

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1929

THE MAIL COURIERS

On April 16th the House at Ottawa held a stirring debate on the question of rural mail contracts as they now exist in Canada. Hon. Mr. Robb, Minister of Finance had just proved that the House go into committee of supply, when Hon. Hugh Guthrie, Conservative, South Wellington took up the cudgels for the mail couriers. In spite of some wrangling on the part of the government Mr. Guthrie carried his point and proceeded to deliver a speech of which these are the salient features:

There are 4007 mail routes in Canada today, with an average length of 20 miles. According to figures supplied by the Letter Carrier's Association the average payment each man receives is \$720 per annum, though the postal department makes \$800, which of course is at the rate of \$40 per mile per year.

"Now what is he supposed to do for that money? . . . He has to maintain the service and in most, if not all, cases the service has to be daily . . . in all kinds and conditions of weather, winter and summer, with few . . . holidays; he has to maintain a sufficient horse and conveyance to cover his route, and he has to maintain himself and his family, all out of . . . \$300."

"The first question is, what does it cost to keep a horse in Canada today?" And Mr. Guthrie gives it as \$22. If the route requires two horses and many do—he finds that the courier must make a first charge against his salary of \$440. The Association considers these figures too low, and if this is so, so much the worse for the couriers.

This leaves him with \$360 or at best \$378 to support a family, in a year when the Department of Labour publishes statistics showing the minimum requirement of a family of five, to be \$1,122.60, for the mere necessities of life! "Surely it is beneath the dignity of such a country as Canada, it is beneath the dignity of any government to allow a system of that kind to continue."

Mr. Guthrie blamed the tender system for the present conditions; it had been tried and rejected by the United States and a mileage of \$75 per annum substituted. This would perhaps be too high for Canada but \$40 was absurd! When a tender is called for, someone in the community underbids the former contractor; the result of this is that the figures continually go down, while the cost of living is constantly rising, and this at length ends in disaster.

Mr. Guthrie moved as an amendment that as the present system of awarding contracts for the delivery of rural mails by tender had proved burdensome and unsatisfactory, such rural mail carriers should be appointed by the Civil Service Commission and paid on a mileage basis. As this was an amendment to a government motion the house divided on strictly political lines negatively on Mr. Guthrie's proposal by 106 to 74.

We note that Mr. Macdonald (Kings) voted for Mr. Guthrie's amendment, while Mr. MacLean (Prince) and Mr. Sinclair (Queens) voted against it. Mr. R. H. Jenkins (Queen) whose name does not appear in the voting list, spoke against the amendment giving as his reason for so doing, that many of the constituency, were over the age (35) at which admission into the Civil Service is permitted, and these would be thrown out of employment. To this objection Mr. Guthrie retorted that the section in the Civil Service Act could be changed in five minutes.

THOSE CUSTOMS CHARGES

It will be remembered that when Mr. H. B. Stevens, in 1925, launched a charge against the administration of the Customs Department, and demanded that Parliament should hold an inquiry, the Liberal party then in power opposed him tooth and

nailed. They declared that he was actuated by political motives, and was trying to embarrass the government. Such an inquiry, they said, would be a useless waste of money, as the Department was known to be in the best of hands, and was being honestly and carefully administered.

Our readers remember the outcome of the enquiry and even Liberals now admit that the result meant the saving of millions of dollars to the country, and the cleaning up of a mess comparable only to the Herculean feat of cleaning up the Augean stables of old.

Some days ago, Mr. Euler, Minister of Customs, answered a question in Parliament. The answer, says an exchange, disclosed:

1. That a total of \$2,370,783 has been recovered from persons and corporations by the Government in connection with defaults of payment of customs and excise taxes, disclosed in the inquiry of the Royal Customs Commission.

2. That still outstanding, and claimed by the Department of National Revenue as due the Government, is the sum of \$7,114,492.

This is Mr. Stevens and the Conservative Opposition of 1925 vindicated. For it is no exaggeration to say that without the Parliamentary inquiry launched by Mr. Stevens, and which brought about the Royal Customs Commission, this \$2,370,783 would have been lost to the treasury. If anyone be disposed to challenge this, let him read the speeches that were made by Liberal Ministers when the Stevens charges were first made. And let him supplement that reading by a perusal of Liberal campaign speeches in the campaign of 1926.

