It was thrown out by the Legislative Council. Hon. A. Laird moved, seconded by Hon. P. MacNutt, the following amendment which was adopted on division:

"That the House do not resolve itself into a committee of the whole on the said Bill for the following reasons:

"1st. That this House is of opinion that before undertaking a work of such magnitude the Government should have ascertained what amount of subsidy would be sufficient to induce a company to construct and operate for a term of years a bridge or subway that would afford ample facilities for traffic:

"2nd. That the construction, durability and successful operation of metalic subways in the beds of rivers or other waters have not been sufficiently tested to justify this House in committing the Province to the construction of such a subway as a government work;

"3rd. That no statement has been laid on the table of this House showing the comparative cost of constructing a tunnel or subway with that of a bridge, and annual cost of operating each respectively."

EXPERIENCE SPEAKS

DENHAM, Buckinghamshire, England — (CP)—Blind for 60 years a widow, Jane Baker, who recently celebrated her 100th birthday said: "Make the best of everything and be thankful for small mercies."

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

GOVERNMENT PROMISES

Sir,—Please allow me space in your valuable paper to express a few of my views towards this Jones Government, about which one hears so much.

In the first place I would like to ask Mr. Jones what about the great plank in his platform of four years ago. He promised to give every farmer electricity. Has he done that? More broken promises. What has Mr. Jones done for labor? Nothing but watch prices go sky high and expect the laboring man to work for small wages.

The Liberal members boast of great times and big money that the farmers are making. What about the price of feed going up beyond our pocket book? Selling our chickens for the big sum of sixteen cents a lb. live weight! Now the farmers have to do away with their pigs and poultry on account of feed prices.

In face of all this floundering Mr. Jones wants the people of good old P. E. Island to give him and his Government a good majority on election day, so he can bluff the people a few more years with broken promises.

Major Arthur H. Peake tries to tell the good people of our fair Island how they should vote on Dec. 11th. Mr. Peake should not worry about that as we know how to vote; and he goes on to tell them that unless they vote Liberal and return a Liberal Government everything will be lost. He also goes on to tell the people, "We are one and the same party." What about the price of cars, going up beyond the reach of the average man's pocket book?

I would like to congratulate Mr. Jones on all the promises he is making, trying to bluff the voters for another term of office.

Wake up voters, pull the wool from your eyes so you can see how to vote, and vote for our two candidates, Mr. Strong and Mr. Pillman.

I am, Sir, etc.
AN OLD BEDEQUE LIBERAL.
Nov. 20, 1947.

SHOULD THE CHURCH DECLARE WAR?

Sir,—When Jesus first before His arrest, said to His followers, "But now. . . .he who has no sword let him sell his mantle and buy one", was liable to grave misunderstanding. In those days pacificism was scarcely known. In fact, Jesus Himself, in the narrow sense, was not a pacifist. He used force to drive the grafters from His Father's house; and if they had resisted, He likely would have used more force. Jesus' advice to His followers that night might have been taken as a blanket justification of war. What then did He mean? It was war, indeed, but of a spiritual kind. He wanted to tell His people in His own unique way that from now on as never before there would be war, war between good and evil, between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Satan. From the beginning there had been skirmishes, but from now on it would be widespread, bitter and bloody, and He said, "If you want to follow me you must take up your cross. They will put you out of their synagogues; indeed, the time is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God."

The sword is the symbol of all military preparation; and Jesus would say, "Be thoroughly armed for the odds against you are fearful. The enemy is defiant and deadly and must be fought to a finish." Again and again Jesus warned men not to be in a hurry to follow Him. One said, "I will follow You wherever You go." Jesus said to him, "Listen, lad, the foxes have holes, birds of the air have nests but the Son of man has nowhere to lay His head." The fellow imagined the going would be easy. He would go along with the rest and get his meals. "The loaves and the fishes" are attractive to shallow people, to people, for example, who have votes to sell for "plums". Jesus said in effect to this young man, "I have no use for you. I am looking for soldiers. A war is coming—the greatest of all the wars."

