

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1931

A CATASTROPHE

The complete destruction of Falconwood Hospital is likely to result from last night's disastrous fire, which at the time of writing is still raging in the central part of the building. Three fatalities are reported, and while this is shocking news, in the circumstances the wonder is that there were not more. The prompt manner in which the patients were dealt with by the hospital staff, the city firemen and police, and volunteer workers who came in hundreds by car from the city, undoubtedly saved many other lives. Emergency accommodation in the adjoining Infirmary has been provided for a large number of patients rescued last night from the burning building. Others are being housed in the City Police Court, and the Armouries and Strand Theatre have also been made available. It is absolutely necessary, however, to secure other quarters until more permanent arrangements can be made. The whole financial condition of the Province has been affected by the serious financial loss involved in the fire. This, important as it is, is of less moment than the immediate providing of care and accommodation for the patients. Their condition renders such care both difficult and necessary. Our citizens, both in city and country, will undoubtedly be glad to co-operate in every way, but the immediate duty devolves upon all relatives of patients to get promptly in touch with the hospital trustees.

U. S. TAXATION

One after another the governments of the world are faced with the difficult problem of balancing their budgets in a time of decreased revenues and increased demands on the exchequer for unemployment relief. That was the issue upon which the extravagant Socialist administration of Great Britain came to grief and which led to the formation of the new National Government, since returned to power by an overwhelming majority on the strength of its pledges to make ends meet and to balance the trade returns. The Australian, New Zealand, German and other Governments have faced the same sort of music. Now the turn of the United States has come around. At Washington last week President Hoover and Mr. Mellon, secretary of the treasury, issued a statement explaining the seriousness of the situation to the people at large and calling upon them to assume new burdens in order that the credit and stability of the nation may be maintained. They revealed estimated deficits of \$2,123,000,000 for the current year, of \$1,417,000,000 for 1932, and of \$4,442,000,000 for the three-year period ended June 30, 1933. They explained that they had already cut expenditures to the bone and that the leeway must be made up by fresh taxes on rich and poor alike. They said that practically no one in the country could hope to escape the new and increased levies. The specific measures of taxation announced include a levy practically doubling the number of income taxpayers and nearly trebling the average taxes on the community as a whole. There are to be special taxes on cheques, telephone calls, telegraph messages, automobiles, radios, amusements down to the humblest motion picture show, with higher rates on postage, cigarettes and corporations. Mr. Mellon forecast some business improvement during the coming year, but made it clear that this prospect does not obviate the necessity for obtaining money for the Government from all possible sources. The drastic measures thus taken in the great neighboring republic, which has often been spoken of as the richest country in the world, should tend, says the Toronto Mail

NOTES BY THE WAY

Professor Willson of California's Noble prize winner in chemistry, claims to have pictures of an atom smashed by a cosmic ray which he says indicates the release of 130,000,000 volts of electricity, with the possibility that 300,000,000 volts may be obtained by the same process. Since the earliest power used by man, wind, water, steam and electricity. The power utilized by man in the different ages of the world has undergone a development which is amazing and the end is not yet. Present economic conditions are causing people to wonder whether there is not rather too much power now. If it were possible to turn back the economic clock a little, discontinuing some of the labor-saving machines, would not there be more work for those who seek it desperately? Along with the other causes of depression is what is known as "technological unemployment," produced by the replacement of human hands by machines that do several times the work. Yet the mind of man, working through the scientists, proceeds to search for power beyond the wildest dreams of modern engineers. Mahatma Gandhi is going back home to India with the avowed intention of making more trouble for the British Government. That the scantily clad emissary from the far east is a born trouble maker is admitted. That he is nothing else has been abundantly proved by his sojourn in London. If he had an idea in his head when he left India he has it yet. For never since has any such thing stood revealed about his person. He came out of the East as the man who had India under his thumb. The conference has shown that untold millions of his countrymen look to him for neither advice nor guidance—that they object alike to his policy and his leadership. Gandhi, hidden in the hills and spreading his propaganda from behind a smoke screen of mysticism, appealed to the world as one of its great personages. Gandhi in the open where he could be compared with thinkers of more or less repute stood revealed as something too ordinary for everyday use. When he takes his shawl, his safety pin and his goat and disappears over the Eastern horizon another yellow peril will have come and gone without even making a dent in Western civilization.—Toronto Telegram.

A POTENT FORCE

The success of the Council of the League of Nations in securing at least a truce between Japan and China in face of actual contact and bloodshed between the two armed forces in Manchuria is perhaps one of the most significant events in world history. An exchange suggests that had such a body as the League Council been in existence in 1914 the World War might have been averted. In any event, it is certain that the moral force of world opinion as embodied in the League Council has had a potent and beneficial effect in the present Sino-Japanese dispute. Both China and Japan have acceded to its terms; hostilities have ceased; Japan is evacuating her troops in Manchuria, while she holds herself in readiness to protect her citizens and possessions from roaming bandits. The League Council is to appoint a committee of five which will go to Manchuria and report on the whole situation. Thus another forward step has been made in the direction of the ultimate outlawry of war and the establishment on an enduring basis of "the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world."