The truth is that few acts of any public man in Canada, or any party in Canada, brought greater public gain than the inquiry into the administration of our customs. It brought about the reorganization of our customs upon more businesslike, more efficient and more honest lines. It struck an effective blow for rigid probity in the public service. And it rescued millions that would have been lost to the public treasury.

CLEAN UP

It is customary about this time of the year or a little later, to have a clean-up week, when lawns and backyards are put in shape for summer. The melting of the snow and ice always leaves an accumulation of dirt which had gathered during the winter, creating an unsightly and unsanitary condition. Most of our citizens look after their own lawns and backyards without waiting for any advice from the City Fathers or others, but unfortunately there are those who need to be reminded of their duty in this respect and for this reason a regularly authorized clean-up week, on the suggestion of the Mayor and City Council, has become a yearly custom.

It is hoped that this Spring some extra painting will be done as many residences and other buildings are beginning to look weather-worn, and a few of them have reached the stage of shabbiness. Charlottetown is naturally a beautiful city but nature cannot be expected to do it all. She requires the help of the rake and the paint brush and we trust these will be applied with a generous hand this Spring.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Those who read the reports of the debate on the estimates in the provincial legislature—and judging by the comments heard on every hand, we believe, everyone is reading them—will see good reasons for the Opposition's insistence on an external audit. They will also have a shrewd suspicion as to why the government refused it. There are many things that have not been explained, and it is significant that the Premier frequently lost his temper on being questioned.

Notes By The Way

Saskatchewan Government is taking the plunge in June. A general election was not generally expected so early, but as the previous election was in May, 1925, it was due within the next twelve months. There are sixty-three seats in the Legislature, and at present the Government hold 51 while the Opposition, Conservative and Farmers, hold 12. As there is no burning question apart from the perennial school controversy there is not likely to be any considerable change in the representation. The Dunning election machine still holds sway, and practically every constituency is "tied" to that organization. The population is largely foreign, the vote of which Dunning manipulated during all his regime, and placed at the disposal of Premier King when he was out in the cold in every other Province in Canada.

The present Premier of Saskatchewan is the Hon. Jas. G. Gardiner, a farmer who was born in Farquhar, Ontario, forty-six years ago. In addition to being Premier he is Minister of Education, and enjoys a salary of \$9,000 as Premier, \$7,200 as Minister of Education, and \$2,000 as sessional indemnity. So with \$18,200 as annual salary, let alone traveling expenses, he does not need to worry much whether farming pays or not. There are seven portfolios in the Government constituted at present as follows:

Hon. James G. Gardiner, L.L.D., Premier; President of Council; Minister of Education.

Hon. S. J. Latta, Provincial Secretary; Minister of Municipal Affairs; and Minister in Charge of the King's Printer, the Bureau of Publication, the Loan Company's Act, and the Trust Company Act.

Hon. C. M. Hamilton, Minister of Agriculture; and Minister in Charge of the Child Welfare Act, 1927, and the Old Age Pensions Act, 1928.

Hon. J. M. Ulrich, M. D., Minister of Public Works; and Minister of Public Health.

Hon. W. J. Patterson, Provincial Treasurer; Minister of Telephones and Telegraphs; and Minister in Charge of the Fire Prevention Act, the Prairie and Forest Fires Act, and the Saskatchewan Insurance Act.

Hon. Thos. C. Davis, K. C., Attorney-General.

Hon. George Spence, Minister of Highways; Minister of Railways, Labour and Industries.

It will be recalled that Hon. Mr. Dunning resigned the Premiership of Saskatchewan in February 1926, to enter the Mackenzie King Government as Minister of "Railways and Elections" he being looked upon as an astute politician and the Mastermind of the Saskatchewan Liberal machine. Although now in Dominion politics his ability and services are still at the disposal of his successor and no doubt the combined efforts of the Dominion and Local machines will ensure a safe return of the Gardiner Government.

