

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1935

A "PLATFORM" FIASCO

The mystery of what became of Mr. Lea's "platform," which he was "all set" to have delivered at the Lenten banquet on Friday night, is certainly not cleared up by the explanation given yesterday by our contemporary. According to our contemporary, Premier Bennett, in his radio broadcasts, gave only a part of his reform policy, reserving his "completely official platform" till a later date. This, it is suggested, is what Mr. Lea did in declaring, on Friday night, that "he would follow the democratic course of fully discussing with his candidates the complete platform to be announced."

The parallel, we suggest, is not very convincing. Mr. Bennett was not dealing with an election platform but with policies which he was about to introduce and did introduce, at the present session of Parliament. His course from the first was clearly defined and consistent. Mr. Lea's course was precisely the reverse. The assurance was emphatically given in a front page announcement in the Liberal press that at the banquet on Friday "the platform" would be announced. That it was to be a full and complete platform was indicated by the further statement that a pre-banquet conference would be held at 3 p. m. in the Board of Trade rooms "where an opportunity will be given to fully and freely discuss the various planks of the Liberal platform before it is finally adopted."

Obviously, this did not refer to any "democratic course of fully discussing with his candidates the complete platform to be announced," because the candidates are not yet in the field and many who took active part in the pre-banquet discussion, and fought like gladiators over the planks, were not even prospective candidates!

It is clear that Mr. Lea came to the Friday afternoon conference with a fully constructed platform which he expected would receive indorsement before the banquet proceedings started. But something happened which neither he nor our contemporary anticipated. The conference became a free-for-all, with the result that some of the "planks" were carried off bodily and thrown overboard, while others were sawn down and trimmed to suit the ideas, not of Mr. Lea, but of one or other of the party stalwarts.

Of course, the Opposition leader was at a disadvantage in going before his supporters after the poor showing made against the Government in the legislative debates, especially when he had been deserted by his Attorney General, Mr. Thane A. Campbell. Mr. Campbell, had he been present at the Friday afternoon conference, might have prevented the demolition of the "platform," or at least he could have advised his leader as to the shaping of one that might have proved more acceptable.

If the worst comes to the worst, Mr. Lea of course can go to the country on his "R. O. P." He did that last time, and the result was not very encouraging. But if his followers persist in running things to suit themselves, and smashing up his platform before he has a chance to launch it, what else can he do?

OTTAWA AGREEMENTS

Canada's trade returns continue to reflect the advantages of the Ottawa agreements, and also indicate a revival of international trade. A statement issued by Hon. R. B. Hanson, Minister of Trade and Commerce, shows that for the eleven months ending February domestic exports to all countries increased from \$521,705,424 in 1934 to \$601,376,374 in 1935, an increase of \$79,670,950, or 15.3 per cent. These exports to Empire countries increased from \$248,674,929 in 1934 to \$312,599,111 in 1935, an increase of \$63,924,182, or 25.7 per cent, while similar exports to foreign countries increased from \$273,030,495 in 1934 to \$288,817,263 in 1935, an increase of \$15,786,763, or only 5.8 per cent. During the eleven months ending February domestic exports to the United Kingdom increased from \$204,765,885 in 1934 to \$252,701,504 in 1935, an increase of \$47,935,619, or 23.4 per cent, while such exports to the United States increased from \$174,244,636 in 1934 to \$222,738,412 in 1935, an increase of \$48,493,776

or 16.4 per cent. For the eleven months ending February our imports from all countries were \$386,379,384 in 1934 as compared with \$474,240,013 in 1935, an increase of \$87,860,629, or 22.8 per cent. The imports from Empire countries were \$127,212,200 in 1934 and \$143,989,314 in 1935, an increase of \$16,777,114, or 13.2 per cent, while the imports from foreign countries were \$259,067,384 in 1934 and \$330,250,699 in 1935, an increase of \$71,133,365, or 27.5 per cent. During those eleven months imports from the United Kingdom increased from \$95,195,859 in 1934 to \$102,902,618 in 1935, an increase of \$7,706,759, or 7.8 per cent, while the imports from the United States increased from \$206,123,687 in 1934 to \$272,207,460 in 1935, an increase of \$66,083,773, or 30.2 per cent.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Certainly business is on the boom, according to Bank and Commercial Agency reports.

From all accounts the renovated Prince Edward Theatre, which opens with an all-star programme on Thursday, is altered for the better almost beyond recognition.

