

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1930

Old Age Pensions

The Halifax Chronicle recalls the fact that three years ago the King Government passed the Old Age Pensions law by which it agreed to pay half the pensions to any province adopting it. Under this enactment Old Age Pensions are now being paid all over Canada except in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec. Ignoring the fact that the Act as passed by the King Government is grossly unfair to the Maritimes, which have a greater proportion of pensionable aged than any other part of Canada, the Chronicle criticises the Rhodes Government for the report brought in by the Pension Commissioner appointed to investigate the approximate cost of the scheme to Nova Scotia. At the recent Halifax by-election Premier Rhodes announced that with the new liquor control policy in force the Government purposed to implement this legislation. In the meantime, the Chronicle is loudly calling for "action" and insisting that the Government "must be forced to keep faith." The criticism of the Halifax Liberal organ would be more applicable to the Saunders administration in this Province than to the Nova Scotia Government. It will be recalled that in Premier Saunders' pre-election platform old age pensions played a conspicuous part. The Stewart Government was violently assailed for not taking advantage of the opportunity of participating in this scheme, though it was well known that the cost to this Province, would be out of all proportion to the amounts paid by other wealthier provinces which have adopted the Old Age Pensions Act. The insincerity of the Saunders Government is shown by the fact that it has not even appointed a commission to enquire into the actual cost. As a vote catcher, the Old Age Pensions Act served its purpose at the last election, but the manner in which it was thus used for purely political ends will not be forgotten by the electors when the opportunity comes of registering their disapproval.

The Tariff on Used Cars

The Tariff Advisory Board at Ottawa has been wrestling since early in December with the question of the tariff on used cars. The hearing has been several times adjourned, the latest date fixed being for the 27th of this month. This is a question, suggests the Moncton Times, that might well be settled off-hand by the government without reference to the Tariff Board, or if the Government is incapable it might be settled by the Tariff Board without receiving prolonged or serious consideration from that august body. Surely Canada imports enough without being made a dumping ground for the cast off cars of the United States. The next thing our neighbors will be sending over their second hand clothing.

The situation is that Canada has one car to every nine or ten of her population; the United States one car to every four or five of population. Of the more than twenty million cars in the United States probably four or five million or more are discarded each year, and in the absence of a demand across the border there is much dumping into Canada. There are upwards of 1,200,000 cars and trucks in Canada, in possession of almost as many private owners, representing a 100 percent Canadian investment in their actual and greatly depreciated cash value of approximately \$600,000,000, and all this used car property is for sale sooner or later, and must all be sold within and upon Canada's own used car markets, there being no other outlet. To admit the used cars of the United States under such circumstances cannot but bear hardly upon Canadian owners and a new system of approvals is asked for that will re-

der such importations liable to duty at a fair price with an additional 15 percent on used cars brought into Canada and sold within a year. The request looks like a reasonable one and if conditions were reversed Canadian used cars in all likelihood would be excluded from the United States.

Anachronisms

Working in a field which he knows thoroughly, because it is the field of his own experience, Ralph Connor of Winnipeg has turned out a whole shelf of novels on Canadian life in thirty years of writing. Recently, he has gone back a century from the time he knows and has given us "The Runner," a novel dealing with the War of 1812. Unhappily, comments an exchange, the novelist didn't delve very deeply into the details of the day to day life of the people in the time he wrote about, and the historians have been laughing at him because of his mistakes. Lyman B. Jackes has taken Ralph Connor to task for a number of inaccuracies. The novelist speaks of the presentation of a daguerrotype to a young lady in 1810. But Daguerre, it happens, was only twenty-one at that time and had scarcely begun his experiments. There were no daguerrotypes until 1839. At one point in the novel, a colonel hands a pencil to an Indian and asks him to draw a map. But pencils were not in common use for thirty years after this. A merchant is represented as issuing a cheque. On what? asks Mr. Jackes. There were no banks in Canada until 1817. Reference is made to trade with the Indians and computations are made in sterling. But Halifax currency, based on the Spanish Pillar dollar, was the money in use in Canada at the time, the critic points out.

"Truly," the Toronto Telegram comments, "pitfalls seem to beset the path of the historical novelist. Those who seek to turn back Time in his flight must tread warily. It is much safer to write novels of 2014 than of 1814."

This is all very true, of course. Anachronisms are fair game for the critic, just as mixed metaphors are, or split infinitives. But Ralph Connor, in his anachronisms is in very good company. Shakespeare, whose knowledge of geography was so much at fault that he could speak of the sea-coast of Bohemia, was also careless about historical details. In "Julius Caesar," Cassius speaks of a striking clock. But in Caesar's time there was no striking clocks. In "Troilus and Cressida," Agamemnon is made to quote Aristotle though Aristotle was born about 310 B. C., and Agamemnon flourished at the time of the Trojan War, perhaps a thousand years before.

