The Charlottetown Guardian

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Farm Interests Sacrificed

It is useless for the Liberal press to attempt to convince our farmers that there has been no recent drop in lamb prices, or that this was not connected with the 50 per cent tariff reduction given by the King Government on New Zealand lamb entering Canada. The sharp decline of over a cent a pound was directly attributed by packing houses to the uncertainty created by the new treaty, and this occurred at a time when the market was strengthening and the prospect was that the price would go to 8 cents a pound.

Our contemporary refutes its own argument when it admits that "when lambs become more plentiful the price naturally drops; that is a well understood rule of the market." Heavier New Zealand imports, following lower tariffs, naturally result in keener competition and lower prices. The fact that there are several grades does not affect the issue one way or the other.

Why did not the King Government renew the New Zealand treaty on the advantageous terms negotiated by the Bennett Government at the Empire Conference of 1932? It is practically the same except for the sweeping tariff reductions on New Zealand lamb, poultry and other farm products. The butter tariff was not touched because our dairy producers are strongly organized and the King Government knew what would happen if they tinkered with that schedule. The lamb market may not be the only one affected by the new agreement, but it has been the first to react adversely. This is not a question of controversy, but of fact, as everyone associated with the industry is aware.

That Dunning Budget

Mr. J. H. Myers, says our evening contemporary, once declared that "he would not be found dead in a ten-acre field with the Dunning Budget"; and it boasts that notwithstanding this condemnation "the principle of the Dunning Budget goes marching along to victory after victory."

The trouble with our contemporary is that it keeps forgetting not to lead with its chin.

Mr. Myers' only reference to a Dunning Budget was in the 1930 campaign and that, of course, was to the notorious "countervailing tariff" Budget which shared the fate of other Liberal vote-catchers by being promptly discarded and forgotten. The only "marching" it ever did was to the guillotine on election day. The nearest its "principle" came to being resurrected was when the United States applied countervailing duties against bonused fish exports from Nova Scotia. We didn't hear Mr. Dunning do any cheering on that occasion, or the Liberal press either.

Injured Innocence

A revealing light on Japanese psychology is thrown, quite unconsciously, in an address delivered by Past Governor Yoneyama at a meeting of the Rotary Club of Tokyo, in which the speaker set out to justify Japan's war activities in China. We quote from the English translation, which is said to be feeble in comparison with the "deep meaning and force" of the original.

"It is generally the case that when a war breaks out," says Mr. Yoneyama, "the world is in habit of calling the strong side the aggressor and their sympathy is liable to be shown to the weaker, but in reality, the cowardly side. Call it aggressor or defender—whatever you please: but attacking is defending and defending is attacking. The question rests upon how and why the war was started."

This question, notwithstanding its importance, is not dealt with in the address. The speaker fails to explain how Japanese troops, "unavoidably driven to arms," as he says, "for a righteous cause and fighting in perfect compliance with international justice, and in accordance with the laws of civilized nations," happen to be doing all their fighting on Chinese territory. Unless, of course, we accept the explanation that "attacking is defending, and defending is attacking."

Interference with Japan's invasion of China would, in Mr. Yoneyama's opinion, be an act of cruelty to the poor Chinese! "We are", he says, "in an age of scientific battle. With super-advanced arms and weapons, we are able to work effectively, or in other words, the battle can be concluded in a short time. Supposing a third party should attempt to interfere or stand in the way, it would only prolong war, which the world dislikes and is yet unable to stop, and would complicate the situation. The longer the war continues, the greater the misery and suffering of humanity."

Mr. Yoneyama assured his hearers that he is "a lover of peace," but he could not help doubting the sincerity of those who call war inhuman. "In the battle we are waging, our soldiers, even if defeated, never surrender to the enemy," whereas "the number of enemy captives seems to be rapidly increasing." It was found that some of these captives were "fighting without knowing what they were fighting for. Fortunately, when they surrender to our army they get sufficient food and the wounded ones receive kind treatment for which they feel grateful to our men." Think of that!

The Japanese, it seems, "have never harboured ill-feeling toward the innocent Chinese . . . If only the attitude of the rulers of China would be changed and they would correct their mistake in promoting anti-Japanese feeling," all would be well.

"Our Government," says Mr. Yoneyama, "has repeatedly declared that Japan has not the least thought of any territorial aggression. When the war is over, in the treaty of peace there will be various conditions stipulated, agreeable to both parties." (Mr. Yoneyama is here quite evidently drawing on his imagination. "The war" has not yet even been declared.)

