

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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Morning Maxims

It is only in the virtue of their inward serenity and sincerity that men can live sanely, happily and well.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1933.

THE LATE SIR HENRY

The unexpected death of Sir Henry Thornton causes a distinct loss to the railway world, even though Sir Henry was not in active railway employment at the time of his demise. There can be but one opinion of Sir Henry as a railway executive—he was an outstanding success as an organizer, even though the cost of his administration in dollars and cents proved excessive. Perhaps Sir Henry was not altogether to blame for this; he was the victim of circumstances. As a railway man his abilities were recognized in pre-war days in both the United States and England. The war gave him his opportunity as an organizer on a large scale, and he took full advantage of it, but, of course, regardless of expense, as at that time cost was nothing, success everything. When selected by the Premier Mackenzie King government to manage the Canadian National Railway Sir Henry brought with him from the European war some big ideas in the manipulation of difficult situations, with the result that money flowed from him like water and at the public expense. Undoubtedly Sir Henry built up a great organization in connection with our National Railway, but he had unlimited means wherewith to do so. What he would have accomplished had the Government done what it should have done, restricted his expenditure within the means of the country, is left to the imagination. But, as was stated before the Committee investigating the railway situation in the Senate, almost anyone could have done what Sir Henry had done provided they had the same almost unlimited financial resources at their command. At all events, the memory of Sir Henry will last in Canada so long as the heavy financial burden of which he was the prime cause continues to be borne by the tax payers. As a friend of railway labour Sir Henry was outstandingly popular. He had his own peculiar way of handling men, and just as the Mackenzie King government never once turned down an application of Sir Henry for more money, so he rarely, or ever, rejected a petition for increased expenditure to make things run smoothly. His popularity with labor organizations and other bodies, petitioning for additional expenditure was thus undoubted and assured.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE

Provincial revenue from taxation in all the provinces of Canada in 1931, says the Saint John Telegraph-Journal, was \$87,367,583 compared with \$91,149,854 in 1930, according to figures compiled by the Canadian tax conference of the Citizen's Research Institute. In a report just issued it is noted that the falling off resulted "notwithstanding the fact that in many provinces rates of taxation were increased and new taxes levied." The conclusion is drawn that "this is a clear indication that the limit of taxation has been reached, and the proper method of balancing budgets is by a reduction in expenditure instead of levying new taxation or increased rates of existing taxation."

In the year under review expenditures on current account exceeded revenues in all provinces, except Quebec, the combined deficits exceeding \$22,000,000. "When it is considered," the report says, "that this does not include expenditures on a capital account made from borrowed funds—with the exception of debt charges—which have to be repaid in future years, the need

for stringent economy and retrenchment in provincial affairs is obvious."

The following table shows the expenditure by provinces for 1931, and 1932:

Table with 3 columns: Province, 1931, 1932. Rows include British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, P. E. Island.

And so the necessity of careful administration and economic management is demonstrated, if something approaching a balanced budget without increased taxation is to be realized.

AN IMPERIAL "IF"

Question Time in any Legislature is apt to provide occasional relief to jaded listeners, if only by the nature of the questions. Imagine the Imperial Parliament assembled as it was the other day, to hear a question as to when and whether the attendants in some public office in Northern Ireland were to have new trousers. But Mr. J. H. (Jimmy) Thomas, Secretary for the Dominions, is usually delightfully naive and effective in his answers. And in this connection he remembered that it is estimated that each question and answer in the British House of Commons costs on an average \$5. Thus, the other afternoon a certain Liberal of the tribe of Samuelites asked him whether the solution of what he thought to be fiscal difficulties between Great Britain and Canada did not lie in the establishment in that Dominion of a Liberal Government.

"Hif," said Jimmy, "hif that would 'ave the same effect as a Liberal Government in this country, then God 'elp us."

A DEATH FLIGHT

High over Quebec there soared the other day for the first time in many years great flocks of fat, black and white sea-birds, flying toward the St. Lawrence river basin and death. They were, says Time, Arctic murres (also called guillemots), cousins of the little auks who were storm-bound in Manhattan last month. The cause of their periodic suicide flight is a mystery which Canadian ornithologists hope this year to solve. A crowd-sized bird with set-back legs which make it stand upright like a penguin, the murre breeds in colonies on Arctic cliff ledges. It lays an egg pointed at one end so that it rolls in a circle, does not fall off the ledge. Once hunted for oil as were the extinct great auks, murres have grown scarce, are now protected by treaty between the United States and Canada. Only Indians and Eskimos may eat their eggs or kill them for food. Like the little auk, the murre feeds on ocean crustaceans, starves inland. Dr. William Reid Blair, director of New York's Bronx Zoo, thought the murres' death flight might be caused by a cyclical failure in their food supply.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Recent earthquake shocks in Japan, Chile and California should be a reminder of the providential blessings we enjoy in this favored section of the world.