With reference to the Public Accounts Committee report the Patriot has the following cumbersome explanation of how matters stand, an explanation which it seems impossible to improve upon or to explain.

What the Opposition leader did say, in effect, after hearing Hon. Mr. Euler read the report of the public accounts committee, "was that though the government had borrowed \$270,000 they had, according to the report, increased the liabilities by only about \$3,000. He then proceeded to poke fun at the government's expense stating that this report should be framed, that the members of the committee reporting were financial wizards, and so on.

Mr. Stewart was no doubt inadvertently led into error by believing there was a pause after \$3,789.41 in the above report in the following sentences: "The increase of the liabilities of the province is \$3,789.41 less, than that shown in the condensed statement on page 8 of the provincial auditor's report."

In this connection it may be stated that the Provincial Auditor takes exception to the statement that "it is his work the External Auditors are appointed to probe and report upon." Of course the duties of the External Auditors are usually set forth in the order-in-council appointing them and include the ascertaining of the actual indebtedness of the Province, the examining and certifying to the existence of the securities comprising the sinking funds and the giving of any other information respecting the finances which may be requested by the Government. Although the External Auditors do not actually traverse the work of the Provincial auditor their duties are of the nature of a committee of investigation to satisfy the Government and Legislature as to the actual financial standing of the Province.

"You've heard of Naples, the famous Italian port, haven't you?" "No; how much a bottle?"



By James W. Barton, M.D.

That Body of Hours

TEACHING CHILDREN TO STAND ERECT

It was my privilege for a number of years to lecture to teachers in training who were qualifying as high school and public school teachers.

I tried to give them a few facts in anatomy and physiology and some suggestions regarding the care and training of the body.

In talking about securing the erect carriage of the body for their students and for themselves, I emphasized the value of developing the abdominal muscles.

I pointed out that the more developed these muscles received the smaller the waist would be. In fact Sandow, the world's strongest man, had a waist that was only one inch larger than his thigh.

I pointed out further that although the development of the upper back muscles, as in the breast stroke in swimming, would pull the shoulders back and help to correct round shoulders, the development of the abdominal muscles was more important, as the drawing in of the abdomen automatically pushed the chest forward and the shoulders back. Now the point back of all this is that you and I should remember that when we were made it was intended that the weight of the body should come on the bones. The bones of the spinal column should sustain the weight of the body or hold us erect.

What happens if you do not stand erect?

The weight of the front of the body pulls your spinal column forward, and the ligaments, that bind your bones together, get a good deal of the weight thrown on them; hence the pain in the back, so frequently suffered. This pain can be in the neck, in the upper back, in the lower back, or right down where the end bone of the spine joins the two large hip bones.

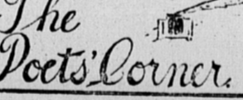
Your muscles get tired holding up a weight that should have been held up by the bones of the spine, not by the soft tissues.

As you know, any exercise that brings the thighs on abdomen or abdomen on thighs, knees straight, will develop the abdominal muscles.

Lying on the back and raising the legs with the knees straight.

Trying to touch your toes with your fingers, knees straight.

Keeping abdomen drawn in when you are sitting, standing, or walking, will help to keep your spine straight and prevent pain in the back.



BROTHERHOOD

When men will give the right of way to others with less right than they, Because they sense their greater need; When men will do a kindly deed For kindness sake, then brotherhood Will be a word that's understood.

When intellect shall come to hold As large a place in life as gold, And honor rich or honor poor Be held the same the world wide o'er, Then brotherhood will come to be A recognized reality.

When arrogance and selfish pride To suffering walk open eyed, And words of comfort pause to speak And stretch their hands to help the weak, Then men may truly make the claim That brotherhood deserves its name.

When pity dwells in every heart, And honor is considered smart, When decency's badge of worth And sneers are not considered mirth, Then brotherhood will come to seem More than a visionary dream.

