

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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Airing Civic Affairs

It is to be regretted that the retiring City Council, which had been invited to attend a public meeting in the Laborers' Union Hall and declined to do so on the ground of a pressing business meeting, should see fit, a few days later, to accept the invitation of the Rotary Club where an address on civic affairs was given by the Mayor, where no discussion was allowed and where the public was excluded.

His Worship, in introducing the Councillors and Water Commissioners who attended this meeting in a body, is reported as saying that the invitation of the Club might well be taken as an endorsement of the work which these two bodies had performed during the past two years. He strongly expressed his own appreciation of their activities and emphasized the need of selecting capable men to conduct civic affairs. Efficiency in government, he pointed out, depends on the interest which the people take in these matters. He urged that complaints be sent directly to the authorities and criticized the publication in the press of letters, whether signed or anonymous, from people unacquainted with the facts or actuated by personal spleen. He then went on to enumerate certain important needs of the city.

The Guardian suggests that the interests of the city would be better served, and our citizens better satisfied had His Worship delivered his address at a public meeting. The opportunity presented by the Laborers' Union should have been embraced, if not on the night specified, then on a later occasion. Better still, a meeting could have been called in the Strand Theatre. As it is, the limiting of the discussion of such important public matters to an exclusive club luncheon has left a decidedly unfavorable impression.

The Subsidy Mix-Up

Premier Saunders' revised version of his statements with respect to settlement of subsidy claims has appeared. It was given, according to the local Liberal organ, in an interview with a Board of Trade delegation on Monday. For all the information it contains, the Premier might just as well have referred the delegation to the article in the Halifax Herald, republished in The Guardian of Jan. 29, which article was prepared for the specific purpose of correcting the garbled and misleading statements attributed to Premier Saunders on his return from Ottawa. The Premier's announcement at that time, as broadcast in the Canadian Press, was that "an audit board of expert accountants has been appointed by the King Government to make the final adjustment of Prince Edward Island's provincial subsidy claims." His announcement as reported in the Patriot of Jan. 25, though more cautiously worded, was no less misleading. It read in part:

"Premier Saunders then stated that an audit board has been appointed by the King Government to make this final adjustment. "The members of the board so appointed have been chosen with the greatest care. "This board is at present at work on our claims, making the adjustment recommended by the Duncan Commission."

The facts, as the Premier has now admitted to the Board of Trade delegation, are that the question of the claims of all the Maritime Provinces have been referred by the Federal Treasury Board to the Dominion Board of Audit. The latter is not a new or special board appointed for this specific purpose by the King Government, as he endeavored to make the people of this province believe, but a Dominion institution, appointed under the Board of Audit Act of 1925.

The Herald article furthermore divulges the investigation to be carried out by the Dominion Board

of Audit will be of a nature preliminary to a Dominion Provincial Conference to deal with the subsidy question and finally settle upon it. The Nova Scotia and New Brunswick governments are reported as taking the position that while their ready co-operation with the Board of Audit in this work may be relied upon, the preliminary nature of the investigation must be recognized.

It is difficult, even yet, to gather from Premier Saunders' reported statements what his attitude is on this point, or what the information actually was that he was instructed to convey to the people of this Province on his visit to Ottawa. It is obvious, however, that in his interview with the Board of Trade delegation on Monday he endeavored, after his fashion, to retract some of the statements attributed to him in the Patriot of Jan. 25. He no longer referred to any "appointment" by the King Government of an audit board, "chosen with the greatest care" to make "final adjustment" of our subsidy claims. Instead, he "read the instructions as given by the Treasury Board at Ottawa to the Board of Audit" which specifically stated that the duty of the latter was to act in an advisory capacity. He contradicted his previous reference to a "final adjustment" by the audit board when he added: "Prince Edward Island is not necessarily bound to accept the findings of this Board. The final settlement of the claims is a matter between the province and the federal government." This, as we understand it, is precisely the view taken by the governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and it is perfectly in accord with the suggestion offered by the Board of Trade, which is founded on the assumption that our claims will eventually have to be settled either at a Dominion-Provincial Conference or by a Royal Commission.

What further action the Dominion Government may take remains to be seen. It seems useless to expect Premier Saunders to shed any light upon the matter. The fact that stands out prominently in connection with the Premier's visit to Ottawa is that he secured nothing which the Province would not have enjoyed had he stayed at home, and that, in his ill-advised and fumbling efforts to make political capital out of his visit, he created suspicion and distrust among our sister Maritime Provinces at a time when it was most important for us to retain their co-operation and support.