A Toronto exchange notes that President Roosevelt in taking the oath of office as laid down by the United States Constitution, said: "I will faithfully execute—" "Let us

NOTES BY THE WAY

Already it begins to look as if the United States and other countries are thinking along the lines laid down at the Ottawa Conference. It is not without significance that a score of countries are already knocking at the Empire's doors and asking for reciprocal trade agreements with countries under the Union Jack.

When Mr. Adolph Hitler starts to do anything he doesn't believe in half measures. Mr. Hitler is an arch-enemy of the Communists. He proposes to crush the movement in Germany. As a result of this determination, President von Hindenburg has signed a decree completely disbanding all constitutional safeguards for the freedom of the press, speech and assembly. Postal and telegraph privacy has been abolished and the death penalty established for a long list of fairly minor offenses. The decree, labelled "for the protection of the State and the people," will remain in effect "until Communism is no longer a menace to Germany."

The latest news of coalition comes from South Africa, where the long time political foes, Premier Hertzog and General Smuts, have joined forces. This is a very significant and hopeful movement for the reason that the Boers and British are laying aside their prejudices to co-operate for the country's good. Great Britain has a national government, and a coalition was formed in New Zealand last year. In Canada, in the provincial field Manitoba has a coalition, but efforts to get similar action in other western provinces failed. The history of coalitions "is that they come about in times of crisis and after they have served their purpose there is a return to the party system. In some countries, as in Germany and France, there are so many parties that only by a grouping of some of them is government possible.

A few politicians and newspaper writers in both Canada and Great Britain continues to belittle the Imperial trade treaties signed at Ottawa last Summer and since ratified by Legislatures throughout the Empire. These unbelievers should inform themselves by reading an address lately delivered before the Royal Empire Society in London by Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Dominion Affairs. Mr. MacDonald, who is a son of Premier Ramsay MacDonald and himself a Laborite representative, took as his subject "What Ottawa Achieved." He said that the first great achievement at the Canadian Conference was that it distinctly strengthened Imperial unity. The second achievement was that the agreements arrived at would add substantially to the material well-being of all the countries concerned—the United Kingdom, the Dominions and the Colonies. The Conference had extended enormously the whole field of Imperial preferences. Imperial prosperity and intra-Imperial trade were going to be very considerably developed as a result of the Empire conclave.

The Japanese Government, it is announced, will make no protest against what it feels is an "unwarranted phase"—Sir John Simon's statement that Tok's has violated the provisions of the League of Nations Covenant. Wrongdoers are often like that. They think they are unfairly treated, their motives misunderstood, their plans misconstrued. In this case, however, Tokio doesn't have to accept Sir John Simon's opinion, excellent as it is likely to be. It need only look to the figures of the vote when the Manchoukuo problem was formally accepted.

If we may judge from the momentous developments of the last few days the crisis in the United States will increase the prestige of Canadian and British institutions in the world's eye. While the United States, with its one hundred and twenty million people, is shaken by an unprecedented banking emergency, this young Dominion, wholly eschewing panic and confident in its own stability, proceeds on its even course unperturbed except for a natural neighborly sympathy.

Mr. Harry Graham Haig, described as a home member of the Vice-roy's executive council announces in the House of Assembly at Delhi that the Government has banned the Nationalist Congress convention scheduled to be held at Calcutta. The Provincial Governments pause," comments our contemporary, "to salute the land of the free and the home of the brave where the split infinitive is established by law."



By James W. Barlow, M.D.

YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Our humorists do not poke fun now at physicians for blaming so many ailments on infected teeth, because practically every family, including that of the humorist, has had definite proof of the damage done by infected teeth and gums.

Another joke that is rapidly passing out of use is that regarding the questions the physician asks about your family history. Just what forms of illness your parents, uncles, aunts, and grandparents suffered with or died from, seemed so ridiculous that it became a standard joke.

Not so now however. Every thinking individual now knows that he or she resembles one or both sides of the family; knows the tendency toward high blood pressure, low blood pressure, stroke, epilepsy, apoplexy or paralytic stroke, tuberculosis, rheumatism, asthma, stomach and intestinal ulcer, even cancer itself, that runs through the family.

They have seen one side of the family, slender individuals, have a history of tuberculosis, ulcer of stomach, a "dropped" stomach, and the other side, stout individuals, afflicted with heart, kidney, gall bladder and blood vessel ailments.

