

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 1931

Still Unexplained

In an endeavor to repudiate responsibility for including twice the sum of \$24,465.83. "Interest on Sinking Fund Investments," in the Public Accounts so called revenue and expenditure statement, the Government called Mr. John Anderson, Provincial Auditor, and Mr. W. E. Massey, Assistant Auditor, before the Public Accounts Committee. Both witnesses were very voluble in their answers to questions, but both attempted, ably assisted by the Government questioner, to side step the point at issue.

No amount of contriving on the part of the Government can possibly alter these facts, nor has the Public Accounts Committee succeeded in explaining how the Government made their statements balance with a difference of \$24,465.33 on one side.

Canada's Maturing Bonds

This year \$78,000,000 of Dominion Government bonds will fall due, and will be replaced by new issues bearing interest at reduced rates. In 1933, other bonds will mature to the value of \$446,000,000, representing the 15 year Victory Loan issue of 1918. And in 1934, the 1916 Victory Loan bonds will become payable, to the value of \$510,000,000. Thus the Government of Canada must provide for the refunding within the next three years of obligations aggregating \$1,035,000,000, or approximately 40 per cent of the whole national debt.

These maturing obligations, however, as the Sydney Post points out, are not giving the Government any undue concern. The sooner indeed that they fall due the better it will be for the Canadian taxpayers, because this billion dollar debt, when refunded, will cost the country \$10,000,000 less interest per year than at present. All the war loans were floated when interest rates were high, the bond issues of 1918 and 1919 bearing interest at 5 1/2 per cent. Today money can be procured on the Dominion Government's credit at 4 1/2 per cent, and the rate may be even lower when the time for refunding arrives. This saving of \$10,000,000 per annum in interest will be an item of considerable importance. It will be virtually equivalent to a reduction of \$200,000,000 in the national debt. When Sir Thomas White issued short-term war bonds, he showed that he understood his business as Finance Minister as few of the treasury statesmen of other countries did in those disturbed and distracting years.

Falconwood Report

The annual report of the trustees and medical superintendent of Falconwood Hospital and the Provincial Infirmary shows that at the beginning of 1930 there were in the Hospital 266 patients. During the year 87 patients were admitted, 61 discharged and 27 died. Remaining in the Hospital at the end of the year were 265—136 male, 129 female. The number under care during the year was 353. The percentage of recoveries on admission was 53, the percentage of deaths 7.6.

Mention is properly made in the report of changes in the personnel and of the graduation of nurses during the year; also of the work on Falconwood Farm, the purchase of an electric motor, the installation of a new lead-up pipe to the water tank, repairs to roofs of the Hospital, Infirmary, Green Cottage, Convalescent Home and barns, the various entertainments held during the year, the contributions of magazines and reading matter, etc.

Strangely, however, there is no reference in any part of the report to the extraordinary circumstances connected with the finding and identification of the skeleton of an escaped inmate of Falconwood at East Point last October. The coroner's jury, empaneled after much delay to inquire into that matter, suggested the advisability of holding a general and more thorough investigation. The public was by no means satisfied as to the manner in which the deceased inmate came to his death, or whether every precaution had been taken by the authorities at the time of his escape two years previously.

The Lea Government has so far ignored the suggestion of the coroner's jury, but the circumstances are still sufficiently fresh in the public mind as to cause wonder at the manner in which the affair has been dealt with, and the absence of any reference to the matter in the official report of the institution.

Canada and the Reds

The "demand" made upon the Dominion Government last week by the Workers' Unity League of Canada, Canadian Section, Red International of Labor Unions, met with a flat and final refusal from the Prime Minister. The league called upon the Government to institute a non-contributory system of unemployment state insurance, to which Mr. Bennett replied: "We will not put a premium on idleness and we will not put our people on the dole."

No other reply, says the Montreal Gazette, could have been given by the head of any self-respecting government, and the promptness and firmness with which the Prime Minister placed himself on record should be a source of satisfaction to the Canadian people; but the significance of the incident lies, not in the character of the Government's answer, but in the demand itself and its implications. To the minds of most people the action of a group of avowed Communists in approaching the Dominion Government with any sort of demand for social legislation has the appearance of sublime folly. Perhaps it is just as well, however, that the thing happened. It may serve to arouse among sane, law-abiding people a more adequate appreciation than they have hitherto shown in regard to the extent of Communist organization in Canada, the unrestricted distribution of Communist propaganda, the immunity which Red associations have enjoyed and still enjoy in this country, and the widespread use which has been made of that immunity.

Editorial Notes

The Canadian Goodwill and Trade Mission to the Argentine has returned with an imposing list of articles for which a market can be found in that country. The list in-

Notes by the Way

In advising the Dominion Government that it is opposed to the admission into the province of Miss Alexandra Tolstoy, who wishes to edit a Doukhobor newspaper there, British Columbia states that it wants no more Doukhobors whatever. The reason for the opposition is that some members of the sect have been indulging in characteristic antics of late and numerous schoolhouses have been burned down, not to mention other matters.

