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CATTLE SHIPMENTS

A despatch in yesterday's Guardian announces the successful arrival in Paris of the first consignment of Canadian cattle ever shipped to France. This consignment, consisting of 173 head, will be followed by a second in a fortnight's time and regular weekly shipments thereafter, the completed arrangements calling for a shipment of 10,000 head of cattle within the next ten months. This is encouraging news, especially in view of the fact that the business is establishing goodwill which should prove to be of permanent value in the reorganization of the cattle industry.

Encouraging also is the recent revival of the export cattle business previously conducted with Great Britain. This fact is noted in the current issue of Agricultural and Industrial Progress in Canada, a monthly review published by the Department of Immigration and Colonization of the Canadian Pacific Railway. It is significant, says this publication, that in 1931, when general world conditions have been unusually difficult, it should have been found necessary to make advance bookings weeks and months ahead for shipments of live stock going forward in the late summer and autumn by the St. Lawrence route, and that additional accommodation should have had to be arranged with full expectation of all available space being fully occupied.

Moreover, it is a strong indication of the quality of the shipments to recall that because of an embargo in Britain on "stockers and feeders," necessitated by an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Ireland, the animals shipped from Canada have been treated as fully finished butcher cattle and slaughtered immediately on arrival, and yet have been such as to well satisfy the demands of wholesalers, retailers and consumers. This fact in itself confirms the view that Canadian stockmen are capable of holding their own and producing finished cattle that can compete with any in the world's market.

The revival after a three years' interval of shipments to Britain in August, 1930, was undoubtedly the most promising sign which those engaged in the industry had received for many months.

U. S. IN DIFFICULTIES

That section of the Liberal press which refuses to be cheered by optimistic statements of leading Canadian economists might turn its attention, for a while, to the economic situation confronting our southern neighbors. Canada's position compared with that of the United States, has everything in its favor. Here is the situation, as summed up by the Washington correspondent of the Manitoba Free Press: During the past three months the United States has floated bond issues aggregating \$1,600,000,000. There is to be another bond issue equally large in December, and yet the Treasury deficit will be at least a billion dollars at the close of the current fiscal year. The funded debt of the United States was reduced to something more than sixteen billion dollars during the Harding and Coolidge administrations; it will be increased to more than twenty billion dollars before another year is past.

On top of all this comes the demand for immediate cash redemption of the soldier bonus certificates which do not mature until 1945. Should this demand be granted, the Treasury by fresh bond issues will have to raise the appalling sum of \$2,360,000,000. Hence, it is evident that the revenues of the Government must soon be increased by heavy taxation.

The taxation problem in the United States, however, is made exceedingly difficult by reason of the

fact that the enormous flotations of tax-free bonds by national, state, and municipal Governments provide an easy avenue for escape by the very rich from very high taxation.

DUNCES TO GENIUSES

Geniuses, as a rule, exhibit a precocious talent at school; but the rule is subject to many outstanding exceptions. Not as encouragement to laziness but as a brace to those students who have tried sincerely and failed to win distinction in the classroom, the following list is reprinted from an English exchange, of "dunces" whose subsequent careers must have occasioned considerable surprise to their tutors:

Charles Darwin never could learn a language.

Napoleon was number 42 in his class—yet we do not know the name of one of the forty-one who were ahead of him!

Sir Isaac Newton was next to lowest in his form. He failed in his geometry because he did not do his problems the way the book said he should.

Alexander von Humboldt's teachers were doubtful whether he possessed even ordinary powers of intelligence.

George Eliot learned to read with very great difficulty. She gave no promise of brilliance in her youth.

Sir Walter Scott was never brilliant in his school work.

James Russell Lowell was suspended from Harvard for complete indolence.

Oliver Goldsmith was at the very bottom of his class.

Emerson was a hopeless dunce in mathematics.

James Watt, inventor of the steam engine, was the butt of his playmates at Mr. McAdam's School.