"Our army in China," he explained, "is already sharing their provisions for the relief of the starving Chinese." That at any rate, must be a comfort to those who escape Japanese bombs, shells and machine-gun bullets.

Unfortunately, not withstanding all these humanitarian efforts, other countries persist in regarding Japan as the aggressor; and Mr. Yoneyama suggests that this is because "the Japanese are generally known as being very poor in making propaganda." That must have provoked a laugh, even at a Tokyo Rotary meeting. It was followed by the pious expression of belief that "the truth will naturally reveal its righteousness in the end."

Mr. Yoneyama, we may assume, represents the enlightened element of Japan. He is "a man of peace" as distinct from the military class who dictate the country's war policies. What must be the temper of the War Lords, and what hope, beyond that of armed intervention, is there of persuading Japan to forego its "heroic" campaign of pillage and plunder in China?

Editorial Notes

Louis Riel executed this date 1885.

* * * *

Tomorrow, Public Dollar Day No. 1.

* * * *

China, the greatest pacifist nation in the world's history, seems to be getting it where the defenceless chicken got the hatchet.

* * * *

The irony of fate—the outstanding pacifist of all time and the only disarmament Premier of all time, is being conveyed to his last resting place in a man-of-war!

* * * *

There is a Christmassy flavour about the names mentioned daily in the Palestine revoult but, alas, it does not connote peace to men of goodwill or otherwise.

* * * *

"Father" Aberhart has protested against the "disallowance" appeals being heard before Christmas, and has suggested January 15 next as a suitable date. It is reasonable that Alberta should hold out for peace and goodwill as long as the law allows.

* * * *

If the Law Courts are to be re-roofed that will mean more luck for deserving Liberals, for none other need apply. It looks as though the fire loss will ultimately be assessed at anything from $15,000 to $20,000—not including the proposed removal of the Town clock.

* * * *

The New Brunswick case for the Rowell Commission is being prepared by the Hon. Mr. Jones, K.C., who states that were it not that preliminary work had been done previously he never could have been ready for the presentation of his brief, far less argue his case in February. Here we suppose our Premier is trusting to the evidence prepared by Premier MacMillan for the White Commission and any other good luck that happens his way.

* * * *

A lively interchange of telegrams is under way between Mr. Bernard Shaw and the students of St. Andrews, Scotland. They wanted Mr. Shaw to be their candidate for rector of the university. He replied that he was not enough of a nonentity for the job, and the students wired back that it was a choice between him and Shirley Temple for their support. The humor of it all is good, in a changing and rasping world, to see that distinguished British men of letters retain their capacity for high jinks. That telegram of Mr. Bernard Shaw's is only in part Shavian. In part it is the schoolboy foolery in which we used to find Mr. Shaw participating with Mr. H. G. Wells and Mr. G. K. Chesterton and sometimes Sir James M. Barrie. Sir James and Mr. Chesterton are dead and Mr. H G. Wells is grown terribly serious, but Mr. Shaw is still good for a public caper.

* * * *

There is a new kind of textile mill in Newark, Ohio, where a strange sort of fibre is being made into industry's latest science-created material. Not cotton, wool, silk, linen or any other familiar fibre is being used. Instead it is fibre made basically from sand. It is fibre of glass. Because glass is a good electrical insulator, it can be made into tape to wind around wires and cables. Glass cloth is being used in filters for acids because it is acid-proof. Draperies, theatre curtains, awnings and rugs will probably be the first forms in which glass fibres will be applied to home and fireside. Because glass does not burn, glass textiles do not have holes in them due to careless cirgarette smokers. They will minimize fire risk. At present glass clothing produced is limited to some glass fibre neckties worn more or less as a stunt by some of the experimenters. Later glass dresses and suits may be made.

* * * *

The best laid schemes oftentimes miss fire. For instance the German liner which was to carry H. R. H. the Duke of Windsor and the Duchess to New York, arrived last Friday without them but with most of their luggage which had to be re-shipped back. With regard to service the chefs were informed that the Duke liked plain food, steaks and cutlets and chicken for dinner; he preferred French dressing without mustard, and wished nothing to drink but mineral water, until cocktail time, when he would enjoy a light cocktail with canapes of liver paste, Westphalian ham and rarebits. He had ordered claret for dinner, but no white wines or champagnes, and a little after-dinner brandy with his coffee. The Duchess, it was indicated by the memorandum, had no special desires differing from those of her husband. It was said, however, that she liked to have flowers at her table and in her room—any flower but roses. The Duke wished to have dark red carnations to wear in his lapel.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The fight between Russia and Japan which Gen. Araki talks about will be, if it occurs, not really a conflict of ideas at all. It will be a clash of autocratic, authoritarian governments, from which freedom and democracy have nothing to gain unless they destroy each other. The tyrannies in Russia, Japan, Italy and Germany are as much alike as peas; there is no fundamental distinction between them whatever; they are all equally hateful. —Los Angeles Times.