Have we ever heard of an individual or a church that did any great good, or won any great victory without sacrifice? The early Church made a mighty impression in a short time. By the end of the first century Christianity had been planted in every considerable city in the Roman Empire, and by 325 a Christian Emperor was upon the throne. But those early followers made war, war against injustice, greed, idolatry and they had to suffer for it, many of them unto death.

It cannot be denied that the Church of today has been a particular failure, a greater failure than many people are ready to admit. Spiritual and moral conditions here in America and particularly in Europe are symptoms of the church's failure. Today the countries of Europe are threatened with a common ruin because they have refused to make common cause with the Gospel of Jesus Christ for their own and other's salvation. They refused to co-operate for the common good, each nation turning to its own way. What can we expect if we flout Jesus' injunction to "seek first the Kingdom of God" and the Church is a partial failure because she has refused to join forces and make war against evil. What would have happened to us if the freedom-loving nations had not united against Nazism and destroyed it? and what will happen to the church and to the world today, heaven only knows, if the church of Jesus Christ does not unite and declare war against evil that has become more highly organized, defiant and deadly than ever before.

As Jesus commanded, we must look well to our weapons. Paul advises "Put on the whole armor of God. . . .take the sword of the spirit" for in that sword is all the power of Almighty God. "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it", and the spirit of God empowers those who have faith and are in deadly earnest.

The enemies of goodness are a great multitude and startlingly powerful. I shall name only two and these are not the most dangerous that Christian people have to contend against. A new power has arisen in the world within the last few years, the enemy of all righteousness, viz., Communism, more dangerous than Nazism ever was. Nazism was crude and brutal. Communism is not only brutal. It is insinuating and in some respects attractive. Unrest, disorder, and poverty are its meat and drink. It spells the annihilation of true religion and if not stopped by some means or other it will some day rule the world. If the true disciples of Jesus throughout the world were united in one purpose they could, by the grace of God, stem this evil thing. In fact, it is perhaps true, that except for the Church's failure, Communism would never have appeared.

But there is another evil nearer home. It is not the worst either, but it is one that is destroying this Canada of ours from coast to coast and here in Prince Edward Island it is doing a great deal of mischief. The liquor traffic since National Prohibition was repealed and Government Control brought in has increasingly flooded this country with liquor with consequent increase of drunkenness, social diseases, crime, accidents, many of them fatal, and broken homes. The damage done is beyond calculation. The great wars have not given to Canada so much distress and loss and in the last few years here in this Province the enemy has been allowed to make shameful inroads.

Some years ago, and about two years after Prohibition had been enacted, Mr. S. A. MacDonald, merchant, said to me, "For the past year I have not seen a drunken man in this store", and on Friday Nov. 7th. in and around the Market Building I saw seven drunken people. How many there were all over the City it would be hard to say. Since the "Cullen Amendment" came into effect conditions have become very much worse.

It would be much more difficult to enforce Prohibition today than it was in its first years. Moral conditions, in general, have degenerated, and money is more plentiful, but more than anything else, the liquor interests are doing their best to smash Prohibition. The "Cullen Amendment" has pretty well done this already, but the enemy wants to complete the job and bring in Government Control, with cocktail lounges, beer parlors and all the graceful facilities for increased drinking.

If the churches would combine and make war upon the traffic, a thing they have never done, the trade, as it is today in Canada would not last long. Some people might lose their barns as has happened here in this Province already, but that would be a small matter compared to the fruits of victory over this great evil. If P. E. Island should go dry the result would be an eye-opener to all Canada. Let us not blame the Government for mangling the law or neglecting to enforce it. They do not see the evil booze is doing. Their eyes are upon the revenue. Let us put the blame where it belongs. The responsibility for the sad conditions as they are rests mainly upon the church. Some say "the law can't be enforced", but, by the grace of God, working in and through men and women who are willing like the early Christians to make sacrifice it can and it ought to be done. The churches have through the years, passed enough good resolutions to make quite a bonfire. They have threatened war many a time but they haven't yet burned the bridge across the Rubicon.

I am, Sir, etc.
W. I. GREEN.
Stanley Bridge, P. E. I.

PRECIOUS FIND

SALDANAH, South Africa — (CP)—Recent discovery of 150 pounds of ambergris valued at $160,000 has stirred local whaling men to keep a look-out for the valuable substance, used in the manufacture of perfume.

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