The grocery and general store business expands by leaps and bounds. "P.J." has added an extension to his already large premises, and intends replacing the present front with large plate glass windows.

The unfortunate illness of Captain Eden is another evidence of the extraordinarily severe strain being put on statesmen and diplomats in these critical times. The sudden passing of Mr. Delano Robbins at the early age of fifty is another. The strain is almost more than the strongest can withstand.

Liberal insincerity was never made more manifest than in their present attitude in the Federal Parliament. While demanding Government control of the Central Bank in favor of the Big Interests, they oppose control of Big Interests in business as recommended by the majority of the Stevens Commission.

Mr. O. Hyndman, of the Transportation Commission, has been in telegraphic communication with the Messrs McLure and Myers, Dr. MacMillan, Dr. Manion, and Mr. Fullerton over the Dominion's obligation to provide an adequate train service between Moncton and Tormentine in connection with the Car Ferry.

In our sheltered nook on the Eastern seaboard, we have much to be thankful for in the matter of weather and social conditions. We have extremes in neither, and for the most part know of excesses only from newspaper reports. Here over the week-end we had calm temperate weather, while elsewhere there were storms causing death and disaster.

Miss Agnes MacPhail, M.P., is easily fooled by the plausibility of undoubted scoundrels. It will be recalled she made a laughing stock of herself by stoutly protesting against the punishment of a prisoner who turned out to be a convict of notorious reputation. Now she complains that another prisoner with a long prison record in Canada and the United States, had declared that an officer told him Miss MacPhail "would never be able to lift up her head in the House again." It looks as if the prisoner was coming near the truth on this occasion.

Danzig will remain independent of both Germany and Poland as the result of the recent vote, although the Nazis are still in control with an increased majority. Danzig is a Free City, but with a large German majority of citizens. Nearly two years ago Poland temporarily adjusted her dispute with the governing body of Danzig by which Poland agreed to ship part of her foreign trade through that port instead of concentrating on the new Polish port of Gdynia. In return Danzig agreed that the Polish population of the city should have the right to have schools using the Polish language. Thus Danzig trades Polish schools for Polish freight, and in doing so contributed to the peace of Europe. The vote on Sunday does not interfere with this arrangement as 75 per cent. Nazi vote is necessary to alter it.

Notes By The Way

By joining in the Air Convention, Germany re-obtains armament equality and security on her own account against all aggression. Such is the position of the first of the "defeated" Powers after the negotiations in London. But what about the second of them, Hungary, now that Germany, her former ally, has finally settled every important problem? What about our rightful national aspirations and armament equality for us? What about our rights under the minority provisions of the Treaty of Trianon? What about the fulfilment of those claims which we have never renounced. When are the discussions to start about the agreements reached at Rome? On a bilateral or a multilateral basis? And if bilateral, have they already begun?—Pesti Naplo, Budapest.

Nothing is so difficult to appraise as another's mind. We may be acquainted with a person for years, and yet not know him but in a small way. "Judge not" is more applicable to the mind than to anything else—for it is the most frequently misunderstood. One's mind is one's realm; one's empire, one's playground—one's estate. It's the only great possession that we own from the cradle to the grave, and which cannot be taken from us through foreclosure or because of delinquent taxes!

Mayor McGeer's boast that he would lead a riot and throw the sheriff into the bay should that official be given the job of collecting taxes in Vancouver by holders of defaulted bonds was not received with acclimation by his fellow mayors. The sheriff doing duty prescribes for him by provincial statute would have the protection of Mr. McGeer as mayor and as a member of the Legislature. His talk in Montreal is bombastic nonsense and dangerous. It is as if the chief of a fire department were to incite to incendiarism.

England, on her own account, does not fear Germany as does France or Russia. She does not believe that she will be the first object of any attack. Indeed, there is much reason for believing that Germany would not force a war without being sure that England would not be against her.—Doriot News.

The return of the Victorian quadrille is forecast in dancing circles. It is expected that the Jubilee Ball at Buckingham Palace will be opened with the "Queen's" waltz in which the King and Queen will dance. Some believe such an example would offer a serious threat to the popularity of modern jazz dancing.

The real problem is not so much the people use the roads, but that kind of roads are provided for them to use. In narrow congested streets, in wide roads without facilities for pedestrian crossings, in all thoroughfares where traffic of vastly different kinds is mixed up together, accidents will occur. They are inherent in road chaos, and we wish we could feel sure that there was at the Ministry of Transport as much appreciation of the need for road reform as there is for safety devices.—London Daily Herald.