"He who is president of the people finds a mob more than ready to obey him, and does not keep his hands from the blood of his kindred. - He heaps unjust accusations on them—a favorite device—hales them before the courts, and murders them.. After this, is there not a fatal necessity upon him either to be slain by his enemies or to be a tryant and becomes a wolf instead of a man?" —Repubilic of Plato.

A Nebraska woman won a prize of $250 for this essay on "What Constitutes Success" written in competition with many others: "He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often and loved much; who has gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of little children; who has filled his niche and accomplished his task; who has left the world better than he found it, whether by an improved poppy, a perfect poem or a rescued soul; who has never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty or failed to empress it; who has always looked for the best in others and given them the best he had; whose life was an inspiration; whose memory a benidiction.

Living is at best a chore of considerable proportions It might be lightened for us more than a little if our birthdays were transformed by friends possessing humor and insight into points of departure toward new and enticing interests. Indeed, the art of making birthdays gratifying, even to those of mature age who reluctantly go on having them, ought to be cultivated, in the interests of higher civilization and lower blood pressure.—Chicago Daily News.

If we wish we can do with wheat what we are doing with cotton: keep the price at a level which will cost us our foreign markets and eventually increase the burden of farm relief; or we can let world markets do the price managing for us. Price and production control by government and trade associations for commodities with world markets have been demonstrated failures the world over — in cotton, wheat, sugar, rubber, copper and coffee. The Brazilian failure is the latest to come to the world's attention, but it is only one of a long line, and, unfortunately, it does not mark the end of the experimentation.—New York Sun.

The necessity, from the British standpoint, of having a friendly relationship with a possibly victorious conservative regime in Spain lies in the fact that, if that faction ultimately triumphs, it will be in position to influence quite decisively the control of Mediterranean communications. This, of course is a vital issue with Great Britain. Hence, while the announcement of the appointment of a British "agent" to deal with the Franco regime comes as a distinct surprise in view of Great Britain's past efforts to remain strictly neutral, it is understandable. But it presumably will cause dissatisfaction in France. And in Russia it is likely to arouse hostility against the British. —Providence Journal.

When this fit of the world's madness is over, there must be a reconciliation among peoples and a recognition of the constructive forces that exist in all countries and all civilizations. Let us continue to remember the kindliness, the courtesy, the gracious and idealistic qualities of nations which happen at the moment to be under a domination of which we do not approve and which seems dangerous to the world's peace. We can condemn outrages against humanity without condemning humanity itself.—New York Times.

Japan, replying to condemnation of her course in China by the League of Nations and the United States protested that she had no territoral ambitions. News from China has it that the five northern provinces are as good as conquered by the Japanese invaders. They consist of an area of 500,000 square miles, about equal to the area of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, India and Illinois. It is absurd to think that Japan would voluntarily surrender control of such an empire gained as the spoils of war. There is here the making of another Manchukuo with a government of its own to show that Japan has no territorial ambitions. This new conquest will place under Japanese rule direct or indirect 80,000,000 Chinese. — Boston Transcript.

"I will give him a little of his own medicine," Magistrate Smith remarked in county police court recently, when informed that a certain man would plead guilty to a charge of beating his wife. And thereupon His Worship imposed a sentence of one month in jail, plus five strokes of the strap. One can think of nothing more appropriate than a strapping for wife beaters. Talking right back to them in their own language is an excellent idea and a good way to discourage this sort of thing.—Windsor Star.

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.

RIBSTON APPLES

Sir,—In regard to a letter re apples in yesterday's Guardian from "One Interested" may I refer to the statement that when Ribston apples were shipped to England, they turned out to be small and green and not satisfactory. During 15 years residence at Ravenwood we had several Ribston apple trees raised that nearly always produced fruit of fair size and good colour. It was a pretty sight to see the trees loaded with fruit, almost to the ground. On two occasions Ribstons were shipped to London, once in connection with Senator Ferguson's shipment, when they brought a good price. When the late Professor Saunders called at the farm in connection with the purchase, he recommended this apple as the one to be preferred for the district. We found that trees of this variety responded to plenty of fertilizer and abundant sunshine.