The British Way

Law enforcement in Great Britain, and the principle upon which it rests are well summed up in the following paragraph from the London Evening News:

"In so far as our country has been kept crime-free by comparison with many others it has been done, not by making crime difficult but in making punishment certain. Like General von Moltke, who told the Kaiser he had six plans for invading England but none for getting out again. The professional criminal knows a dozen simple ways of making easy money in England, but no reliable way of remaining at large to enjoy his plunder. If this admirable system shows signs of weakening the remedy is to strengthen the hands of the police, not to sow the country with bolts and bars, man traps, spring guns, bandogs, barbed wire, an army of watchful officials and a general atmosphere of distrust."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Ignoring the naval disarmament conference, rival rum-runners from Buffalo and Detroit are reported to be firing at each other on Lake Ontario.

If Premier King, Hon. Mr. Euler, Hon. Mr. Crerar and Hon. Mr. Elliott would repeat in the House of Commons their recent hustings speeches on the tariff, says the Sydney Post, what a symposium it would be.

Notes, By The Way

Tariff tinkering is still going on both at Ottawa and Washington and it is almost useless to guess what the outcome may be. In Ottawa we have a pro-American Government, very anxious to please Uncle Sam, but still, in deference to Canadian opinion squinting toward a little more protection for our farm products, or some of them. On this point it seems to have been decided to straddle the fence so that in the West, when the election campaign is on Liberal ministers and candidates can stress the points that make for free trade across the border, and in the industrial centres east of the Lakes lay stress on the points that indicate some sort of protection.

In Washington the free list of Canadian products now entering the States and the coal situation are both subjects of serious concern. The free list includes gypsum, hides, leather, cedar shingles and other articles of Canadian production valued at some \$80,000,000 a year. The coal barons of Pennsylvania are exercised over Nova Scotia coal going into New England, and coal from British Columbia now finding its way into the adjoining states on the Pacific coast, and are calling for new or higher duties. But these are the subjects of controversy in the Senate and may remain as they are.

As the Canadian Parliament usually meets but once a year and seldom has a special session, while Congress usually holds full and spring sessions and may call an interim session at any time, and moreover the President has power under the constitution, or in tariff acts to raise or lower certain duties, Canada is at a disadvantage in the tariff tinkering competition between Ottawa and Washington.

Lloyd George is noted for his ready wit in repartee. Once when he was addressing some Welsh miners he said, "We will have Home Rule for Ireland, and for England and for Scotland and for Wales—"

"And for hell," interrupted a deep, half-drunk voice.

"Quite right," he instantly replied. "I like to hear a man stick up for his own country."

A device recently invented in England eliminates the nuisance of the telephone operators' "They don't answer." In the absence of the subscriber the device takes down the message. This is but one of a number of inventions made by Louis Biatner in recording and reproducing sound. He has produced a telephone registration machine which controls, records and files an entire telephonic conversation, including any remarks made by the operator or busy bodies on the wrong line.

It reads strangely in the despatches that the great and rich city of Chicago has no money to pay the salaries of its 40,000 public employees to whom it now owes over \$11,000,000. And it seems no money can be raised by new taxes until June next by which time the arrears will be four times as great. It is also strange reading that the rich state of Illinois has defaulted on its bond issue payments.

In addition to state and city losses and debts, it is stated in the press that owing to the crash in the Stock Market over \$9 millionaires in common with a host of the less wealthy have become penniless.

Published statistics tell that in the United States last year pay-roll robberies resulted in 17 deaths, 9 kidnappings, over 100 woundings, and a loss of millions of dollars. The U. S. Secretary of Labor has proposed a more general payment of salaries and wages by cheques, as a partial protection against pay-roll robberies. Many large employers of labor tried the experiment of paying their workers by cheques in envelopes, but they found that a majority of them preferred to receive their wages in money. Many of them were unfamiliar with bank customs, or unable to write their names, or wanted money to spend on their way homeward; so the pay-roll plan was continued.

Ireland has a new problem in the gum-chewing habit which has spread so rapidly over the country that the Dail is being called upon to pass legislation forbidding the sale of gum. And yet there are some who claim that the mastication of gum helps to preserve the teeth if put in practice before decay has begun.

What effect the absence of so many jail boarders have on the civic elections is a question that is being discussed. Also upon other elections, civic, provincial and federal. And there may be another plebiscite some day. If it had been thought of in time the last plebiscite returns could have been materially altered by a more vigorous enforcement of the code against old soaks, home brewers, unlawful possessors and bootleggers. Some day the lawyers will raise the question whether a man or woman



By James W. Barton, M.D.

FREQUENT CAUSE OF DEATH FROM APPENDICITIS

Of the 17,335 deaths from acute appendicitis in 1926, Drs. J. C. Bower, and J. H. Clark of Philadelphia, estimate that 11,680 died as a result of taking laxatives before the operation.

