

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink. FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 1939

Those Sugar Duties

Credit must be given to Senator William Duff, (Liberal) of Lunenburg for having consistently opposed the sugar duties consequent upon the existing Canada-West Indies trade treaty. In the House of Commons and in the Senate, in Opposition and as a Government supporter, Mr. Duff passed up few opportunities to criticise what he regarded as the adverse effects, both of the regular duty under the treaty and the special dumping duty which was imposed in 1932 and is still in effect; duties which he maintained were detrimental to the Cuban and other non-British islands on producers of certain primary products, such as fish, potatoes, oranges and flour.

We regret that the same credit cannot be given to Mr. A. E. MacLean, our Prince County representative in the House of Commons, whom Senator Duff associates with himself as having put up "a long fight" to have these duties removed. Mr. MacLean made several political speeches on the dump duty when in Opposition, and even went the length of promising, if the Liberals were returned to power, to "change it and change it pretty quick." (Hansard, May 31, 1935). But that was four years ago; the duties remain unchanged and Mr. MacLean has made no further speeches on the subject. As for duty under the West Indies treaty, he was himself a party to its adoption, and he has noticeably refrained from commenting adversely at any time on this striking example of Liberal treaty bungling.

Now, according to Senator Duff, the duties on sugar from Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic seem fated to remain at their existing high levels for an indefinite time to come. He cites the Speech from the Throne which intimates that the whole matter is being handed over to the Tariff Board "for examination." This statement was coupled with the intimation that notice had been given, effective Dec. 31, 1939, terminating the Canada-West Indies agreement. "It is," says Senator Duff, "a great disappointment to all concerned that the dumping duty is not removed years ago, and that the 12 months' notice as required by the Canada-West Indies agreement should not have been given last April. Had such notice been given, the new agreement, which would include Cuba and the Dominican Republic, would then have become effective in April of this year instead of January or later of next year."

"At this rate," says Senator Duff, "it will be 1940 before anything is done. This session will not see any lowering of the barriers which have been raised in those important markets against our fish and potatoes, or in the price the householder must pay for sugar."

And this, it will be recalled, was one of the great Liberal campaign issues in 1935!

Science And Potato-Growing

Two announcements of much interest to potato growers were made at a meeting in Richmond, Virginia, of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The first was by Dr. John Guthrie of the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, who told of a new method to prevent potatoes from sprouting in storage. In the past, he said, growers have been dependent on the wearisome process of plucking off the sprouts. Now, by treating the old tubers with a chemical known as potassium naphthaleneacetate they are reduced to a dormant state. A second chemical, ethylene chlorohydrin, wakes them when sprouting becomes desirable.

By this new process, according to Dr. Guthrie, it will be possible to control bud growth during the winter and stimulate activity at planting time.

Also interesting was an announcement by Dr. Theodore E. Odland, head of the Department of Plant Industry at Rhode Island State College, of a seed potato which will produce a potato immune to blight. Enthusiastically he predicted that this will revolutionize potato growing. In the Maritimes we have had a similar forecast.

"Thousands of potato plants," said he, "have been ruined by blight. The only weapon against it has been constant spraying, and often this has failed. Conditions will now be better."

The new seed will not be available commercially for several years.

Liberal Press Opinion

Closer study of Mr. Justice Davis's report on the Bren gun contract by no means substantiates the premature announcement that it contained a white-washing of the whole transaction, a clean bill of health for all concerned. Quite the contrary, according to the Winnipeg Free Press, a leading Liberal newspaper which interprets the report as "a sweeping condemnation of the methods used in this attempt of Canada (should it not be the Canadian Government?) to provide herself with Bren guns." It is none the less sweeping, says our Winnipeg contemporary, for the fact that it is indirect. "Had Mr. Justice Davis no fault to find with the procedure adopted by the Department of Defense, had he been satisfied with the working of the inter-departmental committee charged with the supervision of war contracts, he would have said so. But he was not satisfied. Instead he recommends a drastic change in the whole system and method of obtaining our war supplies. If this is not stringent and adverse criticism of the method used, it is hard to imagine what would be."

With regard to the conduct and methods of the individuals responsible for the contract, the

Commissioner did not say he had no fault to find, but contented himself with setting out the facts and leaving Parliament to study them and take such action thereon as they may see fit.

