

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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In The Public Interest

A case involving factors of much greater importance to the people of this province than the guilt or innocence of the defendant, was disposed of in the Prohibition Court yesterday. These factors the trial Magistrate decided were immaterial to the issues before the Court, and the evidence attempted to be submitted in this connection was therefore ruled out. There should, however, be other means of inquiring into the matter. The public interest, after all, is of more importance than legal technicalities. The questions raised by the defendant's counsel cast grave suspicion on the administration of the Prohibition Act under the Lea Government, and these questions should be dealt with by a properly qualified tribunal. If there has been political interference with the free course of justice on the part of any member of the Government, or any other person, the public have a right to know. If there has been no such interference, it is surely in the interests of all concerned that the grave suspicions aroused by the nature of the evidence attempted to be submitted should be set at rest.

The Australian Treaty

To summarize the actual situation during the five years of the Australian treaty, Canada, one of the most important dairy producing countries in the world, exporting butter at the rate of 26,000,000 pounds annually in 1923, exported only a little more than 1,000,000 pounds in 1930, and our imports increased from 99,000 pounds in 1925 to the enormous figure of over 47,000,000 pounds in 1930. In other words, in 1930 we exported twenty-five times less butter than in 1925, and imported 470 times as much. During this period our exports of milk and cream diminished by 75 per cent and our exports of cheese were cut in two. Our dairy farmers were so greatly affected by the treaty that many milk cows were sold for beef, reducing our dairy herds by over 100,000 cows. "This leads me to say a few words with reference to the bacon industry, because when there is a diminished production in dairy products there will be a falling off in the bacon trade, as those two industries run hand in hand. Previous to the Australian treaty we were exporting 220,000,000 pounds of bacon annually, but by 1930, this was reduced to 20,000,000 pounds." Mr. J. B. Swanson, Maple Creek, in the Budget debate in the House of Commons, June 12.

Capone Awaits His Fate

When Capone, the Chicago gangster, comes up for sentence next week, he will face the possibility of a long term in prison and a heavy monetary penalty. The indictments to which Capone pleaded guilty, hoping thereby to secure leniency, include two for evading Federal income taxes and one for conspiracy, with 68 associates, to violate the prohibition law. The conspiracy charge contained 1,000 counts and the maximum penalty he might incur is two years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. On the Federal income tax counts the penalties are more severe; he is liable to a maximum sentence of 34 years in prison and an \$80,000 fine. He has admitted evading his income taxes for five years, 1925 to 1929, and wilful failure to file income tax returns in 1928 and 1929. During these years Capone's income is estimated to have been in excess of \$1,000,000. To date the maximum sentence given any racketeer under similar charges has been five years in case of conviction by a jury and two years in case of a plea of guilty, both these sentences having been imposed on former members of the Capone syndicate.

For several years now Capone's name has been notorious through the land as the king-pin of all racketeers. The amazing number of the counts in his indictments, the amounts of money involved in his tax cases, to both of which he has admitted guilt, and the ramifications of the liquor racket and its violent excesses, would seem to preclude the possibility of compromise in Chicago with so notorious a gangster. Sentence will be imposed on Tuesday of next week.

Important New Official

Premier Bennett is determined that the country shall be run on business lines. The appointment of a Comptroller of the Treasury will make greatly to that end. The comptroller, who will doubtless, be a man of special gifts and training, will be the most permanent official at the capital, for he will have his hand on all expenditures in all the departments. After Parliament has voted the money he will follow it to its various destinations through the regular channels. He will be a sort of supreme accountant who will tighten up finance practice in all departments and between all departments. He will be a repository of knowledge regarding the country's financial affairs, and so assist the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and the Government in knowing at a given moment exactly what the position of the treasury is. It is a reform that comes naturally from a first minister who is particularly at home in the realm of finance, economics and business management.

The Laugh On Mr. King

Opposition newspapers have been making heroic efforts to bracket Premier Bennett's laugh at the conclusion of Mr. King's budget oration, with Mr. King's insensate and fatal "five cent speech" of last year. They have, comments the Sydney Post, a big job on their hands. Mr. King's declaration, when urged to co-operate with the Provincial Governments for the abatement of unemployment, was that he would not give "one five-cent piece" for such a purpose to any Tory Government in Canada. As there were no fewer than six Conservative Governments in office at the time, this meant closing the Federal Treasury completely against any Dominion-Provincial scheme of unemployment. And Mr. King certainly did close the door. His Government never voted a nickel for unemployment relief. Premier Bennett's "laugh" was not, as the Liberal press hysterically argues, directed against unemployment distress, but against Mr. King's concluding observation that his four-hour dissertation,—one of the most partisan screeds of the session—had not been made by him "as the leader of a political party." Well might Mr. Bennett smile at such a declaration from such a source, for it would spread a horse-laugh through the pews of a tabernacle. When Prime Minister, Mr. King would not vote five cents for unemployment relief in co-operation with any Conservative Provincial Government in the Dominion. But having been voted out of office and translated to the position of Opposition leader, he blossoms out suddenly into a non-partisan statesman, and asks that his petulant criticisms of a Government which is spending millions on unemployment relief, be accepted as the deliverance of a man who knows no party politics where aid to the jobless is concerned!