G. Bismarck, co-discoverer of radium, was so stupid in school that his parents took him out.

CURRENCY AND TRADE

There is no occasion, says the Sydney Post, for alarm or pessimism over the reduced purchasing power of the Canadian dollar in the United States. Relatively to other countries, Canada's credit never stood higher than at present, if indeed it ever stood as high. The fluctuations in the exchange value of solvent and wealthy countries are due to causes which have never been satisfactorily explained.

Canadian currency in the United States fell to the lowest points in modern times between 1917 and 1921—a period of abounding prosperity in the Dominion, when our foreign trade reached the peak levels in the country's history. It will be the business of the United States, not that of the Dominion of Canada, that will suffer decline while Canadian exchange is at a discount across the border, for the effect will be to erect a currency barrier to the tariff against American imports into this country.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Our local contemporary, whose preference for foreign propaganda induced it recently to feature, as its leading editorial, an article "borrowed" from an American exchange, now takes issue with the staff correspondent of the Toronto Globe over the fact that depreciation of the Canadian dollar in New York means a beneficial curtailment of Canadian purchasing of United States goods and increased purchasing at home. Our contemporary has evidently abandoned the Globe as its "guide, philosopher and friend." In doing so it seems to have gone further and fared worse. Its discovery that the American market "today largely determines the standard of value in international exchange" lends color to the suspicion that it has again been cribbing surreptitiously from the Boston Transcript.

NOTES BY THE WAY

According to the July bank statement deposits in Canadian banks amounted to \$49,000,000 more than last year. We have on deposit \$1,451,000,000 this added to the various amounts on current account and in stocks and bonds would seem to indicate that notwithstanding the much talked of depression we still have something left for a rainy day. Probably we would have more for the sunny weather if we spent more and deposited less in the banks.

United States investments in Canada, have reached the colossal total of \$3,790,000,000, taking in branch plants, mines, public utilities. Dominion, provincial and other bonds. If foreign capital comes here it is simply because foreign capitalists feel certain that money invested in Canada is as safe and as profitable as money invested anywhere in the world.

In a recent address Mr. Arthur Henderson said, "I am going to make a little confession to you. I claim to be as strong a free trader as any of our friends. But if I were faced with a large cut-off in payment given to unemployment, and a 10 percent tariff as an emergency expedient, the revenue therefrom to be assigned to unemployment purposes... if that would meet the situation I would try the value of that expedient."

The British birth rate has fallen to 16.3 per thousand the lowest in many years. But Great Britain takes a philosophic view of the situation which not so long ago would have been viewed with alarm. The New Statesman sum it up in these words:

"Smaller families mean on the whole healthier families, better nurtured and educated families, more efficient and productive families, as well as a far better life for the mothers. Nor, in face of the work of rationalization in dispensing with labor, need we fear a shortage of hands to perform the necessary productive tasks."

Some day when the steak is a little tough, or the toast perhaps not so hot as it might be, or the undercrust of a juicy apple pie a bit soggy, instead of complaining give a thought for the thousands who would be glad to trade places with you nevertheless.

The problem of the future of our children is, if anything more acute than ever, says an exchange, fifteen or twenty years ago our young men found it easy enough to get jobs if they had a commercial diploma showing proficiency in stenography, shorthand, etc. In these days it is the young girls who get these positions. If the jobs were only given to those girls who were obliged to work, it would not be so bad, but the unfortunate thing is that many of these young girls only work in order to be able to spend more on luxuries. The result is that young men can no longer get these positions, and in times of crisis like today, one sees in many houses the anomaly of sisters working while the brothers can find nothing better to do than to hang around the street corners.

The tariff which will be set up at Westminster, either by the present co-operative Government or by the Government which will shortly succeed it, will provide for the first time in generations a medium by which preferential treatment may be extended to products from Canada and other parts of the Empire. Nor does any doubt remain that such preferences will be of a substantial character.