"In other words," says the Free Press, "the attempt of the Government to place this responsibility upon a Royal Commission has failed, and the whole matter remitted to the high court of Parliament, where doubtless it will become, as it should become, a subject of vital public discussion."

The Winnipeg Liberal paper also notes that Mr. Justice Davis says not a word as to whether the contract was a good bargain for Canada; he merely points out that in the absence of competitive bids he is "unable to pass upon the substance, as distinct from the form of the contract." This also is recommended as a question upon which the Government and Parliament, in the light of the evidence brought before the Commission, must pass judgment.

Summing up its impressions of the report, the Free Press says bluntly: "The Bren gun business is by no means disposed of; nor has anyone received vindication, save in the matter of personal corruption which was never in question. Instead, there is every reason to believe that the public will be far from satisfied, and will demand more light from the floor of Parliament."

Editorial Notes

British House of Commons assembled for the first time this date, 1265.

Flying to Moncton today is equivalent to going to Montague by car in the summer. You can leave after luncheon and return in time for supper.

Why is there not recruiting for our Canadian permanent force? If a recruiting sergeant were stationed in Charlottetown he could enlist many eligible young men.

In appreciation of the treatment his wife received in a Lahore hospital a grateful husband has offered to give the hospital three rupees (4s. 6d.) a month out of his monthly salary of Rs. 60 (£4-12) as long as his wife is alive. Like the Chinese who pay to keep the doctor away the grateful Lahore husband puts a limit to his generosity, but his action is held in the Press to deserve the widest possible attention.

Plumbago and desiccated coconut are the chief Ceylon products for which the Ceylon Government has been pressing for favoured treatment by America in connection with the Anglo-American Trade Pact. American imports of desiccated coconut from Ceylon have been on the decline since 1935, owing largely to competition from the Philippines. As regards plumbago Ceylon enjoys a good market in America.

It is regrettable to learn that the Campbell Government has decided not to be represented at the New York World's Fair, for which Mr. A. F. Seaman is Commissioner-General for Canada. Nobody visiting that Fair will know there is such a place as the seat of the Silver Fox Industry or the locale of the Green Gables series of novels by Mrs. Lucy Maud Montgomery. If we want to distribute any tourist literature it must be through the courtesy of the Government of New Brunswick on a charity basis.

In Ontario Premier Hepburn is by no means the only pebble on Ottawa's beach, if it has a beach. Mayor Jamieson Bone, re-elected Mayor of Belleville, in his inaugural address declared: "I for one, even if I be the only one in Canada, am openly for rebellion against this continued policy of laissez-faire." He had "repeatedly suggested" that government heads visit England to "learn how people there are fully employed." If they did not follow that advice he said, "we in Belleville will have to take steps for ourselves and if necessary ask the county, and perhaps some other counties to join us in a petition to the Crown to take us over as a Crown colony like Newfoundland. I can visualize then how we might easily be the only oasis in the great Canadian desert, or indeed in the North American desert of pirates and pussy-footers."

Geniuses are still born though they need developing. A slight, shy boy whose greatest delight as a child was to be held up to a piano by his mother and who started to compose at six will be guest conductor at a performance in Quebec January 23 by the Quebec Symphonic Concert Society. Now only 12, the boy composer, Clermont Pepin, lives quietly in the little town of St. Georges de Beauce where his father is a barber. Last spring two of his compositions brought him honors in a contest held by the Canadian Performing Rights Society and shortly after one of them was performed by the Montreal Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Wilfrid Pelletier who had prepared a special orchestration. Still hard at work studying and composing, Clermont leaves his home only on rare occasions. When he goes to Quebec January 23, he will direct the Quebec Orchestra in his "symphonie pour orchestra" and "minuet."

India's idea of what constitutes prohibition is not that of this Province. Bombay city experienced "prohibition" for the first time recently, when shops selling toddy and other country liquor and imported liquor were closed for two days—the mills' pay day and the day following. The experiment was in many ways a success, although the Congress Government's immediate objective was probably not fully realized. The intention is to keep liquor from the mill-hands on pay day and the day after when they are likely to have most of their wages. Though the revenue from liquor consumption in the city is likely to fall the policy is to save labourers from the clutches of money-lenders and from financial ruin. It is true that the mill-hands could go straight from the mills to the liquor shops on pay day, but as they had been fully warned about the "dry" days, those of them who could not do without liquor availed themselves of the concession allowed for domestic consumption, and provided themselves with an adequate stock. Hotels, railway restaurants and clubs were permitted to serve liquor to their patrons under certain restrictions.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The German-language New York Staatszeitung and Herold is now under the official ban in Germany because of its criticisms of the Nazi treatment of the Jews and from Vienna comes word that the Neue Freie Presse and the Neues Wiener Journal will discontinue publication.—Exchange.

