

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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Morning Daily (founded 1857) \$5.00 per year (in advance) delivered.
\$1.50 per year (in advance) mailed in Canada and United States.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1931

The Legislature Opens

This afternoon, with the customary military ceremonies, His Honour Lieutenant Governor Dalton will formally open the fourth session of the 16th General Assembly of the Province. The event falls somewhat later in the month than is usual, last year's session having been opened on the 11th, the preceding session on the 19th, and the 1928 session on the 20th of March. Not since 1923 when the first session under the Bill Government opened on April 6, has there been such delay in getting started with the legislative programme. This is particularly regrettable in view of the fact that a Dominion-Provincial conference will open at Ottawa on April 7 and it will now be impossible for Premier Lea, without neglecting his legislative duties, to attend.

The session will be the first to be opened by His Honour Lieutenant Governor Dalton, and the last to be held under the present administration. Little legislation of a controversial nature is anticipated. The Government will be on the defensive, and its record, as judged by its election platform and the campaign promises of its members and supporters, will be fully reviewed. It is upon this record that the Government will go to the country, and it is important that all information asked for by the Opposition members be given frankly and with a minimum of delay. Only in this way can the business before the House be discussed properly and intelligently.

We shall not state the legislative programme to be outlined in the Speech from the Throne, or follow our local contemporary in predicting what the Opposition criticism will be. Such predictions serve no useful purpose, and tend only to cloud the issues. It is very important, during the coming session, that the issues shall not be clouded; very important that the party leaders and their lieutenants on both sides of the House be given the right-of-way in stating their case. The first important speeches of the session, those of the Leader of the Opposition and of the Premier in the debate on the Address, will strike the keynote for subsequent speakers and will doubtless be carefully read and studied throughout the country. There will be an abundance of matter for comment, both in the press and on the floor of the House, as the session proceeds.

In the meantime, today's opening formalities will be followed with the interest which always attaches to these important ceremonies. It is to be hoped that the fine spring weather of yesterday will continue, and that the out-of-town members will find their stay in Charlottetown enjoyable to themselves as well as profitable to the country.

"Worse Than War"

In eighteen months at war in Europe 50,810 United States soldiers were killed in action and died of wounds. In eighteen months at peace ten years later 50,900 persons were killed in the United States in automobile accidents. Deaths from that cause were cumulative and are still rapidly increasing. For the five-year period ending in 1929 they were 52,763. In the five-year period ending in 1925 they were 33,993. In the last five-year period they were 141,041. In fifteen years, 282,790. And this, says the New York World, is probably an understatement; we cannot be sure that every death by automobile is counted. We can be fairly sure that 1931 will follow the precedent of fifteen previous years in showing an increase in automobile deaths. The Traveler's Insurance Company has some justification for heading its exhaustive study of the accidents of 1930 "Worse Than War." In 1930 alone 32,500 were killed and 962,325 injured in 835,250 automobile accidents serious enough to be reported, the casualties thus

totaling almost a million. Most of these accidents have been classified; all of them roughly. The most dramatic type of accident, disputing with a railroad train for a grade crossing, does not figure heavily in the percentages, less than 1 per cent. of the total of accidents yielding 5.1 per cent. of the total of deaths and only 5 per cent of the injured. When an automobile and a train do meet it is serious. Collision with animal-drawn vehicles accounts for fewer than 1 per cent. of the accidents.

Study has also been made of the part played in fatal and nonfatal accidents by various types of motorist violation. The Traveler's figures show that the greater number of accidents, causing 15 per cent of deaths were due to motorists who did not have the right of way, as at crossings and intersections. Speed came next in the number of accidents caused, with 30.9 per cent of deaths. Third in number of accidents caused was driving off the roadway, with 33.5 per cent with 11.9 per cent of deaths. Fourth in frequency but first in fatality was driving off the roadway, with 33.5 per cent of the deaths. Taking all forms of violation combined, they accounted for 67.6 per cent. of all motor-vehicle accidents, for 83.8 per cent of all deaths, for 66.9 per cent of all reported injuries.

It is on Sunday that the private passenger car gets its innings. On that day occurred 21.1 per cent of all the deaths of 1930; on Saturday 16.6 per cent, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday run pretty close together, with fewer than 12 per cent. of fatalities. Friday and Monday are week-end days, accountable respectively for 14.1 and 13.1 per cent of deaths. As to age groups, 2,015 of the 1930 deaths were of children from one to four, 6.2 per cent of the whole number. Of children from five to fourteen, at the age when they play in the street, 5,330 were killed, 16.4 per cent; of persons fifty-five and over, 7,313, or 22.1 per cent. But children under fifteen and persons over fifty-four furnished 67 per cent of all pedestrian deaths. It is adults of middle age and less who drive motor cars. Mechanical imperfection plays a less important part in causing accidents than might be supposed. Nearly 89 per cent. of the 32,500 persons killed were the victims of cars apparently in good condition.