I am, Sir, etc.,
E. W. TAYLOR

BOOSTING CANNED FOOD

Sir,—There was a point to which I omitted to refer in my letter of yesterday, regarding the growing demand in the United Kingdom for Canadian canned goods, viz, that the deep-seated prejudice of the Old Country people against what they call "tinned goods" is fast disappearing.

Before highly scientific methods were introduced into the canning industry, there were frequent cases of illness resulting from ptomaine poisoning. Now, however, it is being realized that, in a properly equipped modern cannery, having all the latest appliances for inspection, cleaning, processing and cooking, only the highest quality of food is produced. Moreover, from the point of view of nourishment, it is an established fact that the contents of a can are altogether superior to similar foods prepared in the home kitchen, where exposure to the oxygen of the atmosphere, during the heating process, has a most injurious effect upon the vitamins contained in all foods and which are now regarded as prime essentials for the well-being of persons of all ages. In the canning process the cooking is done in a vacuum after the cans have been sealed, resulting in the retaining of all the vitamins A, B, C, D, and G. It is felt in the United States that it is only a matter of time when educated people in all parts of the world will demand canned foods in preference to those home cooked.

Another factor in favour of the growth in the demand for canned goods is that women are tiring of kitchen drudgery and naturally prefer the facility with which a meal can be prepared in a few minutes from the contents of a can.

Of all industries none presents such an enticing future as canning, and on this Island it is the only industry for which raw materials can be obtained, including fruits, vegetables, fish, chicken, parts of animals, etc.

I am, Sir, etc.,
H. K. S. HEMMING

THE CHELTON ROAD

Sir,—After driving over hummocks, through ruts, around holes and log-house cellars that have been left in the centre of the road all summer, crossing people's fields, and crawling over back roads through woods in an attempt to get to the highway, we have at length had the novelty of gazing upon a government road outfit at the approach of winter, much to the annoyance of Mr. Jack Frost, who intended to fill in the cellars and holes in a few days with ice and again make traveling possible.

One morning last week the people were awakened from their slumbers by the noise of a motor. They began to look skyward. Nothing could be seen except the clear blue sky. A few minutes later a huge Caterpillar tractor appeared, motored by a Deizel engine, drawing a huge grading and ditching machine at a high rate of speed operated by two good natured looking men. Cream stands were seen flying in the air, mail boxes going and the fields and bridges being torn up. Then rolls of sods were dragged into the middle of the road all ready for a hail rain to make traveling impossible. This went on for several days, while farmers with turnip crops on the opposite side of the road with the dread of approaching winter staring them in the face were unable to harvest their crop on account of this heretofore unheard of out-of-season work on the public roads. Suddenly in the words of the poet, this fall-and-winter machine outfit "folded its tent like the Arabs" and silently stole away, leaving this road less than half done with a mess of sods in the centre which rain soaked as it now is makes traveling impossible.

This casts no reflection on the machine operators, both men no doubt take an interest and pride in their work and would have much preferred to be left alone until they had completed a finished job and were able to look back when leaving and view a handsome stretch of road But orders came, and orders must be obeyed and the machine operators have left behind, grudgingly no doubt, a mere mess of sods for the public to plow through to say nothing of the inconvenience and expense of new bridges, etc., caused to the farmers all along the road. No one yet can figure out why this road was torn up and not finished unless the powers that be were anxious to make more revenue from the two cent increase in gas tax by forcing car owners to plunge through this fall muck of mud and sods or to break some poor old horse's heart or legs trying to crawl through the muck.

We have had representatives in the past from both parties who would blush and turn their heads at the treatment that has been dealt out to the people of this community for the last two summers with respect to roads. Visitors who pass through refer to them as ridiculous, scandalous, a disgrace to the country. Yet notwithstanding that the people of this community pay their taxes, live with in the law, and go to their own church on Sunday, they have been obliged to wallow through muck holes, rain holes ruts and cellars for two summers with little or nothing done until now at the approach of winter when other communities would chase a winter road machine outfit out of the place our roads have been all ripped up and left in a condition almost impossible, to say nothing of the inconvenience caused the farmers at this particular time of year

Rumor has it that the machine outfit was ordered to Lovers' Lane. When this traditional matchmaking road becomes all ripped up and sodded, it is said we may be linked up with the National Park. Then when those dispossessed home owners on the North Side succeed in finding new homes for themselves, the long looked for and promsed balanced budget will no doubt appear.

I am, Sir, etc.,
FARMER

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