Looking as straightforward and as intelligently as we can at the religion which Jesus Christ came to establish on the earth we cannot escape the conviction that it was intended to be upsetting. We scarcely need Jesus' own statement: "I came not to send peace, but sword." To convince us that there was of Divine intention a decidedly revolutionary purpose in His heart and working itself out in the things that He did and said throughout those strange years of His ministry.

We have pointed out here time and again that, however well meant it may be, compromise with the silver crowd is a wholly mistaken policy. To this unscrupulous group compromise is merely a sign of weakness and hence an invitation to demand bigger and bigger subsidies. Such has been the history of the silver agitation for the last two years. No sooner has this crowd got what it asked for than it has commenced figuring out some way of reaching out and grabbing something more.—New York Herald Tribune.

It is time that the motoring public revised their judgments about motor accidents. In most cases some one is culpable, and excessive tenderness in dealing with the offenders increases the evil. This false tolerance is short-sighted and weak. Instead of thinking, "I may get into trouble," the motorist should say, "Unless this thing is stopped, I may be killed." The jurymen, instead of saying, "The unfortunate family of the accused," should rather think, "My family may be unfortunate unless I show these reckless drivers that they cannot kill or injure with impunity."—Hamilton Spectator.

American business was at a disadvantage, not very long ago, because it was so heavily charged with high crimes and misdemeanors. Millions of people were suffering from the bank panic and trade collapse of almost two years ago; and they were ready to believe anything that was said against bankers as a class. But bankers had not created the conditions against which they could not maintain open doors. They may have been as guilty as the rest of us, but not more so. Our bankers are now in full recovery of their morale. It is their business to take the lead in helping the Government to reconstruct our banking laws and methods. We must round out a strong financial system capable of withstanding future shocks. The motive must be that of national well-being. The principal must be that of economic freedom.—Review of Reviews.

French naval commanders must know how to fly as well as how to float, the Navy Minister has declared. To qualify for the command of a battleship, cruiser or light flotilla, officers, henceforth, must serve a period in one of the active units of the navy, air force. This is believed essential to bring about close working among the surface, air and under-water elements which make up the modern fleet.

That Body of Hours

By James W. Bates, M.D. YOUR BODY HAS GREAT RESERVE STRENGTH

A physician knows that the body is not like a machine that is working at its greatest capacity all the time. As a matter of fact your body is capable of doing a great deal more work than it is ever called upon to do. Thus we find an extra eye, an extra lung, an extra kidney, extra glands in various parts of the body; we know that the liver is much larger than it needs to be, that the heart can beat twice as often as pump twice as much blood with every beat as it does under ordinary circumstances. In fact half of such important organs as the liver, pancreas, kidneys, lungs, stomach, small intestine and large intestine, could be removed and the body would still keep on doing its work.

As Prof. W. B. Cannon, Harvard University, points out, Nature is ready for more than the ordinary needs of the body, and it is because the body has this extra strength which it can use in emergencies that the physician is able to restore health to those who are sick.

A trained physician knows the body, knows how much extra strength the body can exert in emergencies and endeavors to prevent anything interfering with the body's effort to use this extra power or strength. Thus outside heat, and heat manufactured by the body by the processes going on within it, may increase the body temperature to a dangerous height unless the alert physician intervenes. Or great fear can act on certain organs and cause great body disturbance. The family physician can so explain this that the patient is reassured and loses his fear.

Now when anything goes wrong within the body the physician knows that if given time the body will right itself because of this extra or reserve strength it possesses, and the physician is able to explain to the patient why time is necessary to recovery and thus instills patience and hope in the patient.

China And Babylon

Deposit in the Princeton University Library of 200 ancient Chinese oracle bones from Chiao Kuo-cheng, should result, if scholars are attracted to the study of these objects, in at least partial bridges for three somewhat yawning gaps in historical knowledge. One is the origin of writing. Another is the beginning of the Chinese civilization, and the third is the mystery of whether the start of Chinese civilization did or did not depend on contacts with ancient Babylonia.

The oracle bones of Chiao Kuo-cheng are known to be inscribed with written characters part way between pure pictures and arbitrary characters representing abstract ideas, says an American exchange. The same development was followed by two ancient scripts already well known; the cuneiform of Babylonia and the hieroglyphic of Egypt. These two have developed independently. Students of the history of writing would like to be sure whether the same development also went on independently in China or was conditioned by Occidental contacts.

