

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES \$3.00 per year (in advance) delivered to City, \$4.00 per year (in advance) mailed to P. E. Island \$5.00 per year (in advance) mailed to Canada and U.S. Members Audit Bureau of Circulations

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink."

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1938.

Cheaper School Books

The present occasion is as good as any other to remind the Campbell Government of the existence of an apparently forgotten plank in their election platform, promising "an investigation into the question of school books, with a view of securing a reduction in the present excessive prices."

Has there been any such investigation, or any change favorable to our overburdened taxpayers in the price of school books during the past three years?

In the Liberal manifesto accompanying the announcement of the Liberal election platform, it was claimed that "a certain school reader in this province sells for 30 cents a copy whereas practically the same book sells in Ontario for 6 cents a copy." This was cited as an example of the need generally for a reduction in price of school supplies.

Resolutions have been passed by prominent organizations, urging upon the Government its pre-election obligation in this connection.

Since 1935 there has been so little discussion in the Legislature on the subject of cheaper school books that one would imagine the problem no longer existed. That is not the case however, as parents with large families can testify. Moreover, continual changes in textbooks are being made, adding to the expense with little or no compensating advantage so far as the pupils are concerned.

That promised "investigation" is certainly long overdue.

More "Liberal Trade Expansion"

Recently it was announced from Bermuda that the importation of potatoes would be prohibited altogether during the months of August and September. Hope has been expressed that this will not unduly affect Maritime potato producers, but in any case it is not an encouraging sign, and is certainly a poor commentary on the success of the West Indies trade treaty which is all that the King Government has to its credit in the matter of promoting Empire trade expansion.

From Jamaica also comes news which is not reassuring to Canadian farm and fishery producers. It is contained in the current issue of the Commercial Intelligence Journal, which states that Jamaica's heavy purchases of fish from Newfoundland, of flour from Great Britain and Australia, of butter from New Zealand, and of condensed milk from Holland have in recent years greatly reduced Canada's share of Jamaica's custom in foodstuffs. The figures show that Canada is losing ground proportionately as well as in volume and value. The percentage of this trade was 28.9 in 1937 and 31.5 in 1936, as compared with 38.2 in 1930, 42.9 in 1929, 41.2 in 1928 and 37.7 in 1927. The loss has been to some extent offset by gains in manufactured goods, but the total trade trend is downhill. For example, Canada's percentage of Jamaica's total import trade was 18.8 per cent in 1927, when the Canada-West Indies trade agreement was implemented. Last year it had fallen to 14.9 per cent. Foreign countries increased their trade with Jamaica during recent years, notably the United States and Germany.

Wearing Them Out

Right Hon. Winston Churchill has contributed an article to Collier's in which he does full justice to whatever merits the two outstanding dictators of Europe possess. He traces them from their lowly origin, which he does not accentuate, to the point where they have come to the critical stage in the career of all dictators, where they have exhausted their own personal resources and must depend upon their ability to create conditions which favour their further progress. But when they have to begin to depend upon other people and other things than themselves the end is near.

"Dictatorship," says Mr. Churchill, "nurses within itself the canker that must destroy it. The dictators wear out their countries. They demand permanently what men and women are only willing to give in an emergency." And in the end they kill those very qualities of leadership that make them redoubtable.

He sees as a main difficulty of the future that an army that applies political tests to its personnel cannot be as efficient and formidable as one that prefers professional skill to Fascist or Marxist orthodoxy. His conclusion is: "The shadow of the dictatorship lies heavy today across the world. But the democracies may draw comfort from the fact that the deeper reserves of strength and leadership are with them, and that it is only in an atmosphere of freedom that mankind reaches the full measure of its stature."

"Not Doles But Markets"

It was the Hon. B. W. LePage, now chairman of the Fishermen's Loan Board, who declared in 1935 that what our fishermen wanted was not doles but markets. Recently we pointed out that the sum of \$500,000 voted by Parliament in 1937 for the purpose of rehabilitating the fishery industry and promoting more profitable marketing methods was left lying unused for a whole year in the federal treasury, simply because our Liberal representatives were too dumb or too indifferent to take advantage of

it. Our local contemporary now admits that "only \$50,000 of the money was spent because the negotiations between the department and the industry failed of any mutual understanding as to how the money should be expended, and so the vote lapsed. We repeat that this money could only be used for the specific purpose for which it was voted. It was to rehabilitate the industry and could not be used to assist needy fishermen."