One of the things that used to amaze me was the striking resemblance of a child to one or other of its parents. As I thought the matter over however, my amazement was that they did not look even more like the parents.

So your doctor or the insurance doctor, is naturally anxious about your history, your family doctor because he may help you to avoid various ailments, and the insurance doctor because he doesn't want to take too many chances in recommending to the company that you be given insurance. As you know the value of your insurance policy depends upon the care taken by the insurance doctors when you are examined. Your chances of living to a reasonable age are all figured out not only by the examination of you personally, but also by the medical history of your family.

This doesn't mean that you must necessarily suffer from these family ailments and be free from those which they were free.

It does mean however that you are more likely to have the same family history.

And the knowledge of this family history should help you to live sanely.

The Potter's Corner

THE POTTER

A Potter, playing with his lump of clay, Fashioned an image of supremest worth.

"Never was nobler image made on earth, Than this that I have fashioned of my clay. And I, of mine own skill, did fashion it,— I—from this lump of clay."

The Master, looking out on Pots and Men, Heard his vain boasting, smiled at that he said.

"The clay is Mine, and I the Potter made, In what doth this man overpass the rest? —Be thou as other men!"

He touched the Image—and it fell to dust, He touched the Potter,—he to dust did fall. Gently the Master,—"I did make them all,— All things and men, heaven's glories, and the dust.

Who with Me works shall quicken death itself. —Without me—dust is dust."

—John Oxenham.

A breeder claims that a thoroughbred dog will not bite anybody who is on the move. Providing he is moving quickly enough, of course.

and Sir Samuel Hoare, Secretary of State for India, has given their full approval to the decision, Mr. Haig said. The Nationalist Congress is a body working for the complete independence of India. Mahatma Gandhi represented this organization at the Indian Round Table conferences. It is difficult to see how the Government can prevent the Nationalist Congress from holding a convention if the Congress really desires to meet—if not in Calcutta, somewhere else.—Exchange.

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.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

Sir.—In answering "Satisfied's" letter of the 14th I can only say he does not seem to have studied the questions and statements in my last letter. He chose to try and slam me without knowing what it all was about. If as he says he is obtaining less relief than I am and he had 12 to feed, he must be doing one of three things:

- (1) Obtaining other help. (2) Working so many days per week or.

(3) Does not care very much for those dependent on him.

He goes further and says he is not kicking. Maybe he has not sufficient backbone to kick against unfairness.

"Satisfied" goes on to say if he was in my place he would not ask for relief but would obtain work on a farm for his board. It omits to say where he would obtain it to my interest him to know that the Land Settlement Branch of the Federal Government endeavored last fall and during the early winter to find me some such job, but were unsuccessful. Furthermore he also omits to state where the young men in question would obtain satisfactory clothing and footwear for farm work in the winter. He also failed to take into any consideration the fact that these same young men may have never been on a farm to work during their life.

I would also like to point out too the system of working for board dates back to early Biblical times and is a form of slavery, and wherever he looks he will always find the Christian people, or God's chosen people, being led out from slavery, so why go backwards? He also asks where this country would be if every young man of 30 asked for relief. Common sense would tell him if applied instead of jumping to conclusions. He also hopes that my application for deportation will be granted. At last I can agree with him, I, too, hope that comes to pass.

I am, Sir, etc. DISSATISFIED

FARMERS' RELIEF

Sir.—During the present session of the Legislature a great deal of discussion is being aroused regarding the Old Age Pension. If this form of relief for the aged materializes it will no doubt be of a great benefit to those old people who, in most cases are dependent on their families. It is indeed a most worthy project but at the present time does it constitute the major relief problem in P. E. I.?

In answer one need only consider the condition of the average farmer of this province. Most everyone knows and will admit that the lot of the farmer during the recent years of depression has been anything but an easy one. Our town neighbors may be sceptical of this statement. They may argue that we can produce our own foodstuffs and are consequently more fortunate than they. Farming, like any other undertaking, is only a sort of speculation and in order to insure a decent crop one must purchase fertilizer, lime, etc. When it is considered that hundreds of farmers in this province are selling their produce, such as pork, grain, etc., at disgraceful prices in order to renew notes on fertilizer and also to supply their dependents with the necessities of life, it can easily be seen that in comparison the lots of the town people are not so acute as they are represented to be. In fact, the Dominion, Provincial and Municipal governments have co-operated to such an extent in this respect that the average unemployed town citizen is comparatively comfortable.