These developments are of immense interest to Canadians because they forecast the acceptance of the Right Honorable R. B. Bennett's proposals at the last Imperial Conference in London. The Canadian Premier had the vision and the courage to diagnose the British situation aright and to make a far-reaching proposal of preferential intra-Empire trade arrangements as a means of serving not only Great Britain but the Empire as a whole. Short-sighted people and mere partisans in this country condemned him at the time. They denounced his courage as dictatorial. In so doing they manifested their own lack of economic understanding as is amply demonstrated by current political development in the British Parliament and throughout the British Isles.—Ex.

It is extraordinary to learn that the expenditure of the United States upon army and navy is nearly three times as great as it was before the war. Then it was \$286,000,000, which in Coolidge's administration had increased to \$618,000,000. It is now \$750,000,000, and to build the navy up to the standard permitted by the London Treaty would cost \$1,000,000,000. Despite pressure of navy officials, it seems extremely unlikely that the United States will build up to this standard, for in view of the present huge national deficit and the general depression, public opinion

Reminders and Reviews

Some reviewers of "Shadows on the Rock," Willa Cather's latest book, are not so eulogistic as they were regarding "Death Comes for the Archbishop." They say it lacks action; that it is too quiet, and one must admit there is nothing "Sabbathish" about the story. The thrilling incidents and sword-clashing so necessary to some historical novels would seem out of place in the writings of Miss Cather: she is dignified and restrained always. This is particularly true of her two last books, but the New Mexican story, woven of coarser material, (excepting for the threads of gold—characters that inspired the story—) has raw, crude spots of necessity.

In "Shadows on the Rock" she combines the culture of the Old World with the heroism of the New, and creates a story that, in the opinion of some critics, is likely to become a classic.

We are taken back to the Quebec of 1697; to Euclide Auclair and his twelve-year old daughter Cecile, and knowing them, we become acquainted with Count de Frontenac, the patron of Auclair. He is revealed to us as a gallant soldier, and a broken-hearted man whose exile meant much to New France but very little to his King.

We meet Bishop Laval, stern churchman and ascetic, so hard on himself and so kind to children, whom Cecile believed had "A kind of majesty in his grimness and poverty. Seventy-four years of age and much crippled by his infirmities, going about in a rusty old cassock, he yet commanded one's admiration in a way that the new Bishop, with all his personal elegance, did not. One believed in his consecration, in some special authority won from fasting and penance and prayer; it was in his face, in his shoulders, it was he."

Pierre Charron, "hero of the fur trade and the coureurs de bois, quick as an otter an always sure of himself," who lost his first love to the "Venerable Bourgeois" but who later married Cecile.

We share the tense excitement—the anticipation of the watchers as the ships come in. Ships that came once a year only to the "Rock" (Quebec) bringing supplies and news from the Old Land.

This is a remarkable book for more than one reason, but the outstanding reason to me is that the reader seems actually to live in the spirit of the recreated period. Some may miss the dash and clatter of adventure but others, like myself, will enjoy the quiet flow of the story and its beautiful descriptive passages, especially these:

"The glorious transmutation of autumn had come on; all the vast Canadian shores were clothed in a splendour never seen in France; to which all the pageants of all the kings were as a taper to the sun. Even the rugged cliffside behind her kitchen do was beautiful; the wild cherry and sumach and the blackberry vines had turned crimson, and the birch and poplar saplings were yellow.

"So many kinds of gold, all gleaming in the soft, hyacinth-coloured haze of autumn; bright gold of the birches, copper gold of the beeches. Most beautiful of all was the tarnished gold of the elms, with a little brown in it, a little bronze, a little blue, even, a blue like amethyst, which made them melt into the azure haze with a kind of happiness, a harmony of mood that filled the air with content."