Whenever I use the word meaning country bumpkin, I try to find an antonym, meaning city bumpkin. The best I have been able to think of is civil. No offence, of course, because there is no offence intended by those who speak of us country folks as yokels.—Crane (Mo.) Chronicle.

Editors of small-town papers meet a lot of people. In spite of the fact that a good 50 percent of these people want to sell him something, he learns a little about a great many subjects from conversations with callers who find it considerable easier to gain access to the editor's office than the holy of holies occupied by editors of metropolitan publications. We feel that this is one of the things that makes a journalist's life a privilege and a great deal of objection.—Lindsay Post.

Joe Boston, the distinguished academician, closed the meeting with a new story about George Inness, the elder, whose little daughter once invaded his study with the intention of stealing a coin. "Mother wants twenty-five cents," George picked up a cheque for \$300 that was lying on the table which he would sacrifice with a few cents to the child. "Please pay bearer twelve hundred quarters," and sent the child to the bank around the corner. An assistant cashier brought the sack of coins to the Inness studio, where the painter dumped it in a corner. "There, my dear said he, 'there is your money, whenever you want a quarter in future, help yourself.'"—Bob Davis, in New York Sun.

In this country, where freedom of the press is taken for granted, comes as something of a shock to be reminded by Ernest Dimme, French author and lecturer visiting these shores, that many European governments have first knowledge of the background of the late September crisis from American newspapers reaching their respective countries. Here discussion of freedom of the press is mainly academic. That press control should keep the people in ignorance of the matters of vital and pressing concern to them from the American viewpoint simply unthinkable. Yet that is exactly what happens in countries where government determines how much it is good for the people, with due regard to the maintenance of power by the ruling class.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

If anyone has doubts about the depth of anti-Nazi feeling in the United States, he should ponder over what has taken place in New Hyde Park, New Jersey. There, in a library, the banned Anne Morrow Lindbergh's latest book "Listen, the Wind," from its shelves. This action was taken in defiance of the ban on the author, Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh, accepted a German decoration recently. The library board of trustees must be reminded that Mrs. Lindbergh is a former resident of New Jersey, which her father represented as a senator. This makes the book stick out all the more.—Windsor Star.

Seven years in Kingston penitentiary for stealing a dollar may seem a heavy penalty, yet it should not be forgotten that the man in the case, sent down for robbing a Toronto drug store when arrested, had in his possession a loaded revolver. The fact that the loot in this case amounted only to a dollar is, in this case, if it had been a thousand dollars. The danger to the victim would have been just as great. There must be a drastic punishment in all cases where thieves are arrested, having loaded guns in their possession. The carrying of guns in Canada must be made as unpopular among the criminals as it is in Great Britain.—Niagara Falls Review.

An authenticated instance of a British-built warship achieving a speed of more than 56 miles an hour has just occurred. A new "torpedo" motor-propelled boat, built for a foreign Government, on her trials on the long reach in the Thames estuary covered one lap of the measured mile, when being put through a series of mile runs for a mean speed at 40.18 knots. This is the highest speed ever officially recorded for a British-built warship. These motor-boats, unlike the new m.t.s.s. of the Royal Navy are not intended for high-speed work. They are developed from the coastal motor-boats which did such good work with the Dover patrol, and they are popular with several foreign navies for harbor defence work and in-shore patrols at night. They are fitted with two torpedo tubes and with a small anti-aircraft gun, and when fully loaded can also carry depth charges.—Manchester Guardian.

Next year Mars will be in a highly favourable position for study from Earth. The astronomers will watch it carefully. Beyond from study of its surface they will be able to learn facts that

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The Realm Of Solitude

(New York Times) It is a strange world which Lincoln Ellsworth brings to us doers of daily chores and readers of daily newspapers. Flying southward from the edge of the Antarctic over an immense unknown region, he has seen no bare land, no mountains, and he has a keen eye for mountains. It was he who mapped from the air the Sentinel and Eternity ranges. We see him on a water spray as well as an air-ship. He and his men dodge rocks and a colony of icebergs as nonchalantly as we poor pedestrians dodge the continual charge of automobiles. The waves staze a riot, the winds are malicious. Take-off postponed. Call it a day.

