

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1926

THE TEST

It is really remarkable the virtues Liberal newspapers are discovering in Government control since the Ontario election. Before that election and while the contest was on, Liberal newspapers were anticipating the downfall of the Ferguson ministry and the triumph of the O. T. A. insinuating a similar fate waited any Maritime Government that risked such an appeal. Now the Liberal newspapers are discovering spots on the Prohibition Sun and predicting improvement from Government control. The Toronto Star, which led the fight against interference with the O. T. A. declaration public opinion was never behind prohibition and that with the mandate the Ferguson Government has either system, it appears that the now got, "Ontario can improve on other systems." On Saturday the Patriot reproduced editorially from the Halifax Chronicle opinions strongly favorable to Government control, and other Liberal newspapers are having heart-searchings about the possible influence such a policy would have on the prospects of an election.

The Moncton Transcript, a stalwart Liberal newspaper, which has ever been in the vanguard of Temperance reform, and which fought for the Prohibition cause in days when Temperance reform was not popular either socially or politically, has, in view of the failure of the Liberal party to nominate a candidate to contest the provincial elections in Saint John, the following significant editorial in its last issue:

"Since Ontario has given Premier Ferguson authority to proceed with the repeal of the Ontario Temperance Act and to introduce a system of liquor sale under government control, other provinces will watch with interest the result of the experiment, and enough differences in local administration will develop in Ontario to look upon Government Control as an experiment in spite of the fact that five other provinces already have reverted to some such system. There are enough possible modifications to the plan to make each case a separate experiment, and enough differences in local conditions in various parts of the country to add variety to its workings.

"Those provinces which already have returned to the legalized sale of liquor will watch with interest to see whether Premier Ferguson will manage to evolve a plan which will overcome in some degree the weaknesses which they already have discovered in their own; and the three Maritime Provinces, which still have Prohibition laws on their statute books, will be waiting to see if the Ferguson policy will enable Ontario to escape from disabilities which he has ascribed to the prohibitory law and to usher in the reforms which he has declared will follow its repeal.

"In all his pre-election speeches, Premier Ferguson has insisted that it is his desire to promote temperance and sobriety, to do away with the abuses resulting from illicit drinking, to banish the bootlegger, and to improve social and moral conditions in his province. If he can achieve all this by removing the ban from the use of alcoholic beverages and promoting the sale of pure liquors at moderate prices, he will have proved his contentions. Time and experience alone will tell what success will crown his efforts.

"As it now stands, the three Maritime Provinces alone in Canada remain committed to the policy of prohibition. And these provinces are the nearest to the chief sources of supply, with the added advantage to the smugglers of vast stretches of coast line offering easy access from the sea. If, in spite of these handicaps, prohibition can show better results in these provinces than it has, in the minds of the majority of the electors, in the provinces which have abandoned it, it will be as either because of greater abstemiousness on the part of the people or as a result of more efficient enforcement of the law.

"It is conceded everywhere nowadays that the uncontrollable sale of alcoholic beverages is not desirable. Those provinces which have renounced total prohibition still continue to surround the sale with certain restrictions. But whether the system followed be prohibition or government control, the enforcement of the laws on this subject appears to be dependent upon the strength of public opinion behind them to a greater extent than is found with respect to other classes of legislation. Underdate the Ferguson Government has either system, it appears that the now got, "Ontario can improve on other systems." On Saturday the Patriot reproduced editorially from the Halifax Chronicle opinions strongly favorable to Government control, and other Liberal newspapers are having heart-searchings about the possible influence such a policy would have on the prospects of an election.

"This is a situation which presents a challenge to those who sincerely believe in temperance and to those who believe in prohibition. If the adoption of total abstinence is in the best interests of society, the way to bring it about is by building up a solid wall of opinion, a wall built upon personal habits and convictions and not merely on theories of what is best for some one else, as a barrier against the indulgence. If that can be done, the legal aspect of the situation can be depended upon to take care of itself.

"In the meantime, while the prohibitory legislation remains in force in these provinces, those who are responsible for the enforcement of the laws have no option but to enforce them to the fullest extent of the resources they can command. No other course is in accordance with a decent respect for law and order which cannot be disregarded in one respect without seriously menacing the entire structure."