Gandhi In London

Rumor has it that Gandhi, India's little brown man, may attend the next conference in London. He will be an odd character in such a setting, suggests an exchange, and it is unlikely the London tailors will find him as good a customer as other visitors from the outposts of Empire, including Canadians. Gandhi will be lost in the social whirl of London, and the thought of his presence there recalls a famous visit by the late Paul Kruger, while President of the Transvaal Republic. "Oon Paul" had been an early riser on the veldt, and when he was not going to interfere with his habits; so it happened that while gayer guests of the metropolis were returning to their hotels from the ballrooms and the banquets, they frequently met the grim old Boer leader coming down stairs, ready for the business of the day.

Editorial Notes

A small and hitherto unknown comet floated into view over Italy the other day, and was promptly photographed and christened 1931 C. A. Now all that is required, suggests an exchange, is to get its fingerprints.

One might almost suspect, says a contemporary, that Ex-Premier King was playing directly to his own party in his speech last week in Parliament. It is no secret that Mr. King's hold on the Liberal leadership is none too secure and that he has come in for a good deal of criticism since the election which overwhelmed his administration.

Notes by the Way

The Labour Government in Great Britain is likely to blow up by internal combustion rather than pass out of existence through inanition, or even opposition attack. The present Labour Party is conglomerate, having no common creed or policy other than craving for office and power. Many of Mr. MacDonald's followers in the House have nothing in common with labour, coming mostly from upper middle class homes, while a few even come from the aristocracy.

They all profess to be more or less socialists, some theoretical, fewer practical, but they are at sixes and sevens as to how their new heaven and new earth are to be realized. Hence the bitter internecine strife, and hence also the public recrimination and resignations. Recently the President of the Board of Education, Sir Charles P. Trevelyan, Bt., M. P. resigned because of disagreement with the policy of the MacDonald government. Lord Arnold, Paymaster General, has just resigned for a similar reason. Illness and death have also been playing havoc with the Ministry. Hon. Vernon Hartshorn, M. P., Lord Privy Seal, has passed out suddenly in his fifty-eighth year, and the Earl Russell, Under Secretary for India, died suddenly in France where he had gone for his health; the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Snowden, has been on a bed of sickness for several weeks.

Of course, it is the Lloyd George Liberals in the House who are keeping the Labour Party in Power. The standing of the Parties is: Labour 288, Conservative 261, Liberals 58, others 8—total 615. The Labour party is therefore in a minority of 39 in the House, and it is only its working arrangement with the Liberals that enables it to carry on. There is every evidence that many Liberals, both inside and outside the House, are dissatisfied with the policy of playing second fiddle to Labour.

How four of his aides-de-camp fell in love with four charming Canadian girls was described by Lord Willingdon, Viceroy Designate of India, and former Governor-General of Canada, in a happy interlude to an important speech on India reported in the "News-Chronicle." London Eng. Now it is revealed that all four aides-de-camp are married to their respective charming girls. The first regularly was that of Captain Derek Murphy, who in March, 1929 married Miss Mary Elizabeth Lawson, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfrid Lawson of Ottawa.

A month later Viscount Hardinge another A.D.C. had become engaged to Miss Margot Fleming, of Ottawa, a granddaughter of Sir Sanford Fleming, one of the founders of the Canadian Pacific Railway. They were married in August of the same year.

A few days before this wedding the engagement was announced of the third A.D.C., Captain Victor Blundell to Miss Helen Guthrie daughter of the Canadian Minister of Justice. They were married last January. In the meanwhile their best man, Captain R. N. Brinckman, had become engaged to Miss Margaret Southam, of Ottawa, and they were married five days later. Such is the romance of the four A.D.C.'s.

August 11 is a likely date for the opening of the Imperial Economic Conference, to be held in Ottawa this summer. Definite fixing of the date is a matter of meeting the convenience of the Governments of the various parts of the British Empire, and steps in this direction, it is learned are under way. At Imperial Conferences held in London the practice has been followed for a number of years to house the delegates in one hotel. Tentative arrangements for the accommodation of delegates meeting in Ottawa are likewise being made.

Premier Bennett is confident that agreement will be concluded in Ottawa at the Conference for increased trade within the Empire. The Ottawa Conference is an adjournment from the Conference held in London last October and November. Many schemes of Imperial economic operation were considered at the London Conference, but nothing conclusive was accomplished owing to lack of time at the disposal of the Conference and inadequate preparation.