To us stay-at-homes Antarctica has the terror and charm of the unknown. It belongs to the ice age. Compared with it the Arctic regions are populous, human, civilized. Antarctica is inhuman, uninhabited, an immemorial haunt of solitude. There the emperor penguin is the flower of civilization, almost human, more than justifying the name of the continent. There the old navigators long sought "the third world." They were right in seeking Southward, curious to remember in this full tide of Antarctic discovery that early medieval geographers put both Asia and Africa in the Northern Hemisphere. In the sense of its soleness and inhumanity Antarctica is a third world. Dante "unseen before save by the first folk." Adam and Eve. From the dark backward and abysm of time Antarctica remained unseen. Centuries of search still leave it largely an undiscovered country. In the last few years it has given up many of its secrets.

In the midst of the cruelty and the fear of war, it is consoling to human dignity to think of those who have exposed or lost their lives to add to the sum of knowledge. Sitting by the fire, one thinks with admiration and a sort of awe of Ellsworth riding the air over that mighty waste of snow and ice. Why does he do it? Nan- sen told us: "Man wants to know when he does not want to know he ceases to be man."

The Poet's Corner. LEAVETAKING. Pass, thou wild light, Wild light on peaks that, so Grieved to let go the day; Grieved thy tarrying, lovely too is night; Pass thou away. Pass, thou wild heart, Wild heart of youth that still Hast half a will To stay. I grow too old a comrade, let us part. Pass thou away. —Sir William Watson.

will assure mankind that if there are Martians they have not yet surpassed the human race in devising, fabricating and utilizing instruments of destruction.—New York Sun.

The factor that arouses Hitler's ire to the highest pitch is, of course, his realization that no one outside of Germany, Italy and Japan has the least sympathy for his anti-Jewish programme. He is surprised to find that he cannot bear, and the only means of counter-offensive that he can understand is one of added crimes against the helpless Jews still under his crushing heel.—Sydney Post-Record.

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That Body of Yours. DIE SO MANY PHYSICIANS OF HEART AND BLOOD VESSEL DISEASES. In every medical journal, whether it be weekly, monthly, or quarterly, is the list of deaths in the medical profession and in most cases the cause of death is recorded. Every list tells us the same story—most of the deaths among physicians are due to some heart condition, mostly hardening of the arteries and partial closing of the little vessels supplying the heart muscle with blood. It is called coronary sclerosis. Naturally the heart is going to fail to do its work if it is not getting enough blood with which to do that work. An interesting comparison between the number of cases of coronary sclerosis among physicians and among other professions and trades is recorded by Dr. H. L. Smith in the Journal of the American Medical Association. He examined the consecutive records of 307 physicians, 300 bankers, 304 lawyers, 306 clergymen, 306 laborers, and 306 farmers. There were 33 cases of coronary sclerosis among the physicians, 18 among the bankers, 14 among the lawyers, 14 among the clergymen, 8 among the laborers, and 8 among the farmers. The average age of the patients was about the same for all groups.

Why are there so many more cases of this form of heart disease among the physicians than among the other groups? It has long been recognized that strain, intensity of work, and mental worries are factors in the production of coronary sclerosis. A physician's schooling is long and intensive so that he has used up a great deal of nervous energy by the time he graduates. Secondly, the nature of a physician's work is more strenuous and he not only has the responsibility of health but often times of life itself in his hands. A physician's routine work which includes taking care of mother and baby at childbirth, broken legs, severe heart attacks, scarlet fever and diphtheria among children and pneumonia among the aged, and the responsibility of the surgeons is actually or nearly as intense as that of the banker when there is a "run" on the bank. In other words, what is a crisis for the banker and business man is more or less routine or everyday work for the physician.

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FISHERMEN'S NOTICE. The Dominion and Provincial Governments are co-operating to recompense fishermen who have sustained loss or damage to their fishing equipment during the recent severe storms. A representative of the Provincial Fishermen's Loan Board will visit the different fishing localities where loss was sustained for the purpose of taking claims. Due notice will be given by posters, and fishermen who have suffered loss or damage are requested to be prepared to present a statement of actual loss and sign a declaration of same. All claims for loss must be made to this Board before FEBRUARY 10th, 1939. THE PROVINCIAL FISHERMEN'S LOAN BOARD

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