The first published book of Miss Cather was a volume of verse, "April Twilight." Her next a volume of stories, "The Troll Garden," published by the house of McClure-Phillips in 1904. This volume aroused the interest of S. S. McClure, a discerning critic, who used two of the stories in McClure's Magazine, and two years later offered the author a position on his magazine. A biographical sketch states: "She joined McClure's staff in the winter of 1906. Two years later she became managing editor of McClure's and held that position for four years. During that period of editorial work she wrote very little. She travelled a great deal, in Europe, and in the American Southwest, Arizona and New Mexico. In 1912 she gave up editorial work and wrote her first novel, "Alexander's Bridge." This was followed by "O Pioneers!" "The Song of the Lark," and "My Antonia." "Youth and the Bright Medusa," "One of Ours," "A Lost Lady," "The Professor's House," "My Mortal Enemy," and "Death Comes for the Archbishop." All of these books have been translated into several European languages, and Willa Cather has a rapidly growing European reputation."

would revolt. The navy has never been to the American people what it has been to Great Britain. In normal times it has been neglected but of recent years, by dint of powerful lobbying, it has become one of the great sources of national expenditure.

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.

N. S. NEEDS CONVERSIONS

Sir,—Thirteen years ago, two Nova Scotians, bride and bridegroom, became citizens of Prince Edward Island, settling in the Manse at East Point where the bridegroom was duly inducted as Minister of the United Churches, Baptist and Disciples of Christ. Eight years later this minister and his wife, accompanied by their three children removed to North River, where they spent five years. The Minister mentioned is the writer of this article. For thirteen years, we have enjoyed the delights of beautiful Abegweit—The Garden of the Gulf. We have enjoyed the hospitality of the homes. We have enjoyed Christian fellowship with brethren both of our own and of other denominations—Catholic and Protestant. We have formed friendships which we hope to renew in another world. Now, we are returning to our native province, taking with us three loyal little Islanders, who have been accustomed, playfully, to call their parents "foreigners." Just now, we are enjoying the magnificent scenery and the warm-hearted hospitality of Cape Breton—"Tir Dhe." We love the Island and we love our native Nova Scotia. We see changes, some for the better, some for the worse. A sight that saddens a home-lover, when travelling in Nova Scotia is that of the provincial coat of arms used as a means of advertising the Government liquor stores. Another saddening sight is that of the all too evident increase of drunkenness under Government sale. As one incident—in a small Nova Scotia town, we say four men lifting a man, whom nature had made a splendid specimen of physical manhood, from a dirty boat in which he was lying face downward in a drunken stupor. A few minutes earlier, this man's companion had fallen drunk over the wharf.

My nine year old little girl said: "Father, we never saw anything like that on Prince Edward Island, did we?" And never before did we see such a sight in Nova Scotia, although we have spent thirteen vacations here. We hear Nova Scotians, who two years ago were ardent supporters of "Government Control" cursing their folly.

I am, Sir, etc., WALLACE E. MACWALKER, West Bay, Nova Scotia, September 22, 1931.

The trolleys, weighed down with silence, now wax bold To chant their hell-hymns on the mountain crest. The dismal clouds rush forth in mad unrest And sweep the plain with drooping mantle-fold.

'Tis not the thundering rush of waters—hark!— Nor trees that scream there, tortured by the gale; 'Tis but the poor dwarf birches' piteous wail, Helplessly drowning in the hillyow dark.

Oh, what a desolate elemental cry; The earth out pouring dreams long went to languish Deep in its lonely bosom, dreams of anguish, Into this one millennial autumn sigh!

Ho there you wet-eyed Lapp, so mend the fire, Pile on a heap of knotty twisted wood! I'd kneel and worship here in pagan mood; Before its altar flame to heart's desire.

I'd weep, never before so bitterly, Glutted with dread from days o' long ago, That the dusty monarch of all woe Rides past my door in naked majesty.

—Translated from the Swedish by Erik Axel Karlfeldt by Charles Wharton Stork in the American-Scandinavian Review.



By James W. Barton, M.D.

HIVES A SIGN THAT SYSTEM HAS BEEN SHOCKED

When we were youngsters and had an attack of hives, just what might have caused it was not given much thought. A dose of castor oil was the treatment and that was all that mattered.