That is nearly 70 per cent died because they endeavored to relieve the pain with a laxative. Dr. Tanner and Camb of Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, England, believe that castor-oil causes acute appendicitis to take a more violent course than it otherwise would, and they report some cases in the British Lancet.

They point out that in a series of fifty patients, eight had been given castor-oil, and in all of these cases the appendix was gangrenous. The reasons given for the harmful effects of castor oil upon acute appendicitis are that the oil further irritates the already inflamed and irritated intestine, and thus actually hurries or increases the destructive changes taking place in the tissues.

Also, giving the castor oil generally delays the operation as the patient waits to see what results the oil will have. Now as most pain in the abdomen and in the region of the appendix also, is due to gas formation, and castor oil is a natural remedy to use in removing same, it is not surprising that it is used so often, and no bad effects follow its use.

However in view of the figures quoted above from the United States and Great Britain, and they apply everywhere, the general use of castor oil for abdominal pain will have to be carefully watched, if the great yearly number of deaths from appendicitis is to be lessened.

If the pain shifts about from place to place it is not usually an appendix also, is due to gas formation in the middle of the abdomen, shifted down to the right side and stays there, it is usually appendicitis.

If you feel that the pain must be shifted in some manner, then the use of an enema or "rejection" will often be sufficient to relieve pain.

Remember then the damage and frequent deaths that follow the use of castor oil or other purgative in appendicitis.

The figures quoted above is my reason for speaking about this matter so often.

London Jack, the ten-year-old collecting dog, which has raised nearly \$20,000 for charity at Waterloo Station England, is going blind and will be replaced by a younger canine.

The Poet's Corner

TRANSFIGURED

Love took the sordid clay And pierced its grossness as with lustral fire, Fashioned a spirit from the common earth, And crowned him lord and king with tears and mirth; Love took the sordid clay And shaped it to the god of her desire.

Then, ere he could resign His white divinity and fall away From that ineffable, ideal height Whereto he had been lifted to Love's night: Ere he could so resign His godhead and return again to clay.

Death took the god of Love— The god that was but man ashine with gleams From inner fires that Love's own hand supplied— And made him deathless who might else have died: Death took the god of Love And thronged him in the heaven of her dreams. —Sir John Addock

Sixteen thousand tenants in Hull, England, are rejoicing over a recent court decision that renters are entitled to the discount allowed to a landlord by a corporation for collecting taxes.

an, otherwise qualified to vote can be legally held in quod on election day simply because he or she had unlawfully taken a drink or had unlawful possession of contraband booze. Anyway the contract for supplying the jail boarders with three square meals a day is what printers were wont to call "a fat take."

See Mince's for Neuritis.

That Body of Hours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

The Fanciful Map

Next to the political events portending in England, public interest is stirred deeply over the educational situation, its possibilities and its values. One topic that looms large in these discussions is the oldtime boredom called geography. It is pointed out that the average teaching from maps leaves much to be desired. At a meeting of the Geographical Conference, in London, many speakers gave most amusing account of the sort of stuff they were taught at school about the scenery and climate, etc., of the various countries introduced to their notice. It would perhaps be better to say that the picturesque parts of instruction were carefully left out and all that remained in the mind was some vague, general impression, which was no more like the actual reality than the Sahara is like Ceylon. It is strange the way in which utterly false and gratuitous impressions cling to it. It might be supposed that with all the enormous amount of money spent upon education, and with the abundant means of travel people today have at their command, oldtime prejudices and ignorance of the lands sketched upon the map would by this date have vanished. Yet this is far from being the case. Take Canada itself, for example. It has been called "Our Lady of the Snows." That impression surmounts and overtones all the rest. It crystallizes itself in the mind of the stranger as an arctic vision, frigid, repellent, starkly savage, and touching the imagination with an icy chill. People at a distance have got so used to hearing about Canadian forests and wilderness spaces and winter sports and the ice palace fete that they probably wonder if ever the frosted crust melts from the window-panes and envisage our Dominion as a sort of Siberian waste. It is reported that last summer, be it noted, a stranger came into Montreal from southern American states equipped with snowshoes and skis, under the impression that he would find hereabouts an outlet for his sporting proclivities. This, of course, is an extreme instance, yet enough to indicate the silly notions some folk have concerning the Canadian climate and scenery. And Mr. Courtney Riley Cooper, who has just returned from a tour of the Hudson Bay region, expresses his deep regret that so many peculiar notions of Canada have become prevalent. He says: "The people of the United States are under the impression that Canada is a land of desolate, frozen wastes"; and announces his intention of what he calls "selling Canada through books"; in other words, of making an effort to correct and offset the absurd ideas which have unfortunately taken lodgment in the minds of those who live far from our borders.