RESEARCH

Scientific experts are delving as never before into Nature's secrets and unveiling them one by one. In this way the enemies with which we are surrounded on every side are being conquered and the world made safer for us to live in. Plant and animal life is constantly threatened with diseases, many of which are still undiscovered, but the work of scientific research goes on steadily, succeeding here and there, failing often, but never giving it up.

Scientific research is one of the most, if not the most important of government undertakings and is well worth all the money that is being expended upon it. Agricultural scientists are following up every disease known to plant life. They have discovered preventatives to many of them. As a result many plants which had become a prey to disease or pests and which on that account could no longer be profitably raised, are now staple commodities on our farms. There are still many which have not been conquered but the scientists are on their track and will no doubt overtake them sooner or later. What would it mean to Canada, for instance, if a preventative for rust in wheat were discovered. Millions of dollars are lost yearly through this disease which, like many others, is no doubt preventable. The remedy will probably come in the way of breeding a rust-proof grain. We are already in sight of disease-free potatoes, turnips, fruits of different kinds, and the work is still going on.

Medical and surgical scientific research has made greater progress in the last half century, probably than any other, greater progress because it means the saving and lengthening of human life, the alleviation of pain and the increase of human happiness. Within the memory of many still living some

Notes by the Way

Heavy traffic on the railways in moving the abundant crops of this year gives promise of a good showing on the National system. That is, the receipts are expected to exceed the operating expenses by some 45 millions of dollars. It is pleasing to know that the National is doing better than heretofore and it is also creditable to the management and all concerned in the operation. But this does not mean that the National Railways are paying their way.

There are fixed charges of 65 to 70 millions yearly for interest that must be paid. Net earnings of 45 millions will still leave 20 to 25 millions to be made good by the Government, or added to the national debt. By so much the propaganda emanating from Ottawa and broadcasted over the country is delusive and has led many persons to believe that the National is paying its way and earning a real surplus.

All true Canadians must continue to hope for the time when the National Railway shall pay their way. The three years within which Sir Henry Thornton had publicly announced his expectation that this happy result would be achieved have already passed and the hope is still deferred, notwithstanding a very considerable revival of trade and industry.

And the Dominion is committed to large new expenditures on railway account, such as the Hudson Bay project, while demands are being pressed for the National to take over non-paying branch railways in New Brunswick with British Columbia and elsewhere. And demands are made for increased pay to trainmen amounting to two millions yearly. How can these additional burdens be taken on and the National system be made to pay? The question is a very grave one.

The well-known Maple Leaf of Oakland, California, in a single recent issue under the heading "Departed Friends," published the names of many natives of Prince Edward Island who had died recently in other lands than that of their birth. The list is of interest as showing the wide dispersion of those who in years past left this province to reside elsewhere. The places where they died included: British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Alberta, Ontario, Manitoba, California and elsewhere. Ten of the total number died in Massachusetts.

Have Scotsmen a sense of humor? The question always comes up in some form at St. Andrew's dinners, not that there is any doubt about the facts. But this is what happened recently when Austin Chamberlain was elected Lord Rector of Glasgow University. He, like his father before him, wears a monocle. When he went to the University to deliver his address he was confronted by five thousand students, every one of them wearing a monocle. That ought to settle it.

It is gratifying to learn that the threatened strike of trainmen has been amicably adjusted and that there will be no needless interruption in railway traffic from labor troubles. Blizzards and snowdrifts, zero weather, short days and long nights make trainwork in winter a trying task, and often dangerous to limb or life. Faithful and efficient.

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of the most common of children's diseases were almost invariably fatal. Diphtheria and scarlet fever, once a veritable scourge, have lost their terror. Smallpox, typhus and typhoid fever and other dreaded diseases have been so diluted by treatment and skill as to be practically harmless. The opinion was expressed recently in this city by one of our best known doctors that in the very near future the "usual children's diseases" would give way to the more sensible and more scientific expression "the usual good health of the children."