THE LAND WE LOVE

BY FRANK YEIGH

CANADIAN—U. S. TRADE

Q. What is the current Canadian—U. S. Trade?

A. Canadian—U. S. trade for the 12 months ending January, 1929, totaled \$1,359,208,515, or one-half of the total Dominion foreign trade. Of this sum \$840,353,594 represented imports, and \$518,854,921 exports, each item showing a marked increase over the preceding 12 months. The chief export items were wood and paper, of \$239,879,893, and animal products \$87,046,566. The chief imports were iron and its products \$302,514,361, non-metallic metals \$131,941,193 and agricultural and vegetable products, \$108,371,579.

The Greatest Guessing Game

Condensed from The American Magazine—Edward F. Roberts.

Fashion is the name of the greatest game on earth—a perennial gamble in which bigger fortunes are won and lost than over the green tables of Monte Carlo.

The World War brought more sweeping changes in women's fashions than ever occurred before in the same length of time. The millions of girls who went forth to drive motor wagons, keep military stores, and do a hundred jobs behind the lines found out that, for them, whalebone corsets and long skirts were about as suitable as mail armor would have been for their brothers in the trenches. In any event, the new fashion was decided for them by the military authorities, who were much too busy to bother about Victorian ideas of modesty.

There is a general idea that all fashions originate in Paris, where mysterious individuals decide from time to time what is style and what is not. There is some truth in the idea. Fashions do originate in Paris in the sense that in line, design, and color the great French Couturiers are the world's acknowledged masters, but these masters of artistry are far indeed from being dictators of style. They are all engaged in a guessing game which would drive the average American business man into a lunatic asylum. The best guessers win fortunes and the unlucky ones go to work for the winners.

The big prizes in the great game are awarded every spring and fall. In February and August are the "openings" at which the "guesses" are paraded after six months' feverish and deeply secretive labor. During all that time designers have been toiling in the locked and guarded ateliers, working out costumes on ideas painfully gleaned from a hundred sources. The glorious riches of the museums of Paris are ransacked, bit by bit, the design is built up from the fragments of a dozen civilizations, the color harmonies of long dead and nameless artists.

When the designs are completed, the prettiest and shapeliest manikins of France will don them and parade through the showrooms of Paris, the race track of Auteuil and Longchamp, the esplanades of Cannes, Biarritz, Deauville, and Monte Carlo. Their creators will await anxiously the verdict—acceptance and fortune, rejection and possible ruin. Of course, the guessers do not pin all their hopes on a single entry. Each house prepares scores of models, for if even 18 out of twenty fail, two may sweep the boards.

Who decides? If any one could answer the question the G would be taken out of gamble. There are a handful of well-known society leaders, all of whom have varying influence, but every one of them might select a model without more than moderate results in general popularity.

Then there are other ladies, ladies who rule over a society preponderantly male. Time was when the Court of France and all the fashionable society of Europe waited breathlessly to find out what the King's mistresses wore at the last state ball. Time was when a Madame de Pompadour could introduce a new word into the dictionary by changing the style of her hairdressing, or a Louise de la Valliere could apparel all the virtuous maidens of Europe in clinging robes. The King's have departed, but the courtesans remain. It may be shocking, but it is nevertheless true that the naughty ladies of Paris come closer to being the arbiters of fashion than any other influence that could be named.

"Dresses must come down" has been the slogan of the Paris manufacturers for at least two years now. The Couturiers of Paris have no great concern with modesty, but they are deeply interested in the silk and cotton fabric industries. Someone once said that "an inch off a Chinaman's shirt or added to a woman's dress meant the difference between ruin and prosperity for the textile industry." Nevertheless there is no indication that dresses are coming down.

Automobiles were largely responsible for small hats, but aviation gave them the shape of the helmet. This vogue might have been predictable, but who could have foretold that the opening of King Tut's tomb would have sent a craze for Egyptian cloth around the world?

When Evelyn Thaw took the stand at the trial of her husband her astute lawyer took special pains to dress her for her part as the innocent, guileless child who had been victimized by a ruthless rood. Her hair, parted in the middle, schoolgirl fashion, hung low over a broad white Eton collar which topped her simple middy blouse. In a few weeks millions of women of spotless reputation were trying to look and dress as well as possible like the woman

in that sordid drama, and blouse makers and collar manufacturers were reaping fortunes.