Exactly. Rehabilitation of the industry is what was promised—not "doles"; yet our Liberal wisecracks were so incompetent that they couldn't formulate any practical policy of rehabilitation and so this half million dollar vote "lapsed" and, as we said before, not a single Liberal representative from this Province, federal or provincial, raised his voice in protest.

Part of the money has been devoted this year to assist co-operative enterprise among the fishermen; but if our contemporary will look up the record in Hansard it will find that this was not due to the initiative of the Minister of Fisheries or any of his party supporters but to the Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett, who made the suggestion after strongly denouncing the criminal negligence which resulted in so much unnecessary delay in implementing one of the most important pledges in the Liberal platform.

Editorial Notes

The British captured New Amsterdam from the Dutch and renamed it New York, this date, 1664.

The British, under General Amherst, received the capitulation of Montreal and all French Garrisons in Canada this date, 1760.

If the city unemployed had as much work as the farmers are having on the roads in Murray Harbour and other districts, the Mayor and City Council would be sitting easy these days.

The Gardens of Government House are the most attractive centre in the city these days—thanks to the generosity of Governor DeBlois in making them thus available.

Mr. Rowan, the Trinidad newspaper man who was here the other day, inquired about the reforestation being pursued here, and when told it was conspicuous by its absence, expressed his surprise. There the law is for every tree cut down three must be planted in its place. Nearly 600,000 trees have been planted in Trinidad's new teak forests during the past few years.

The Canadian company that will make warplanes for the Royal Air Force will be capitalized at about \$1,250,000. The two assembly plants that the company will operate—one at St. Hubert and the other at Malton, near Toronto—will cost \$300,000 apiece. Both will build the same type of planes—bombers. Only the frames or chassis of the planes will be made in Canada. The engines will be sent over from Britain and mounted here, and the completed planes will be flown back to Britain.

"Pump priming" does not sound very well in connection with milk and butter, but it is being rigorously applied to the industry over the border. The U.S.A. Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation announces that it would buy 10,000,000 pounds of butter from the Dairy Products Marketing Association at Chicago for distribution to needy relief families. The marketing association is a non-profit organization of producer-owned and controlled regional dairy cooperative associations. It has bought 70,000,000 pounds of butter since June 16, in an effort to remove surpluses from the markets and stabilize prices. Its operations have been financed by a government loan of \$21,275,000.

It is plain that our evening contemporary is neither a Daniel nor a Joseph when it cannot interpret the "handwriting on the wall" to which Dr. Robb referred at last week's Conservative meeting. What about the last federal election in Argentine which returned the Conservative candidate in a three-cornered contest with nearly twice the majority ever polled by any candidate in the history of the riding? The Liberal standard bearer, a popular former Mayor and lifelong resident of Lachine, was defeated even in his own home town. Two federal cabinet ministers, Hon. P. J. A. Cardin and Hon. Fernand Rinfret, tried vainly to stem the tide.

"When a tree is moved to a new location many of the important feeding roots are lost or destroyed," Mr. Paul Davey, international tree expert says. "Those that are left must continue to supply water and nourishment to the top, while adjusting themselves to the altered conditions under which they function. For these reasons, even if planting is done in the Autumn after the leaves have fallen, it is imperative that branches in the top be thinned out. The reduced root system is then able to keep up with the needs of the top, and will support the tree while both roots and top begin a new and balanced development. Unless the newly planted tree is well pruned, it may die before ever getting started."

A West Indian Negriss, follower of Parson Divine, wished to become an American citizen though insisting that Heaven was her home. Her Barbadian name is Janette Bourne, but when she appeared in Brooklyn Federal Court she asked Judge Abruzzo if he could sign her name "Love Nut". "In Heaven," she declared, "my name is Love Nut."