He Got the Permit

Strange communications are sometimes received by the Customs Department. The following extract, from a letter sent by a resident of the Yukon Territory asking for a permit to enter an English sporting rifle at the Customs office, is reprinted from the National Revenue Review:

"I am not an alien, am British-born and a returned soldier. I am not a Bolshevik, Anarchist, Socialist, Communist, Prohibitionist or Liberal."

The permit was sent by return mail.

Editorial Notes

When Senator Wilson made her first appearance in the upper house the members were invited to stand. They declined. After she had been sworn in they were invited to applaud. They declined. Senators, suggests an exchange, seem to be like the average Canadian in their disinclination to be directed by a cheer leader.

Notes By The Way

Yesterday this column dealt briefly with the Manitoba Court case based on a Canadian Press bulletin. In the mail last night came a 36 page pamphlet entitled "The Macdonald Will Case," by Lewis St. George Stubbs, Surrogate Court Judge and Senior County Court Judge, Eastern Judicial District, Province of Manitoba, in which is set forth at length the case of Judge Stubbs in his unprecedented attack on the higher court judges. Briefly the case is this: Alexander Macdonald, merchant, Winnipeg was a millionaire and more. During his life he took a keen interest in, and partially maintained, the Home of the Friendless and the Children's Home, Winnipeg. He made a will creating "The Macdonald Trust" with some \$1,500,000 funds, the interest of which was to go to charitable institutions. This will was signed by only one witness instead of two as required by law. Another, and later will, was produced leaving the entire estate to his son Douglas (who predeceased him and left his estate to his sister), and his married daughter, Grace A. Forlong, and her husband, John Alexander Forlong. Thus the whole estate was to go to Mr. and Mrs. Forlong.

Judge Stubbs maintained the second will should not be upheld, and that the Legislature of Manitoba should pass legislation legalizing the first will.

For many months the case has dragged its way through the courts. The first start was made February 26, 1929. The end so far is the decision of the appellate court on January 22, 1930, which handed the estate over to Mrs. Forlong. From this decision an appeal is contemplated to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Judge Stubbs is convinced the Appellate Court was wrong. So strongly does he feel on the matter that recently he took the unusual step of calling a public meeting in Winnipeg, where he took the platform and for more than two hours hurled thunderbolts at his brother judges in the hope of forcing the Manitoba Legislature, now in session, to investigate the circumstances surrounding this case. In order that there might be no misunderstanding as to where he stood, he caused to be printed 20,000 pamphlets at a cost of nearly a thousand dollars in which he states why he had refused permission to Mrs. Forlong to administer the property.

Judge Stubbs has declared his willingness to vacate his seat on the bench rather than drop out of the fight. As he says himself, "it will either make or break me." And he is apparently indifferent as to which happens.

The story of Macdonald dates back many years. All through his life he was known for his assistance to various charitable institutions. As stated the Home of the Friendless and the Children's home of Winnipeg were objects of his benevolence and when he died, aged 84, the public expected that the bulk of his estate would be found available for Manitoba charities.

Instead of this, however, a will purporting to give away his entire holdings to his son, daughter and son-in-law, all wealthy, was presented for probate and the court issued the grant on February 26, 1929. On March 1st the grant was withdrawn and an order made by Judge Stubbs that the will be propounded for proof.

It was during the subsequent investigation that the will was declared a nullity, the court in its judgment claiming that the evidence adduced "discloses one of the most infamous will transactions that has ever been detected and stalked out into the light of day."

The outcome of all this? Who can tell? Certain it is that Judge Stubbs has a fight on his hands in more ways than one. In publicly attacking his brother judges, he has done a thing hitherto unheard of in Canada. And the British Empire itself can not for the last five or six hundred years point to a similar episode. Judge Stubbs has thrilled, amazed and shocked Old Winnipeg. And no one can say what the end will be.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals should assert themselves in the dog crusade by the Police. It is unthinkable the Police should shoot practically at sight dogs met with disaster there in 1870. Cuyler's men, bringing supplies to Detroit in May, 1763, were defeated by Pontiac's followers. A skirmish also took place there in March, 1838. In 1788 the Chippawa and Ottawa Indians gave a lease of the island to Thomas McKee for 999 years. In 1804 McKee leased the island to John Askin, a fur trader of Detroit. In 1823 the island was transferred to William McCormick.

In the ten years since National Prohibition was enacted in the United States statistics show that the cost of this enforcement has been \$400,000,000, and the loss of revenue \$2,000,000,000. Arrests by Federal agents

That Body of Yours By James W. Bates, M.D.

MENTAL PATIENTS OUTNUMBER ALL OTHERS

Do you know that in all the hospitals treating the body, at any one time, there are not as many patients as are found in mental hospitals? Now that is not such a discouraging statement as it would at first appear, because the larger numbers of mental cases may not be due to an increase in these disorders but because physicians and relatives are finding out that mental cases can often be cured if treated early. Thus many of the patients go into these institutions of their own accord in order to prevent mental illness.

In former days if any of the family exhibited anything strange in his behaviour or manner, it was hidden from others and often from the family doctor, with the hope that it might pass over.