What is to become of the farmer this year? If he intends to plant potatoes he is financially capable of supplying himself with fertilizer? Is it a paying proposition to sell the greater part of his grain this spring in order to buy lime to produce it another year? At the present time considering the very low price of grain, it would be necessary to part with the greater part of it in order to pay for that which produces it. To say the least this is a serious state of affairs. This is no misrepresentation of fact. It is the condition of the majority of the farmers at the present time. It is time steps were taken, and as the Legislature is now in session the matter should be brought to its attention at once.

The farmers of Monticello, Lots 42 and 43 on March 13 held a meeting to discuss this matter. Many of the farmers of this dis-

The Great Wall

(Montreal Gazette)

Despatches from the Far East announcing that Japanese forces have penetrated the Kupeh Gate north of Peking, and are now virtually masters of the Great Wall, recall one of the most stupendous engineering feats, the product of Chinese patience and industry, that the world has ever known. It has been said that the great invasions of nomadic hordes have taken place in the vast belt of territory stretching from the Pacific Ocean along the frontier of China proper and westward through the steppes to the Black Sea. The historic traditions of the Great Wall, which stretches its coils like some gigantic boa constrictor across the mountainous frontiers of China, are intimately bound up with the memoirs of four great empires, Persia, India, Rome and China.

Roughly, the Great Wall follows the northern boundary of the eighteen provinces, and between its two terminal points covers a distance which, measured in a straight line, is 1,255 miles, and counting its curves the length of it must be in the neighborhood of 1,600 miles. The famous Hadrian Wall in England, linking Solway Firth with the North Sea, is eighty miles long. The Great Wall of China is seventeen times this length and more than four times the length of the Roman Fosse Road stretching from John O'Groats to Land's End. Had some Balbus build a wall from the mouth of the Rhine to the Black Sea, following the range summits of the Carpathians, it would be some hundreds of miles less distance than the solid barrier of masonry which Shih Hwangt', the Chin Dynastic, began to build in the third century B. C. His purpose was to keep out the Tartars, who were constantly threatening the northern frontier of the Chinese Empire, of which this great man proclaimed himself the first universal sovereign. In those far away times China was the scene of petty jealousies and internecine warfare between the rival tuchuns, and was harried by bandit hordes. The task Shih Hwangt' essayed was to put an end to these factious warlord tumults and to consolidate the internal prosperity of the country, and also to protect his subjects from the ruthless onset and barbaric ferocity of nomadic races from the north. Could "stones cry out", what a stirring romance might be revealed of the migrations and sudden eruption of these Tartar hordes against whose predatory exploits was erected this stonied barrier capped by a succession of defensive towers and grotesquely decorated with figures it was deemed might strike terror into the hearts of the wild invaders from the grassy lands beyond, those superb horsemen of flaming sword whose cavalry oft mounted to two or three hundred thousand men.

Twice in the history of China

strict, as in many others, are not in a position to purchase seed grain, fertilizer, etc., for the coming season. We decided to petition the local government for our share in the relief money that has been set aside by the Dominion Government. Districts in other provinces of Canada, where conditions warranted this expenditure, have received it. There are many such districts in P. E. I. and if the farmers would cooperate and petition, as we are doing, the outcome—if successful, will solve our financial problem.

I am, Sir, etc. MELL MCPHEE

Monticello, Lot 42, Mar. 14.

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has the foreign yoke been imposed upon that country from the north, once by the Mongols and again by the Manchus. But for more than two thousand years the Great Wall has stood a monument of silent tribute to the enterprise and fixity of purpose of the Chinese people. Of this stupendous structure it has been observed that could an inhabitant of the planet Mars view our earth through a powerful telescope amongst the works of man the Great Wall, by its immensity, would likely be the first object to arouse his curiosity. Assuredly it is worthy of being numbered amongst the wonders of the world. The point at which the Japanese troops have made a breach in this ancient fortification is within about thirty-five miles of Peking and is upon the northern or Jehol side of the age-long barrier. Some may be prompted to reflect upon the superiority of modern weapons of warfare as compared with the

ancient gleaming lance. Others may muse upon the persistence of those unquiet elements and disintegrating habits which still retain their hold upon "a house divided against itself." But if, on the one hand, the rupture of the Great Wall bespeaks the transfer of power, changing the face of continents, on the other hand, it testifies to the patient labors of a people in ages past, and we may believe that these efforts, in their day, and for the instruction of all after ages were not made in vain.

A recording camera has proved that even the most expert pianists do not play in exact time. So they play all the notes of a chord at the same instant.

An Easy One. Teacher—Can anyone give me one of the Ten Commandments containing only four words? Boy—Yes, miss. Keep off the grass.

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