"You must sign this paper with your real name," said Judge Abruzzo. "Heavenly appellations will not do on court documents."

"Well, if I can't sign it the way I want it, I just won't sign it at all," answered Father Divine's follower.

"Do you mean that you will refuse your citizenship because you can't sign 'Love Nut' on that paper?" asked the court.

"My own name is no good in Heaven," said Miss Bourne. "If I don't sign 'Love Nut' I won't take it."

"In that case I deny you citizenship," said Judge Abruzzo.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Great Britain is prepared to fight. And Great Britain will fight, if Germany insists on going into Czechoslovakia. Sir John Simon made that point clear today in an historic address at Lanark in Scotland. The Chancellor of the Exchequer made his address after careful consultation with Prime Minister Chamberlain and other high officials of the British Empire. The world now knows where Britain stands on the Czechoslovakia issue. Germany will not be misled in 1938 as she was in 1914. The former Kaiser and his advisers believed that Britain would stand aside and let the German troops storm through Belgium to Paris. The present Fuehrer Hitler, Kaiser, will have no misgivings about this. He has been told where Britain stands.—Windsor Star.

The letter of Sir John Harris to the Times concerning the death of a veteran Bechuanaland native, has given rise to correspondence. Our Johannesburg correspondent states that the name of the man is Ramonotwane (not Ramonwana) and that his age was the subject of a special investigation. The result as published indicated that Ramonotwane's age was then probably 123. More than a century ago he was captured by the Maabale, who were then living in the Transvaal, and became a retainer of Mosilikatze, taking part in the march to Matabeleland and the capture of Bulawayo. He was a most successful and trusted soldier-raider. He was a grown man before the Voortrekkers reached the Transvaal 100 years ago and had two fingers shot off in fighting against the Boer leader, Hendrik Potgieter. Lieutenant-Colonel H. Marshall Hole writes that if the Grand Old Man of Bechuanaland was a contemporary of Sekhona, Khama's father, as stated, he would now be not 140 but 124 years of age. He is certainly worthy to be reckoned one of the oldest men in the world. In reply, Sir John Harris refers to an error of nine years in Khama's marriage certificate, and says that if this is accepted, then Colonel Marshall Hole's figure would be 134 instead of 124.—London Times.

As a rule birds are not neighbors to one another in the nesting season. They are jealous each of its own piece of territory, and the territorial right of the first comer is generally respected by others. This rule applies especially to the relations between birds of the same species, and to those being more tolerant of the proximity of another species than of their own kind, but there are limits even to this tolerance. Yet Whippoorwill has provided an example of a pair of song thrushes and a pair of wrens, sharing the same nest, for several purposes. The thrushes began to build a rather peculiar nest attached to the side of a hurdle placed against the fence between the wood where the wrens are and the store yard. The nest has no platform to rest upon but is in the shape of a shallow bowl. This method of construction left a number of trailing loose ends, and into these the thrushes tucked their heads and wings, and wren sat not side by side, but one on top of the other, and wren sat on top of the thrush, so to speak, on the ground floor. The wren in the basement flat entered by a hole in the side. The thrush hatched its eggs a few days earlier than the wren, but both were for some weeks sitting on the nest, and feeding their young in the same structure. The young thrushes were hatched a few days ago. The wrens have just flown, but are keeping close to the thrushes, which they are quite likely to use as an occasional shelter for some days.—Manchester Guardian.

Sooner or later, the Fascists' influence in Mexico is likely to cause trouble with the United States, Germany and Japan, especially among Fascist countries, with Germany for a closer connection with Mexico, and a drive against commerce with the United States will undoubtedly be the result. By snatching the properties of the English and American oil companies, Mexico has had a case of economic indigestion, for the taxes that those companies paid the government were used to pay taxes and with the agrarian agitation getting worse, Mexico is openly dealing with Germany and Japan. In fact the serious restraints in the end.—Boston Post.

There is a small issue of perpetual annuity of ten million outstanding against the Canadian National Railways of about \$70,000. The railways paid over \$190,000 interest on this note and still owes the original amount. This is a case of the kind of financing with which our railways have to contend. These are the same issues, millions and millions of interest will continue to be paid without reducing the principal one nickel. In fact the interest is often borrowed. Surely we do not need any further argument for refunding our railway debt than the above example.—Purdy Fisherman, Saint John.