This meant that whatever was causing the trouble got a real start, and often the case went on to a real serious condition before anything was done about it. Thus the family and the patient himself would get to the point where they thought all hope was past, and the patient committed to an institution.

The idea now is to have the patient cooperate with the family physician at the first sign of any little change in his nervous condition, that may be noticed by himself or his family. It may be a little tendency to hysteria, looking for an excuse for some little lack in proper behaviour or deportment. Perhaps a feeling that there is something wrong with the heart or other organs when there is really no organic condition.

With others there is an emotional disturbance which causes the change in the behaviour. With others the trouble - illusion or hallucination, irritability, loss of memory is due to infection from teeth, tonsils, sinuses, intestine, or gall bladder.

Now you can readily see that these little "beginnings" can be very ably handled by a sympathetic, thoughtful family physician, who will place the patient in the hospital for nervous ailments for watchful care and treatment.

So although our mental hospitals have a very large number of patients nevertheless with the scientific care and the treatment now given, from 25 to 60 percent are cured. It is the early treatment that is responsible for this large number of cures.

The Poet's Corner

From "Sestina" For who sleeps once and sees the secret light Whereby sleep shows the soul a fairer way Between the rise and rest of day and night, Shall care no more to fare as all men may, But be his place of pain or of delight There shall he dwell, beholding night as day. Song have thy day, and take thy full of light Before the night be fallen across thy way, Sing while he may, man hath no long delight. —(Swinburne)

THE LAND WE LOVE

By FRANK YEIGB

PELEE POINT.

Q. Where is Pelee Point? A. Pelee Point is a long narrow peninsula in Ontario, on the north side of Lake Erie. Pelee Island, south of the point, is the most southerly place in Canada, and famous for its wine. The name dates back to the French regime, and is referred to as Point Pelee in a French memoir of 1718. Doller de Casson's expedition met with disaster there in 1870. Cuyler's men, bringing supplies to Detroit in May, 1763, were defeated by Pontiac's followers. A skirmish also took place there in March, 1838. In 1788 the Chippawa and Ottawa Indians gave a lease of the island to Thomas McKee for 999 years. In 1804 McKee leased the island to John Askin, a fur trader of Detroit. In 1823 the island was transferred to William McCormick.

ents numbered 550,000 of which 230,000,000 were convicted and sent to gaol. The number of deaths was 143 civilians and 56 Government agents.

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.

THE "DETECTIVE"

Sir,—Was that "detective" hired? It looks as if he was. Men don't pose in his kind of work without some reason. Was he deceived? It is not impossible that he was. Employed by some one; then repudiated to make excuse for discarding his work, apparently too well done. And after all, are we sure that he hasn't collected his pay since his services were dispensed with as too hot for use? I am Sir, etc., A. B. C.

DOGS AGAIN

Sir,—Your readers are again notified that the hordes of dogs roaming on our streets are to be destroyed by the police, without respect of persons.

This oft repeated promise is becoming tiresome. Why not get to work and clear the City of this nuisance? Action instead of threatening. Spring is near at hand when lawn dressing and gardening will commence, and as usual, retarded by canine depredations.

I understand and sympathize with the dog owner who values his pet and will feel the loss. But he is one only to suffer, while a score or more who have equal love for their garden plots, and an equal right to have their back porches and kitchens free from the ravages of dogs (and cats) rooting into every corner in search of food or other mischief, cannot be victimized for the sake of one or two dog's benefit.

From experience I know that a person may have affection for a pet dog almost akin to that of a member of his family. In such cases, putting the animal upon leash or restraint from doing injury to others, should not be a very great hardship. I am Sir, etc., ONE WHO KNOWS

THOSE WITHDRAWN CASES

Sir,—Quoting from the Summerside Journal you repeat its question as to who hired that "detective" in dispute of which a number of cases docketed for trial before Magistrate Tweedy were withdrawn.

It is of little importance as to who hired him, but of exceeding grave import as to why and upon what authority the cases were withdrawn. We are told the "detective" was on hand to give his evidence. If not, the machinery was there to bring him. He had no right of exemption, any more than other summoned mortals, from going on the witness stand and telling the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

Upon what authority were those cases withdrawn? The Prohibition Act makes no provision, either directly, nor through the XV Part of the Criminal Code which is included as part of the Act, for the withdrawal of any cases. It prescribes only the one procedure: to go ahead to trial, and convict or dismiss. Other criminal or quasi-criminal laws permit such withdrawals, some with, and some without consent of the Attorney General, but not so under this Act.

And why were they withdrawn? This question is being asked upon the streets and from public places. Were they compromised? The maximum penalty for compromising (first offence) is \$500. And all parties to a compromise are liable to a penalty. Have those parties any special right to release from penalties over that of the convicted ones who pay the fines or languish in jails?

Have we reached that point in prohibition enforcement that the Act can be manipulated and exploited in any way that the ruling powers, the Commission or their employees choose to adopt? If those men violated the law, that law should be allowed to take its course in their case the same as in those not under the sunshine of the Commis-

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