Who would not laugh at so grotesque an exhibition by such a performer? As Dr. Manion said, everyone in the House was convulsed with the grim humor of the situation. Mephistopheles mounted in a pulpit and rebuking the sinfulness of mankind is the only companion-picture one can conjure up for such a spectacle.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Premier Taschereau of Quebec is of the opinion that the present times are not propitious for an election. Evidently Premier Lea is of the same opinion but while the former has a little time on his hands and is not obliged to appeal to the country before 1932 Premier Lea must face the consequences of an appeal whether the times are or are not propitious.

Too many youngsters roam our streets after dark, says an exchange. This is particularly the case on Saturday nights. Let it be known that no good, but harm, and only harm, comes of this practice. School lessons are neglected. Expensive tastes are cultivated. Moral corruption is invited. Laziness is bred and impudence is taught. These youngsters are in the road of people who want to do business. Why should not all parents unite in the effort to suppress a practice that points the way to the prison cell? When night comes on the youngster who has a home should go to it.

One can always distinguish between civilized and uncivilized people by remarking the methods of ornamentation of women, the custom of women of the jungles being to attach jewellery to their noses, while women of the cities hang it from their ears.

The Guysborough railway, promised by the Liberals for a period of years almost from the advent of Laurier to the departure of King, won quite a block of votes for them in eight or ten general elections, Provincial and Federal. But the Guysborough railway, approved by Parliament and actually got under construction, cost the Liberals more votes in the last Federal election than they had ever purchased by the promise of it in any preceding one. And this has been the history of every similar attempt to bribe the people of constituencies with their own money.—Sydney Post. This may be a lesson or a warning to governments displaying too much energy on the eve of an election, provincial or federal, in the construction of highways as well as railways. Nemesis is on the heels of those who tried to bribe constituencies with their own money.

The Liberal party in England, despite all the efforts of Lloyd George seems to be nearing dissolution. Sir John Simon, perhaps the ablest mind in the Liberal party, and the leader today of the British bar, has definitely broken with Lloyd George and is drifting towards the Conservative party. Now Sir Edward Grigg secretary at one time to Lloyd George, former Liberal member and governor of Kenya until recently, is working for an alliance between the Liberals of his way of thinking and the Conservative party. He takes the ground that the work of the Liberal party, as far as England is concerned, is completed; that the doctrines of Cobden, Bright, Gladstone and Asquith were those of noninterference with business and commerce, a policy of laissez faire. "Is this true also of Canadian Liberalism?"—London Free Press.

The typical Liberal of the modern school refuses to acknowledge any benefit to Canada in the Bennett tariff policy. A Washington despatch referring to the Canadian tariff says: "Perhaps the most devastating, or at least the most dramatic sabotage for which the tariff bill is responsible, is the record of American industries that have gone abroad."

"Eighty-seven basic American industries and between 600 and 700 branch factories have been established in Canada. A widely published news despatch from Toronto records that the largest aluminum enterprise in the world, employing a city full of people, is now going up in Quebec, and behind this project is Secretary of the Treasury Mellon's Aluminum Company of America. The article states that it will have a capacity to supply 80 per cent of the world's consumption of aluminum." Similar evidences might be cited of benefits already accruing from the Bennett policy of Canada for Canadians. The transfer of these and other immense American industrial concerns to Canada means that this country is already on the eve of the greatest industrial development that Canada has ever known. It is unfortunate that self-blinded politicians refuse to see any benefit in these moments which will be greatly accelerated if all Canadians acknowledged their value and helped towards their further development instead of petulantly declaring that no good can come of them. Every true Canadian sees and is ready to acknowledge the untold benefits that have resulted from the ten months Bennett Regime and greater things shall they see in the years immediately following.



By James W. Barba, M.D.

SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF THE EFFECTS OF NOISE

It is most encouraging to see the way the authorities in the large cities are tackling the noise problem. Just a short time after you learn that Berlin is not allowing the use of radios in yards or on verandahs, you read that London is making every driver tighten every nut on his truck, and New York is checking the motor men who cross switches or other tracks at a fast rate.

Every unnecessary noise is being checked such as the explosions from motor cycles, auto horns, noisy trucks bearing noisy loads, factory whistles, flat wheels on street cars and so forth. Now just how much noise is made can be measured, but just how much each noise affects any particular individual cannot be measured, but the damaging effect is seen.

It would seem that while London and New York are enacting immediate laws to lessen the noise, and are investigating the intensity of the noises, Berlin is organizing on a large scale, and dividing the work of the organization into sections.

One section will deal with research on the sources and the degrees of intensity of sound.