We want to arrive in a hurry and without trouble. We are superstitiously afraid of annoyance. We ceaselessly straddle the fence, we are not proud enough to lift our heads against absurdities even when we know what is right. We are cowards and venal. And we are satisfied to growl between four tight walls while we urge disingenuous discretion upon the friends who may be listening.—Le Petit Journal, Montreal.

Where are the brave, the rough, the woolly old days of the mining camps? Do you know that even Yal O'R are actually going to play tennis? Yes, the day Val O'R defeated the O'Brien line at tennis! The players wore the regular tennis costume, and instead of shooting up the air after their defeat, the O'Brien Mine fellow just went peacefully home again.—Timmins Advance.

A Clinton woman has a tomato plant six feet tall with 70 tomatoes on it. One canning company has already made plans to establish a branch factory in the same yard.—Peterborough Examiner.

Rothermere Vs Steed

(Winnipeg Free Press) Controversy of grand manner broke out last July between Lord Rothermere and Mr. Wickham Steed in London. It caused a clash of the most serious policy which today divides Great Britain. The press lord in the Daily Mail has taken the line that Britain should not intervene in Czechoslovakia. Mr. Steed believes that to permit German aggression against that country would endanger the position of Britain and bring near the day when German aggression would be directed against the western democracies. On July 18 Mr. Wickham Steed wrote to Lord Rothermere:

"Dear Lord Rothermere,—I have rarely written to you, but I must write after reading your article in this morning's Daily Mail, for that article, based on misleading information, may help to bring on a European war into which Great Britain would willy-nilly be drawn."

"Why you should wish to weaken the defence of this country by encouraging Germany to attack and if possible, to obliterate Czechoslovakia, is a mystery to me."

"I can readily understand why Germany should wish you to do this. Czechoslovakia juts out into the heart of Germany. Her existence as a well-armed State inhabited by a determined and efficient people, impedes German progress of Central and Southeastern Europe. This domination, in its turn, is an indispensable preliminary to a final German reckoning with the British Empire which forms the ultimate obstacle to German supremacy in the world."

Dangerous For Germany "It would be dangerous for Germany to attack either France or Great Britain as long as the Czechoslovak Republic is about it now, is, to mobilize 900,000 well-armed and well-trained troops in a week to dispose of a powerful force which could threaten Dresden and Leipzig, Munich and Nuremberg in half an hour in case of German attack, and to control great armaments works of Skoda and other branches in order to crush Czechoslovakia swiftly. Hitler would need at least 1,000 airplanes and three million men, and their various branches would be available against Great Britain and France were Czechoslovakia overthrown."

"Moreover, if Wittkowitz, Skoda and their various branches below ground were to fall into the hands of Germany, her facilities for the manufacture of armaments would be those of Great Britain and France."

"It is comprehensible that Germany should wish to be rid of this Czechoslovak thorn in her flesh. It is not comprehensible that any British journal, no matter how inadvertently, should help her to get rid of it. Such a course is not compatible with loyalty to King and Empire which the Daily Mail professes."

"I need not remind you of the patriotic part played by the Daily Mail before the war in arousing this country to a sense of the German danger, nor of its steadfast action throughout the war in helping to withstand that danger. Two of our sons then gave their lives in this cause. Would they approve of what you are now doing?"

"For this country and the Empire the position is clear. Either we stand with France and other friends against German domination in Europe, or we are still time to avert that domination. While we still have friends, or we shall presently be confronted with a European war, we must surrender to a German army, a more powerful and greater part of Europe, and a desperate, friendless fight for existence in which the odds would be heavily against us."

"So I urge you to bethink yourself, to learn the truth and to proclaim it. This is your duty as a newspaper owner and as a British peer."

"Yours very sincerely, (Signed) Wickham Steed."