Trade and tariff experts in the United Kingdom and the various Dominions have since been concentrating on preparations for the adjourned Conference in Ottawa. The United Kingdom will be represented by Right Hon. J. H. Thomas, Secretary for the Dominions, and Right Hon. William Graham, President of the Board of Trade. It is not expected that Premier Ramsay MacDonald or Hon. Philip Snowden will be present. The other Dominions will be represented by their leading statesmen.



By James W. Barton, M.D.

HOW LONG SHOULD WE SLEEP?

I often wish I could answer the question how long should we sleep, for everybody asks it. It has been generally agreed that eight hours is about the amount needed for adults. I have spoken also about Edison; he tells us that he gets but four to five hours of sleep in the twenty-four.

I have spoken also about Gladstone who required more sleep than this, but who frequently if the matter before Parliament was not of interest to him, went off to sleep for periods of five to twenty minutes, thus getting much refreshment of body.

Famous men who seemed to get along with much less than eight hours were Herbert Spencer, Charles Darwin, Charles Wesley and many others. Now if these men of outstanding mental ability could get along with four to six hours sleep, why do we feel that we need eight hours? These men lived for the most part, quiet studios lives. In truth some of them had their worries, plenty of criticism and so forth but there was not the hurry, the noise, the driving, that is now all about us. In fact some one has stated that the reason that Edison gets along with less sleep than others, is because he is somewhat deaf, and is thus not bothered and fatigued by noise.

As you know it has been demonstrated that typists and other office workers are unable to do as efficient work in a noisy room; their output falling off by 25 to 35 per cent. Now if they have to do their usual amount of work despite this handicap they are going to be more tired at night and require more sleep.

Thus we can assume that in our present civilization we really require more sleep than our ancestors, owing to our more varied and hurried life.

Of course another important point in estimating the amount of sleep we need is the matter of the soundness of our sleep. If you sleep very soundly, and only move about once in a great while, you are certainly going to get more rest for your nerves, for your entire body with six hours sleep than if you sleep lightly for eight hours. I have in mind a chap who retires at midnight, wakes regularly about six in the morning though he doesn't get up until eight o'clock, but who sleeps so soundly those six hours that nothing can apparently disturb him. He does a part of the time between six and eight, but he has really had all the sleep he needs, owing to the soundness of his sleep.

Don't try to get along with less than eight hours sleep. Most of us need that much. And nothing is as important in renewing strength, and our courage, as sleep.

Finds Earth Flat

(By J. V. McAree, in Toronto Mail and Empire)

In the kingdom of the blind the one-eyed man is king, and in a world which believes that the earth is round, the odd man who contends that it is flat can attract attention, even if the attentiveness of the hearing is somewhat dulled with ribaldry. Thus it is that Wilbur Glenn Voliva of Zion City, Ill., after having made a trip around the world, returns and is interviewed by enterprising reporters. He says that it is as he had always maintained: the earth is flat like a pancake, and not round like an orange. It is a theory which he has cherished or many years; and from time to time has offered large sums of money to anybody who might be able to convince him that the earth is as most of us suppose it to be. Needless to say, the money has never been collected, for it would be difficult to prove to Voliva that the earth is round.

The Automat

(The Boston Transcript.)

Somehow we fear for the success of the Clerks' grocery that has just opened in New York. You drop a coin in the mackerel or lobster slot and out the creature flops at you. So with steaks and chops. But suppose, when the fish is in your hands, it looks up at you with a sunken and lustreless eye, or you find the steak as tough as old boots. How can you relieve your feelings upon a senseless automat? In the face of all inventive genius that is spent on robots and other mechanical labor-saving devices of the kind, the days of the efficient marketman and grocery clerk are by no means numbered.

The Americans try to cure bad marriage by better divorce.—Count Keyserling.

The Poet's Corner

SONG FROM "THE PRINCESS"

Come down, O maid, from yonder mountain height;
What pleasure lives in height (the shepherd sang),
In height and cold, the splendour of the hills?
But cease to move so near the heavens, and cease
To glide a sunbeam by the blasted pine,
To sit a star upon the sparkling spire;
And come, for Love is of the valley, come,
For Love is of the valley, come thou down
And find him; by the happy threshold, he,
Or hand in hand with Plenty in the maize,
Or red with spiced purple of the vats,
Or foxlike in the vine; nor cares to walk
With Death and Morning on the silver horns,
Nor wilt thou snare him in the white ravine,
Nor find him dropped upon the firs of ice,
That huddling slant in furrow-cloven falls
To roll the torrent out of dusky doors:
But follow; let the torrent dance thee down
To find him in the valley; let the wild
Lean-headed Eagles yelp alone, and leave
The monstrous ledges there to slope, and spill
Their thousand wreaths of dangling water-smoke,
That like a broken purpose waste in air:
So waste not thou; but come; for all the vales
Await thee: azure pillars of the heath
Arise to thee; the children call, and I
Thy shepherd pipe, and sweet is every sound,
Sweeter thy voice, but every sound is sweet;
Myriads of rivulets hurrying through the lawn,
The moan of doves in immemorial elms,
And murmuring of innumerable bees.