This crass ignorance would be missing were it not so appalling. No have our winter season like many other folk. Yet we can speak a good word for winter in Canada, and Mr. Cooper testifies that he suffered more from cold in Chicago than in the Hudson Bay country. As for the summer and fall seasons all who live in Canada and those who have visited this Dominion, know perfectly well there is not a more beautiful land on earth. This is not an exaggeration. It is simply the plain truth plainly told. Canada has poetry—plenty of it. The old-fashioned chromograph which impictures beavers gnawing at the poplar stems or scenes red light from a window sumbling upon bosses of piled snowdrifts in the street, is no more Canada than a cinder-heap is an orchard of apple blossoms. Thanks to the tourist traffic and similar agencies, ancient myths about Canada are losing their effect, and no intelligent person doubts for a moment that these fanciful vapourings have long ago outstayed their leave.

NEW YORK Feb. 5.—A London despatch to the New York Times today said that nine surviving widows and 13 children of Abdul Hamid, Sultan of Turkey who was deposed in 1909, have obtained after five years' legal battle, \$50,000,000 from his \$1,600,000,000 estate.

Greece, it was reported in London, offered \$50,000,000 to Abdul's former harem favorites now living in poverty in various capitals of Europe. The Aegean Financial Trust, Ltd., of London, hopes to get for them \$1,000,000,000 from Iraq.

Abdul, who died in prison in 1918, was said by some to be the richest man in the world. A number of British and United States financiers have backed the contention of his heirs that confiscation of his properties during and after the Great War was illegal. Greece's offer concerns properties acquired from Turkey under post-war treaties.

THE LAND WE LOVE

By FRANK YEIGH

SUSANNA MOODIE

Q. Who was Susanna Moodie? A. Susanna Moodie was an English woman who came to Canada in 1832 along with other members of the Strickland family. Col. and Mrs. Moodie settled in the virgin bush near Peterboro, living afterward in Belleville and Toronto. She was a writer of distinction, like her sisters, her books including some works of fiction that throw light on the early pioneer conditions. Her "Roughing It in the Bush" has long been a classic of its type.

EYES TESTED AND GLASSES FITTED

E. W. TAYLOR, J. B. TAYLOR, Optometrists, 143 Richmond Street

These Toronto Arrests

The British principle of justice under which a man is assumed to be innocent until found guilty will be applied to the Toronto brokers now in the toils of the law. On the other hand, says the Ottawa Journal, the sweeping action of the Attorney-General and the manner in which the arrests were carried out, would appear to indicate that the Ontario Government has come into possession of information of a very serious character. In the circumstances, and in view of the rumors that have been going about, destroying public confidence in mining brokerage houses as a whole, Mr. Prie's vigorous handling of the situation will meet with public commendation.

Perhaps the most amazing feature of the recent arrests was the prominence of the men and houses involved. The public assumption has been that whatever of irregularity existed was centred chiefly in the smaller firms or in houses not affiliated with the Standard Stock and Mining Exchange. It came somewhat as a shock, therefore, when the Attorney-General's dragnet took in men who have been regarded as the very pillars of the mining brokerage business in this province.

Amazing, too, will it be if it is found that illegal practices have been going on with the full knowledge and condonation of Mining Exchange leaders. One would have thought that with the boom in speculation of the past two years, when everybody was in the market, brokerage houses would have been content and quite prosperous with their legitimate brokerage commissions. And one would have thought, also, that there was enough brains and integrity, among the leaders of the business, to perceive that sooner or later irregularities would lead to disaster for some and to trouble for everybody, and that they would have taken steps to either curb or expose such practices. Quite apparently, however, wrong-doing was first condoned, then embraced then given almost general sanction.

The pity of it all, of course, is that this thing may injuriously affect the most legitimate mining development. It ought not to; but it probably will. It will be more difficult, one fears, to secure money for the financing of even first-class properties; public confidence will be shaken, and the good will suffer with the bad. Yet this action had to come. The worst thing that could have happened—worse for both mining and public—would have been a policy of hush. That, in the light of the rumors and reports that have been widespread, would have been destructive of all public faith, and would also have been grossly unfair to those who have tried to deal honestly with their clients.

The best that can be hoped for now is that the Government, having set out to clean up the mess, will clean up thoroughly. The whole business should be handled without fear or favor, and with the maximum of thoroughness; and in the end, when transgressors have been adequately dealt with, all possible steps should be taken to make impossible such practices in the future. For the mining resources of this country are far too valuable to be left at the mercy of people whose only interest in them is to make money by hook or crook or otherwise.

NINE WIDOWS GET FORTUNES

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