EDITORIAL NOTES

An exchange notes that for the amateur bridge player there has come from the quiet of the room in New York in which world famous adversaries face each other in the most sensational bridge contest of the century a great and comforting piece of news. One of these marvelous players, and with a new world championship in the making, admits that at one stage he "forgot what trumps was!" Forty players were killed on football fields in the United States this year, probably a record, the victims including nineteen high school boys, and the average age being 16. The death list has excited a lot of comment in the press and in educational circles, and a demand is being made for some measures to prevent the killings and maimings. The critics, surely, says the Montreal Gazette, are justified in their criticism. Football should be played as a game—even a strenuous one—but not as an actual death struggle.

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The London Telegraph is quoted as saying: When a scientist suggests that too much science is being taught in our schools there is ground for believing that he has some reason on his side. In an address to the British Science Guild Professor Irving Masson pointed out that much of the scientific training going on in our schools and universities is suitable only to those who are going to devote their whole lives to scientific work. Even in the secondary schools a disproportionate amount of time is given from an early age to scientific subjects, to the neglect of such important "human" subjects as languages and literature. Well-balanced education has been the dream of many reformers, and there is a good deal to be said, after all, for the pass-degrees provided the standard all round is raised and it is made worth having. A system which obliges almost every young student to be a specialist of sorts leaves room for improvement.

The Cheerful Maritimes

(London (Ont.) Free Press) Today the three Maritime Provinces are admittedly the most prosperous portion of the Dominion. They have been little affected by the depression. Business is remarkably good, and foreign trade is growing. The tourist trade is growing rapidly. The young people are returning to the Maritimes. The chances are that the most of the decrease in population in Nova Scotia in the past ten years took place in the first half of the decade. In any case the Maritimes are not downhearted; they are optimistic; they are confident; they are looking forward to the future with hope; they are rejoicing over the brighter prospects ahead.

Lacking

(Butterfield in Vancouver Province) Herr Arthur Brisbane, whose current wisdom is at present excluded from Los Angeles, has hailed some young movie magnate as a great man because his juvenile solon has announced that his motto in making movies is to give the people something they lack. From this Brisbane deduces that the elderly woman who went every afternoon to the pictures to see Valentino, did so because she found something in the late sheik that was lacking in her middle-aged husband. The more obvious conclusion would be that she lacked common sense, lacked something better to do or lack the initiative to look for it.

Hitler's assertion that he has the backing of some fifteen million voters, who are in sympathy with his programme and will show their full strength through the ballot, is progress and will show the world that Hitler is a strong hand, and his fr-sighted statesmanship can be counted upon to keep Germany from making a wild plunge which would entail the most serious consequences for the nation, not less than for all foreign countries with which Germany has any trade connections.

That Body of Hours



By James W. Barton, M.D.

DEEP BREATHING HELPS THE LIVER

When a boxer, football player, or other athlete tries to get into his best possible condition, he does what is called "road work," which is simply slow running or jogging along the road. If the weather is bad, he remains in the gymnasium and does considerable skipping as this acts the same as running in that the body is lifted off the ground or floor. This running is done to strengthen his heart and lungs as these are the vital or important organs that must be strong in all athletic games. You can readily see that an athlete when running raises his entire weight off the ground and propels it forward, and if you care to figure it out you will find that he is raising hundreds of tons weight, when he goes for an ordinary morning run. If you want to get an idea of what happens just feel how fast your heart is beating and how rapidly you are breathing after you run a short distance. However there is something else that happens when the athlete runs that is a big factor in maintaining his strength and skill. He has to take long breaths and this means that the diaphragm or floor of the chest presses against the liver at each breath and prevents the sluggishness that interferes with all the work the liver should be doing for the body. There is no backing up of the bile into the stomach causing distress and lack of appetite, there is a good absorption of food by the blood from the small intestine, and the large intestine moves its contents along, all because the floor of the chest presses against the liver. Now everybody can't go out and run on the street but many can run and skip in front of an open window, and thus get this work for the heart, lungs and liver. Others, who for various reasons cannot run or skip, can practice deep breathing, which while not very effective in strengthening the heart and lungs, is an excellent method of squeezing the liver and giving the body all the benefits therefrom—cleaning the blood, manufacturing bile, storing sugar, helping to make the blood and so forth. So try and get the liver squeezed daily by running, bending, or breathing deeply.