Nowadays an attack of hives (urticaria) is given real attention not because there is anything dangerous about it, but because it is a sign, a signal that some article of food or other substance upsets the whole body, and the hives is just what the skin shows on the outside of the body; the real action on the body processes is going on inside.

Investigation shows that during an attack there is loss of red corpuscles in the blood. As these are the food and air carriers to the tissues this is important to every cell in the body.

The blood loses some of its stickiness and it is this stickiness that means good healthy blood; this is important. The blood pressure falls during an attack of hives, also.

Now this loss of red corpuscles, loss of stickiness in the blood, and the lowering of the blood pressure, all mean that the system has received a "shock."

Such shocks are not good for the individual and he would be wise to try and locate just what food or foods may be causing them.

Very often this is not hard, and by avoiding these foods, or eating them in small quantities, he is able to avoid hives or urticaria.

When the food causing the trouble is not known then treatment is of course more difficult. It may mean trying out various foods by themselves, and when the one causing the trouble is located, very very small amounts of that food are taken every day in an effort to get the system so used to it that it will not cause shock when taken in larger amounts later on.

Other methods include the injection of small quantities of a strong solution of baking soda or other alkaline salt.

For the immediate treatment of hives, emptying the stomach by tickling the throat with a feather, or by giving a little mustard and water is helpful. If seen some hours after eating, a dose of Epsom salts is good treatment.

To overcome the "shock," adrenalin is given by mouth or by hypodermic injection.

It should be remembered that infection from any source—intestine, gall-bladder, teeth, tonsils—may also cause attacks of urticaria.

Even economists differ violently as to the effects of Great Britain's sudden divorce from the gold standard. This is sometimes—especially with people who are not "economists" but business men—due to the differing angles from which they view the situation. A touch of self-interest often deflects the vision.

But there are certain effects of this action and its repercussions in Canada, if permanent, that are fairly plain:—

1. It should give Canada a preference on her exports to Great Britain.

2. If our dollar remains at a discount, obviously the British pounds will buy more Canadian dollars than American dollars. Thus it will be a better bargain for the British buyer to secure an article sold on the Canadian dollar basis than on the American dollar basis. This will help to that extent the Canadian exporter against his American rival. It will be a species of Imperial preference on Canadian goods.

3. It will give the British producer an added preference in the Canadian market.

4. As the pound falls, his goods will fall with it. They will do this without affecting the labour cost of production at home as long as wages remain the same. Other charges, such as rent, are not likely to be affected. Only imported raw materials will go up, necessarily.

5. It will reduce wages for the purpose of export trade. Wages in Great Britain will still buy as much in the way of domestic goods, except as they are raised by various factors, such as foreign ingredients. But they will not cost the manufacturer for export purposes so much in terms of his foreign markets. This will give the exporting manufacturer the advantages he has seen and sought in lowered wages, without materially affecting the wage-earner. It is a sort of economic miracle.

6. It may increase the purchase of some British and Canadian goods in the United States.

7. A universal lowering of the cost of Canadian and British goods is equivalent to a reduction in the American tariff. A tariff imposed on imported article is really as much a part of its cost as are the transportation charges. They all lump in together when the article comes to be sold over the counter. So a reduction in cost in the country of production has precisely the same effect as a lowering of the duty. Thus the Americans are in the position of having lowered their duties on British and Canadian goods. The Americans have traditional defenses in their dumping causes and their levies on American cost rates.

8. It will decrease Canadian buying in—and smuggling from?—order American cities. The merchants of Buffalo were prompt in putting up their signs against Canadian Currency. They

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MOUNTAIN STORM

Rough, heavy hands are fumbling at the door, And shoulders rock the beams with savage glee: 'Out of my path, grey kennel where men lie

While earth's heart quivers to the midnight's roar!

The trolleys, weighed down with silence, now wax bold To chant their hell-hymns on the mountain crest.

The dismal clouds rush forth in mad unrest And sweep the plain with drooping mantle-fold.

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