Fabric and garment manufacturers spend huge sums every year in efforts to determine what will be the popular colors for each advancing season, but all their calculations are likely to be upset by some relatively trivial event. A few years before her death Sarah Bernhardt unexpectedly appeared in the Bois De Boulogne dressed completely in white, in sharp contrast to the vivid hues the great actress usually favored. That single appearance started a tremendous white season and the dyers and fabric houses lost millions.

When President Harding was inaugurated, Mrs. Harding wore a dress of a rather unusual shade of blue, and for a year, at least, "Harding Blue" was supreme in America. More recently Lavin paraded all her models at a season's "opening" in a particular shade of green, and "Lavin green" swept the boards. Again, "Chanel Red" scored a decisive triumph, but the result in any one of these instances was just as uncertain as naming a derby winner.

Paris today does her fashion dictating with one eye on America. More American dollars are spent in Paris these days than French centimes and it takes a bushel of centimes to make a dollar in these days. Thousands of American buyers, representing every important department store in the United States, sail for Paris three or four times a year. Their purchases run into millions of dollars, but a point that is little understood is that they buy models, not stocks.

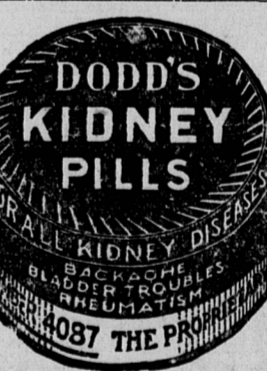
The curious anomaly exists that while French taste in line and design governs the world of women, French taste in the costume itself differs sharply from American taste. Very few French garments are sold in American stores. They are imported solely as models from which the American manufacturer work. A dozen Paris creations may contribute to an American composite. A sleeve is taken from this dress, a bit of embroidery from that, a neck line from a third, and so on.

Periodically outrices are raised, not only in America, but in England, Germany, and other European countries, against French domination in fashions, but they are futile. The simple truth is that artistry in line and color is an essential part of French genius.

THAT DREADFUL KISSING

The people who warn us that every time we kiss we absorb thousands of microbes, and that the kiss is responsible for more deaths than the motor-car, have just scored another victory. Kissing has been banned by the Vienna health authorities.

In some parts of America you are liable to find if you kiss your own



CAUTION FOX OWNERS AND RANCHERS

Now that litters of young are arriving daily, what precaution are you taking for the treatment of Worms?

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The Committee Meets to Decide Mother's Fate

"We would be glad, of course, to have mother come and live with us," says one of the sons. "But the trouble is our house is so small."

"We haven't a spare room," adds the daughter-in-law regretfully.

And so it goes. One after the other makes excuse. Each has his or her own problems, and responsibilities.

Widowed at 65, Mother's fate would have been vastly different had father left any estate, or adequate life insurance. Mother could have had a nice little monthly income of her own if father had planned aright—an income guaranteed by the Mutual Life of Canada, and payable as long as she lived.

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MUTUAL LIFE OF CANADA WATERLOO ONTARIO

H. A. EBERS, Provincial Manager 135 Kent Street Charlottetown P. E. Island

wife in public, and in Japan osculation is regarded as so dreadful that all films coming into the country are carefully examined, and every kiss cut out of them.

But perhaps the funniest anti-kissing regulations in existence obtain in one part of Brazil. There you mustn't kiss a girl—if you're a civilian. But if you are a soldier, sailor, or policeman in uniform, you can kiss as much as you like—nobody will interfere!

So far we in this country have escaped from anti-kissing laws. But possibly we don't need them so much as our Continental neighbors—in France, for instance, the kiss is

equivalent to the handshake here and people embrace in the streets as a matter of course.

Two Scotsmen had just arrived on their first visit to London, and both were anxious to find the street which by legend were paved with gold.

One found a sixpence lying in the gutter of the station yard and pounced on it with a triumphant glance at his companion's dour face. "Sandy," remarked the other scathingly, "dinna waste yer time on that mon. Wait till yer get in the thick of it."

S. A. McDonald's

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35 Boy's tweed topcoats, made just like Dad's ages are 2 to 9 years. \$3.25

Also blue coats with brass buttons, ages 2 to 8 years well tailored \$2.75

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