Research is our hope. The real scientists, the lovers of and searchers for truth are ceaselessly on the watch and are making substantial progress. They have made a new world of the world of even half a century ago. Theirs is a labor of love and although usually a losing game from the financial viewpoint, it is gratifying and encouraging to note that the governments of all civilized countries recognize in a tangible way the value of their discoveries.

That Body of Hours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

REAL DEVELOPMENT

I have spoken before about examining boys at a preparatory school and how interested the parents naturally were in the physical condition of their boys. The progress physically really meant more to the parents than the progress mentally, and rightly so.

And yet I often felt that perhaps one of the regulations of the college was the biggest factor in the all round development of the boy. This was that not only must every youngster take exercise, but that he must play the various games, and thus come into physical contact with boys his own age and weight.

Suppose a boy does eat good nourishing food, get his regular exercise and good sound sleep, how much does his parents, his teachers know about him, or how much does he know about himself? Suppose also he pays attention in school, does his work conscientiously during the study period, and stands well in his classes.

"This regulation of sleep, food and exercise, and this regulation of study does not necessarily touch these other parts of him that will make or mar him in the years to come. What do I mean?

That a youngster may come of nervous parents. He may be a retiring sort of boy. He may have little emotional disturbances, little fears about things, he may avoid other boys and get off too much to himself. He may be so homesick that if his home were near he would walk there, if necessary.

DAILY LESSONS IN ENGLISH

By W. L. Gordon

WORDS OFTEN MISUSED: Don't say "I expect so." "Say suppose" or "think."

OFTEN MISPRONOUNCED: Pronounce the oo as in "boot," not as in "look."

OFTEN MISPELLED: advanced; even.

SYNONYMS: injurious, harmful, ruinous, destructive, detrimental, evil.

WORD STUDY: "Use a word three times and it is yours." Let us increase our vocabulary by mastering one word each day. Today's word: ALLUSIVE; having reference to something not definitely expressed; suggestive. "The tone of his voice was allusive; she did not trust him."

Daily Selections FOR Guardian Readers

December 6, 1926

BE STRONG—"Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak; for your work shall be rewarded." 2 Chron. 15:7.

PRAYER—"Do Thou make us strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might."

THE BROAD HIGHWAY

The great wide road runs from town to town, Fringed on each side with stately trees; It skirts the hills, then across the down, Where it meets with the salt sea breeze.

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.

STORMS AND GALES.

I have read with interest Mr. W. L. Cotton's notes in your issue of the 2nd instant referring to storms and gales of other years. I note that he has not mentioned one of the greatest gales of the last century and one that wrought a great deal of havoc among the shipping along our coast, as well as taking a large toll in human lives. I refer to the big August gale of 1873. This gale was second only in ferocity to the Yankee gale of 1851 to which he refers. In fact, the property loss in shipping I believe was fully as great. While the number of vessels wrecked was not so great, yet the August gale destroyed very many of our large ocean going square-rigged vessels which were so prominent in those days, while the gale of 1851 was confined more or less to the American fishing schooners. The description he gives of the gale of 1873 is very much what happened in 1873, and there is a possibility that he may have got the dates mixed, as in that case some vessels were just off the stocks were wrecked—on a particular built by the late Hon. James Yeo of Port Hill was driven across the Bay and plied up on Darnley rocks where she laid her bones. The dates of this gale were August 23rd, 24th and 25th of 1873. He also refers to the gale of 1915. The Saxby gale known to the writer took place in November 1869 and was so called because it had been predicted by a man named Saxby, and consequently has gone into history as the Saxby gale. I have not heard of that name, but it might have been. By turning up records in reference to this matter, Sir, you will find my dates are correct.

I AM SIR, ETC., ANCIENT MARINER

(As to the gale of 1873, an omission was made by Mr. Cotton as also to one or two other gales in which there was destruction of wharves, bridges, and other property. The Saxby gale referred to was the second predicted by Mr. Saxby.)

POTATO EXPORTS

Sir.—We have recently noticed a reference in your paper to some shipments of potatoes that went to an upper Canadian broker last year. This reference gives the impression that our P. E. Island farmers are both dishonest and to say the least, short sighted, for he claims their shipments to him were infected with dry rot and in many cases field frosted.