Exchange Not Wasted

(Toronto Globe) If there was any seriousness in the proposal of the Chamber of Commerce of Rome, N. Y., to exchange the Alaskan "Panhandle" for that portion of Quebec south of the St. Lawrence River, it shows that the Romans do not know Quebec or the "Panhandle." Nor do they realize that the result of the negotiations which set the "Panhandle" boundary line is still a sore point in Canadian memory. So far as Canadians have ever learned, Dominion territory was turned over to the United States for the sake of peace, and not because of an equitable award. Whether or not it is true, as alleged by a number of writers, that President Roosevelt threatened to occupy the disputed territory with troops if the full claims of the United States were not recognized, it is a matter of history that predictions in the United States press were fulfilled: namely, that the three members of the tribunal appointed by Washington would not move a hair's breadth to compromise, and that one or more of the British members would be won over. So, if Rome, New York, wants to revive bitter recollections, it has struck a fertile subject. It is better to leave it alone, unless it is felt that the "Panhandle" rightly belongs to Canada and should be restored. It has cut the coastline of much of British Columbia off from access to the sea. The Western Province could find use for it, and if a trade is desired we suggest that British Columbia give the privilege of using a roadway to Alaska, accessibility to the northland territory badly needed. But Quebec, never! Does Rome, New York, know that Quebec people voted against the reciprocity treaty in 1911 because word got around that Americans were likely to swoop down on their farms? And does Rome know that there are no better farms and towns anywhere than in this part of Quebec? Does Rome also know that opposition to the St. Lawrence seaway is being cultivated in Quebec on the ground that Quebec's mighty river would lose some of its Canadian identity while floating United States ships? Rome knows little about Quebec if it thinks a rich area of land almost the size of that part of New York State from Rome west could be exchanged for a few islands, rocks and mountains on the Pacific Coast—to say nothing of the thrifty, loyal people who would be deprived of the inestimable privilege of electing members to the Canadian Parliament. Enough to say that Rome of old could conquer the world easier than Rome, New York, could get a slice of Quebec in return for a whole State.

The Straight Question

(Sydney Post) The Montreal Herald admits the possibility of great results in the development of intra-Empire trade from Premier Bennett's recent visit to England, but says that to this end his "Canada First" policy must be abandoned. This suggests a question which the Herald, or some other papers of the same school of confused thinking, might carefully consider, and answer for its own enlightenment: If Canada's Premier does not consider Canada first in trade and tariff negotiations, what particular country should he place ahead of it?

Laughing Out Loud

(Windsor Star) People in Great Britain are probably chuckling quietly to themselves over the alarm in France caused by the jumbling duties imposed on French along with other manufactures. In fact, the chuckles may become loud laughter when it is recalled that France has, quite simply and without a thought that it might be injudicious to do so, imposed prohibitive tariffs on British manufactures for many years. When the French don't want an article imported, they do not fool with any little duty like 30 or 40 percent; it may be 60 or 75 percent, perhaps even more.

The Next Session

(Sydney Post) The report comes from Ottawa that Parliament may meet in earlier session than usual, owing to the need of having its deliberations concluded in good time for the Imperial Conference, scheduled to meet in the late spring or early summer. The date suggested for the session is January 28 which would be six weeks earlier than last year. If the legislative programme includes ratification of a St. Lawrence waterway treaty with the United States, the session will witness a debate as bitter and protracted as that which raged around Sir Wilfrid Laurier's National Transcontinental Railway bill in 1903. For there is a strong and militant body of public opinion which is opposed to any action with respect to the deepening of the St. Lawrence for years to come. Apart from the waterways problem, which may be deferred till next year one important measure the Government is certain to submit to Parliament will be an amendment to the Customs Act, giving the Administration authority to readjust the tariff schedules, within certain limits, in conformity with such preferential arrangements as may be agreed upon at the Imperial Conference. This would render unnecessary a special session next summer for the same purpose. Unemployment relief may also figure in the next session's agenda, though there is a growing hope that the coming months will register so marked an improvement in business, and in industrial activity, as to abate materially, if not to remove entirely, this heavy drain on the Federal finances. Unemployment relief grants have already cost the treasury upwards of \$5,000,000, to say nothing of the money spent on non-essential public works through the Departments of Public Works and of Railways, to furnish work to needy labor. The whole country will have a sigh of relief when these forms of paternalism are no longer necessary.

Sarcasm

(Billimore Sun) It might have been expected, that, in deference to an elemental sense of sportsmanship, the Old Guardsman "who jammed through Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act would make at least a gesture of con-

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The Poets' Corner

OLD HOUSES

There is a mystery old houses know The years will ever keep inviolate: An essence of the past, the long ago That hovers round the eaves, the muted grave, The shaded gravel walk that idly winds Between the ranks of tulips time has sundered; There is a secret guarded by shut blinds, The bold and prying world has never plundered. If you have loved old houses, never yearn To break their seals of silence and of death; It is enough forgotten dreams return Within the lilia's faint and fitful breath. Pause at the gate, and feel your heart expand, But never hope to know, or understand. —Anderson M. Scruggs in the Montreal Star.

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British Conservative Party, during their lead and erecting a protective tariff wall. But, on the contrary, they give off evidences of a protective tariff if would, great petulance. Such a show of of course, not be in retaliation bid manners on the part of the United States but in Old Guardsmen is exceedingly the nature of a deferential bow to deplorable. It stands in pathetic contrast to the staidly which Mr. Stanley Baldwin, Leader of the matters.

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