Two kinds of divination seem to be almost equally ancient; both of them Babylonian and both much older than the famous oracle of Greece. One was to read the future from the stars. The other depended on examining the organs of sacrificed animals, especially their livers. Both probably had, at first, quite reasonable foundations; star reading in prediction of the dangers of animal plagues. It is less easy to discern how, when and where began the familiar "Greek idea" of oracles which spoke and answered. To this category the Chiao Kuo-cheng oracle apparently belonged, the inscribed bones being either the questions asked of the oracle or perhaps, in some instances, the answers which the oracle vouchsafed.

The idea that Chinese civilization sprang from Babylonian roots rests more on inherent probability than on actual discoveries. Babylonian merchant venturers seem to have ranged widely over the world more than four thousand years ago. It seems unlikely that China would have escaped them to say nothing of the possibilities that both China and Babylon sprang as twins from some more ancient and still undiscovered civilization in India or Western Asia, existence of which is hinted by some early Babylonian indications but is still unproved.

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PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondence of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

LOBSTER PACKING

Sir,—In the Guardian of March 22nd there was an appeal signed by the President of the Fishermen's Union asking for co-operation among the fishermen of P. E. I. with the object in view of bettering their condition. To these worthy sentiments there can be no objection, but when the fishermen ask for the sympathy of the general public through another angle to be considered. How much consideration do the fishermen show to those who are even worse off than themselves?

A large number of fishermen (in some sections all of them) are sending their lobsters to another Province to be packed thus depriving their neighbors and relatives of employment. I have worked in lobster factories for many years. Last season I had 10 days work when I was laid off. This season I cannot get a job at all and the lobsters that the fishermen caught around here are to be packed in Nova Scotia.

So far as my fishermen neighbors are concerned I and my family can starve. Yet these same fishermen expect the Government and public to get all worked up over their troubles.

I am Sir, etc. "CRACKER"

HOG PRICES AGAIN

Sir,—Constructive criticism should be welcomed by any individual or organization, but destructive criticism, such as was levelled against the Livestock Marketing Board by some individuals in the issues of your paper, under the title "Hog Prices," must of necessity act as a boomerang; like that famous missile used as a weapon by the Australian aborigines, which when thrown would describe a series of curves and finally recoil on its projector.

"Producer" states that the Marketing Board, whether intentionally or not, materially assisted in lowering prices to the producer of hogs. Let us analyze this statement and examine the facts: In April 1926 I went to Montreal with one hundred and forty one hogs. Why did I go? Because at that time the Montreal and Toronto prices stood at 3-3 1/4 cents per pound higher than the best prices quoted in the Maritimes. It cost 1 1/4 cents to place them on the Montreal stock yards, thus giving to the producer an additional 2 cents per pound. In other words, on the entire shipment, the farmers received slightly over Five Hundred Dollars extra net returns. Again, in April 1927 I left Charlottetown with two hundred and ninety-seven hogs for the same market, where the price was still 2 cents per pound better than the home quotations. What happened? I was intercepted at Borden where I received instructions from the Marketing Board to divert delivery to a Maritime destination, as a revised quotation was in line with the value placed upon the hogs by the Board.

What do we find today? Prices in the Maritimes are equal to and occasionally a little higher than in Montreal. This I maintain is due to co-operative marketing of hogs. I have at hand a manifest of a half car of hogs loaded at Vernon, for which the owner received \$8.65 per hundred, country weights. The same day some thirty hogs were trucked to Charlottetown from this district, for which 9 cents off truck was received. It cost approximately 1-4 cent per pound for truckage, thus leaving a net price of \$8.75 to the farmer of truck weights. An additional 1-2 cent per pound or thereabouts may be allowed for shrinkage while enroute to Charlottetown. The point is easily seen. Had this lot of thirty hogs been included with the others the saving in freight charges would have been sufficient to bring the net price close to 9 cents per pound weights at Vernon. However, farmers must co-operate in the fullest sense if the maximum advantage is to be realized.

"Producer" also advocates the old system of home dressed hogs. On January 5th last I visited the William Davies plant in Montreal, where I received a store of information regarding dressed hogs, viz: When dressed hogs shipped locally are worth 15c per lb. on the rail (rail here means overhead track in cold storage plant) the plant can only net 13 1/2 cents. When they



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