Rothermere Reply Lord Rothermere replied on August 3:

"Dear Mr. Wickham Steed,—Your letter flatters me. It suggests that an article by me in the Daily Mail is exerting a great influence on the affairs of Czechoslovakia. Sincerely, I hope this is so, because the more the truth about this monstrosity of a country becomes known, the less chance there is of its mistaking the people will allow their Government to associate itself directly or indirectly in its affairs."

"From the day Czechoslovakia came into existence it has oppressed the German, Hungarian, Slovak and Polish minorities. It has done so without protest, because the League of Nations, until lately, was entirely controlled by France with her allies, including Czechoslovakia."

"I am afraid you are one of those journalistic Bourbons of whom there are many. You seem to have forgotten nothing and learned nothing. You seem to think that 1938 is still 1914. You do not seem to know that today Great Britain, instead of being largely invulnerable in its affairs, is in a position of extreme weakness."

"The wind flapped loose, the wind was still. Shaken out dead from tree and hill. I had walked on at the wind's will,—I sat now, for the wind was still."

Between my knees my forehead was,— My lips drawn in, said not Alas! My hair was over in the grass. My naked ears heard the day pass. My eyes, wide open, had the run Of some ten weeds to fix upon. Among those few, out of the sun, The woodspurge flowered, three cups in one."

From perfect grief there need not be Wisdom or even memory. One thing then learnt remains to me,— The woodspurge has a cup of three."

—D. G. Rossetti



The Birth of Confederation

In September 1864, the original conference of the Fathers of Confederation was held at Charlottetown, Although Prince Edward Island did not join the Dominion until 1873, it has since been referred to as the "Cradle of Confederation."

Eight years before this historic meeting the Canada Life issued its first policy to a resident of the Maritime Provinces. And the company was even then in its ninth year.

For ninety-one years, through war and epidemic, through twelve major depressions, the Canada Life has met its obligations promptly and in full. Among the strongest of co-operative organizations, today its policyholders have well over \$800,000,000 of insurance.

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in Prague, and Lord Runciman's mission."

(Note—Mr. Wickham Steed was connected with the "Times" from 1896 until 1922. When Lord Northcliffe, Lord Rothermere's brother, assumed control of the "Times" in 1922, Mr. Steed was correspondent at Vienna. In 1914 he became foreign editor of the "Times," an appointment he held until 1919, when he became editor. In the last year of the war Mr. Steed assisted Lord Northcliffe in his propaganda work.)

The McNeil Goes Home

(Globe and Mail) In every "lone shillig" on misty Barra Island, in the Outer Hebrides, there is rejoicing. Not the hilarious jubilation of light-headed folk of the "lesser breeds," but a calm, proud happiness associated with the return of a chieftain to his ancestral acres. From time immemorial the McNeils were Barra and Kismul Castle was the stronghold of the clan. More than a century ago, partly because of the failure of the kelp industry, Barra Island passed out of the McNeil possession. The clan lost its land and its castle.

But men of the Scottish breed do not give up such things for longer than they can help. The McNeil Foundation has been busy and to such good purpose that, on the evening of Aug. 6, the forty-fifth chief of the clan was enabled to return in quiet triumph to the home of his forebears. Robert Lister McNeil lived in New York, making his living as an architect, but when he stepped from the boat at Castle-

bay, set foot upon his native heath, he was the killed and tartaned Scottish chief. He had come into his heritage, and that is why all over the little Island of Barra the clansmen are happy in paying fealty to their chief. There was no doubt about the cordiality of the McNeil's reception. Says the London Times report: As the beflagged Lochearn approached the harbor she was greeted by the leading boats of the fishing fleet as they came one by one out of the harbor, in brilliant evening sun behind them, with a series of jocular and startling hoots on their sirens.

Breaking the silence of the sea Among the farthest Hebrides."

Pipers on the dock were answered by Murdo Buchanan, the chief's piper, with him on the boat, who was returning to Barra after twenty-six years' absence and was so affected that he made a poor job of the skirlin'. Then the return of a chieftain to his ancestral acres. From time immemorial the McNeils were Barra and Kismul Castle was the stronghold of the clan. More than a century ago, partly because of the failure of the kelp industry, Barra Island passed out of the McNeil possession. The clan lost its land and its castle.

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