—Lord Tennyson.

Sir Edward Grigg

(Toronto Mail & Empire)

Sir Edward Grigg is another prominent British Liberal who has gone over to the Conservative side. Years ago he was well-known in this country, first as colonial editor of the London Times, and, later, as military secretary to the Prince of Wales, whom he accompanied on his first post-war tour of the Dominion in 1919. He was chief secretary to Mr. Lloyd George when the latter was war premier. He sat for a Liberal constituency in the British House of Commons, and for five years past he has been Governor of Kenya, in East Africa.

Having returned to the Motherland and given careful study, for some weeks, to the political and economic situation, he has finally decided to throw in his lot with the Conservative party. Speaking at Leeds the other night he referred to the weakened condition of his former party, and said that the struggle for power lay between the Labor Party, which stands for class war, and Conservative Party, which stands for co-operation of all the classes. The government of the country must be either right or left. It must be either under the admiralty of the red or under the admiralty of the blue. The admiralty of the red has been in power for the last eighteen months, and he chose to serve under the admiralty of the blue.

Perhaps the most significant portion of his speech was that in which he renounced his former adherence to free trade and declared his belief in protection as a necessary measure for the recovery of British prosperity at home and abroad. He had always believed in Imperial preferences, and he now advocated the largest possible development in this direction in agreement with the outlying parts of the Empire. What the country wanted was definite, courageous leadership; and, for his part, he was out to fight and work for the victory of the blue. Sir Edward is the latest of a long list of Liberals who have gone over to the Conservative side in the last few years. If we are not mistaken, the next general election in the United Kingdom will witness a sweeping victory for Conservatism, protection for Imperial economic unity.

Thinking is one of the most unpopular amusements of the human race.—Nicholas Murray Butler.

The Public Forum

ROAD CONDITIONS

Sir,—I wish to draw the attention of the Government and more especially the Public Works Department to the present impossible road conditions with millions of pitches caused by the deep soft snow. Besides light driving there is a great deal of heavy hauling to do. After a period of inactivity, there is quite a volume of potatoes and other freight to move, and there has been no provision made to meet the emergency. Clear of the problem of the unemployed an expenditure filling pitches would be only a drop in the bucket in comparison with the amounts that have been spent to make way smooth for the car of juggernaut. The engineers say they have no authority to spend a cent. Everything is now done from the standpoint of the tourist, with no regard for the all year resident. I am Sir, etc.

ISLANDER

Canada and the League

(Ottawa Journal)

"If Canada is to be a helpful member of the League in the second decade of its history, Canadian public opinion must be more conscious of the obligations which Canada has undertaken, and the problems which the League of Nations faces. Viscount Grey of Fallodon has told us that 'Public opinion is the life-blood of the League of Nations.' Canadians would do well to reflect upon his statement."

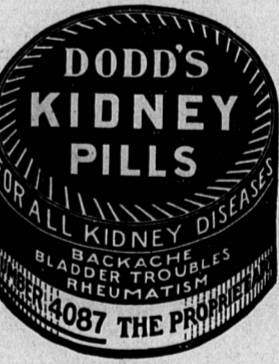
Thus Frederic H. Soward, B. A., B. Litt., associate professor of history in the University of British Columbia, closing a booklet he has just written for the League of Nations Society of Canada, on the part played by the Dominion in the League, and which is being circulated free throughout the country at the expense of one of the biggest insurance corporations in Canada.

No Canadian can fail to be impressed by the large part played in the League by statesmen from Canada such as Sir Robert Borden, wartime Prime Minister, who probably knows more of the inside story of the inception, establishment, and functioning of the League, than any other Canadian; Sir George Foster, Senator Raoul Dandurand, Mr. Newton Wesley Rowell, and others that might be named. The story of their activities is succinctly told by the writer and the development of the League among the nations.

It takes courage to learn restraint.—Thomas A. Edison.

Patience ought to be the first attribute of the man who loves peace.—Paul Painleve.

Internationalism does not mean the surrender of individuality.—Albert Einstein.



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