A medical section will study the influence of the noise on the nervous system, on the performance of work, and on sleep.

A legal section will test the possibility of the law and the police influencing the production of noise. A technical section will try to find out to what extent the noise of machines and technical apparatus can be reduced, and to what extent it will be possible to construct machines that are absolutely noiseless.

Now although these investigations will take some time there is no question but that when the results are known the common sense of the people will be aroused that the recommendations for lessening the noise will become the law.

As you know noise makes you tense, mind and body, and therefore tires or exhausts you just the same as work. This means that you are just that much less capable of doing a full day's work. In some cases it means ten per cent less work done in a day, and in other cases as much as forty per cent.

And the effect upon the nervous system, which of course controls the whole body, means an interference with all the processes of the body.

Noise has become more than a nuisance, it is a vital health problem.

I am, Sir, etc., KING'S COUNTY

The Poet's Corner

Good is an Orchard, the Saint saith, To meditate on life and death, With a cool well, a hive of bees, A hermit's grot below the trees.

Good is an Orchard; very good, Though one should wear no monkish hood. Right good, when Spring awakes her flute, And good in yellowing time of fruit.

Very good in the grass to lie And see the network 'gainst the sky. A living lace of blue and green, And boughs that let the gold between.

The bees are types of souls that dwell With honey in a quiet cell; The ripe fruit figures goldenly The soul's perfection in God's eye.

Prayer and praise in a country home, Honey and fruit: a man might come, Fed on such meats, to walk abroad, And in his Orchard talk with God.

The Uneasy Pole

(The Detroit News) Major Burwash, the Canadian explorer, asserts that the magnetic pole sways all over the place, moving back and forth seven or eight miles every day. There's a pole we would like to see somebody sit on.

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

AN IMMIGRANT'S TRAGEDY

Sir,—A matter came to my notice lately, which I wish to place before the public generally and those in authority particularly. Four or five years ago, the Dominion Government adopted an immigration policy by which they brought several families to this province and placed them on farms, many of which had already been abandoned by persons who found it hard to make a living and moved out. They knew more than foreigners who were entirely ignorant of conditions or system of farming, and were greatly handicapped by lack of experience and knowledge of our conditions. To come to the case which I want particularly to refer to, a young Irishman with a wife and several small children was induced to come out here under the Government emigration scheme and placed on an abandoned soldier farm at Launching Place, (Lower Cardigan), and supplied with the necessary stock and equipment to make a humble start. Everything was charged up to him, as he had no money. After struggling along for some time, pulling against the tide, his barns blew down in a winter's storm, and he was obliged to abandon the whole works. He gathered up what little he was not obliged to pay back and had about \$100.00 worth to take away with him. He then bought a mortgaged farm near Montague that had been twice abandoned within three years, and tried to make out a living for his family, but during the early part of the winter called an auction sale, sold a horse, cow and a few implements to secure food for his family. By the time this was exhausted, the greatest temptations were placed before him. A keg of rum, by which he could, by securing a few bottles and an equal amount of water, make 500 per cent on his money. This apparently continued during the latter part of the winter and early spring and about two weeks ago, parties who thought they did not have sufficient value for their money, gave him away with the result that he was fined \$300.00 or five months in jail. He had no money and no friends so to jail he must go. He had prepared a few acres for potatoes, had secured a good Samaritan to trust him with only enough for part of what he had prepared, and while he was engaged with his potato planting, the officials came along and carried him off to Georgetown jail to serve five months, leaving his wife and nine of a family at home, the eldest being twelve years old and the youngest twelve days. These children are frequently pleading for bread, when there is none for them.

This picture is not one inch overdrawn. Should such conditions exist in a Christian country? No, never.

What are the authorities going to do?

The Limit in Absurdity
Post-war literature has reached the climax of absurdity in a book just issued by a Major Herbert O. Yardley, said to have been in charge of the American Cryptograph Bureau during the world conflict. According to press despatches, this author comes out with the criminally absurd assertion that the allied Powers were involved in a plot to kill President Woodrow Wilson by slow poison.

This ridiculous insinuation marks the crowning infamy perpetrated by a group of authors who have written of the war and the years that followed the Armistice. These men have revelled in the sordid, the shocking and the untrue until the public has become nauseated with the steady stream of such filth that has flowed from the press. The world would be better off had none of these books been written. Apparently the end is not yet, and Major Yardley has revealed the extent to which such writers will go in their efforts to catch the eye of that element of readers ever ready to wallow in the slime and muck that disfigure the pages of many of these war books.

Velvet will be more fashionable than ever this year," says an expert. Particularly among the people who like to be on it!

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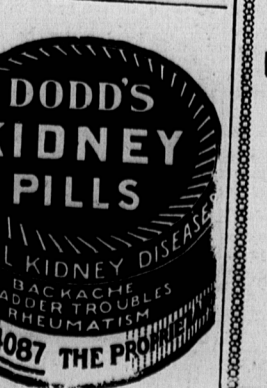
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