If this broker be the man we suspect, he is very well known in the trade and shippers must be cautious in doing business with him. We have personal knowledge of a shipment of two carloads of white stock that went to the man we suspect, and which he pronounced the finest he had ever handled. The market, however, slumped before he disposed of all of them and he billed the shipper with damages amounting to hundreds of dollars, and pestered him with personally abusive letters and lawyers threats for some months.

Other parties on P. E. I., so it is reported used him for non-payment of their accounts, secured judgment but not payment, as no tangible assets could be discovered in this party's name.

In the shipping of potatoes or in fact any produce there are some outstanding principles that should always be followed. Know that the parties to whom you are shipping are responsible—your banker will get this information for you—Be sure that the produce is exactly as represented.

In following these principles you will have everything to gain and nothing to lose and in addition you will be building up the reputation of this fair.

"That 'Honesty is the best policy' is the truest words that can be said of the produce business. I am Sir, etc., J. W. FYFE

NOT THE CURATE'S FAULT

A clergyman, called away suddenly and unable to officiate at the service in his church, entrusted his new curate with the duty. On his return home he asked his wife what she thought of the curate's sermon.

"The poorest I ever heard," she declared; "nothing to it at all."

Later in the day the clergyman, meeting his curate, asked him how he had got on.

"Splendidly, sir," replied the curate. "I didn't have time to prepare anything myself, so I preached one of your sermons."

Maritime Trade Requires Looking After

(W. L. Cotton.) It is well for the Maritime Provinces that the Maritime Board of Trade has been maintained. While it is very desirable that an all-Canadian Board of Trade, co-operating in good-fellowship and unity for the development of commerce throughout the whole Dominion, shall continue to function, there are important Maritime interests to be kept in view. As a means of promoting co-operation for the furtherance of those interests the Maritime Board of Trade is required.

For Prince Edward Island it is pleasing to note that there are on the Executive of the Maritime Board of Trade two such active and patriotic men of business as Messrs. LeRoy Holman of Summerside, and J. O. Hyndman, of Charlottetown. We may be sure that the importance of efficient and sufficient means of transportation will be strongly and influentially urged by the Maritime Board; and that the farmers, fishermen, miners and factory-men of the Maritimes will have, in the Maritime Board of Trade, an advocate and champion of their interests and their rights.

At the annual meeting of the Maritime Board of Trade, held at Truro, last week, one of the resolutions unanimously passed was: "That the Maritime Board of Trade stands ready to serve as the organization through which the Maritimes can speak promptly with one well-considered voice in any emergency." It was also decided that a committee be appointed to study the desirability of re-organization with a view to providing a more united and effective medium through which the Maritime Provinces may express themselves promptly and with one well-considered voice when occasion arises.

At the same meeting the belief of the Board, as expressed was that "there never has been a time in Maritime history when there was so great need for the fullest co-operation." Of the truth of this emphatic statement there is no doubt in the minds of men observant of existing conditions and the trend of events. A kindly Providence has blessed the labors of the people with abundant harvests from land and sea, from forest and mine, and there is consequently a return of good times—long overdue. Prince Edward Island has been particularly fortunate in her abundant potato crop of this year and last year and in the fact that there was a shortage of the crop of tubers elsewhere throughout Canada and the United States. Moreover, the recent discovery of potato growers in the United States that they obtain the best results from seed potatoes grown in this province has resulted beneficially to the Island people. But there are, at the same time, evidences that those who direct the trade policy of Canada need to be closely watched.

The interests of Canada demand (1) that there shall be an increase of domestic trade, and this is dependent absolutely upon an increase of population and production; and (2) that trade with other British dominions, and particularly with the Mother Country, shall be fostered and promoted. To these ends the Maritime Board of Trade will do well if it should co-operate heartily with other Boards of Trade throughout Canada. While watching and maintaining, and promoting the rights and interests of the Maritimes, the Maritime Board of Trade should be zealous in the

promotion of the interests of Canada as a whole. By union and co-operation on the part of men of business throughout Canada, the trade and wealth of each province and of the whole nation will be increased. Beware of the man who never does anything wrong. There's a time for everything.

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