Wise loafing is an art. The individual who, during a holiday period, can put out of his mind altogether the world and its foolish rush knows how to rest. Angers have this knack; and the pedestrian who walks for walking's sake knows something about it. Such people return from a holiday refreshed and invigorated, while the restless traveller, who covered every mile he had marked on his map, comes back badly in need of a rest. Colleges might do worse than establish a course in leisure.

There are some amazing figures on human longevity according to occupation recently disclosed. Who, for instance, hasn't thought of coal mining not only as an extra-hazardous but also an unhealthy occupation? The miner works in a cramped position in the dampness and poisonous air of a mine gallery, exposed to a score of agencies productive of disease or sudden death. Yet his expectation of life is not a little beyond that of the average citizen—51.3 years, according to this latest authority.

Hardly less surprising, is the discovery that, of all the occupational classes, doctors live the longest, the average doctor's life being 62 years. Compared with the regular hours, lack of strain and cloistered routine of the bookkeeper, doctoring seems like going to war. Yet the average bookkeeper's life is only 36.5 years, it is said, the shortest of all.

Chasers of vitamins are becoming all too successful. The list of lettered ones from A. to F. is now reasonably certain. G. and H. have been lettered in prospect. On top of these Professor Gabriel Bertrand, of Paris, recently reported evidence of a still unknown vitamin, lack of which makes rats' hair turn gray and may have a similar effect on human top-knots. And finally comes Professor Pappenheimer, of Columbia, with his report to the biological societies at Montreal of still another vitamin, deficiency of which in the diet is believed to cause mental disorders of the type called softening of the brain. "Scientists should certainly make a diligent search for this as yet unnamed vitamin as evidences of its scarcity are multiplying.

Canada and the Reds

Statistics are now available showing approximately at least the strength of the red army. Military service is obligatory for all able-bodied men except the bourgeois class. It includes preliminary instruction from nineteen to twenty-one active service from twenty-one to twenty-five, service in the two divisions of the reserve from twenty-six to forty. In this way the Soviet instructs more than 870,000 soldiers a year, and the effectives in the twenty-two classes out of a population of 150 million must exceed fifteen million men. The military budget increased from 240 million gold rubles in 1922-23 to 920 millions of gold rubles in 1928-29.

Ottawa dispatches indicate that Premier Bennett as Minister of Finance, hopes to cut off \$50,000,000 in expenditure this year. The dispatch adds that he may not be able to do quite all that, but he will come close to it with every department service cut at least 20 per cent. Had the old government practised economy to a reasonable extent, Hon. Mr. Bennett's problems might not be so difficult just now, and the country might not be faced with a new taxation as is the case today.

If in this world of inventive genius and rapid transit some clever individual could suggest a means for the storage of fog says an exchange, he would reap a fortune, or at least fame. As the matter now stands there has arisen the necessity for making fogs and this is being thoughtfully considered in London which city does not lack a reputation for the thoroughness with which nature has performed this service. Nevertheless a correspondent states that in some of the larger nursery gardens in and about the Farnes and Kew districts the gardeners have been watching with the keenest of interest experiments made this past autumn by gardeners on the outskirts of Hamburg. Drums containing unslaked lime are placed around the areas to be protected and when the weather clerks give a warning that frost includes fox pellets, which should particularly interest the people of this Province.



By James W. Barton, M.D. DOCTOR AND PATIENT

That Body of Hours

One of the hopeful signs of the times is the way a physician now handles a patient who has been ailing for some time, has gone to three or four doctors and is not satisfied with the results obtained.

In former days the physician made the examination, and gave medicine or other treatment, the patient was not told what was wrong with him or why the particular treatment was used. What do we find now? That the doctor explains in simple language what he thinks is wrong. He explains the proper structure and the working of the particular part at fault, and what he thinks about that structure and working in the patient. He explains what is happening and what will be the effect if treatment is not followed. He explains the treatment he is giving and why he wants the patient to follow it.

Perhaps as a last resort he would begin taking some patent medicine. Now patent medicines are carefully watched by the government and their claims kept truthful, but the patent medicine the patient would use might be utterly useless or actually harmful in his case. And so as Dr. Thos. D. Wood says "It is encouraging that medicine is losing its air of mystery, is casting aside obscure names, which to minds which are fearful and ill, are fraught with unknown dread.

"Every competent physician who doesn't explain why he recommends a treatment thus taking his patient into his confidence is not 'up to date.' These are the words of Dr. Chas. Mayo, America's outstanding surgeon, head of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.



THE BANDS OF ORION

Down steps Orion to the west, High-headed, starry-eyed, Watchful beneath his warrior-crest, His sword upon his side.

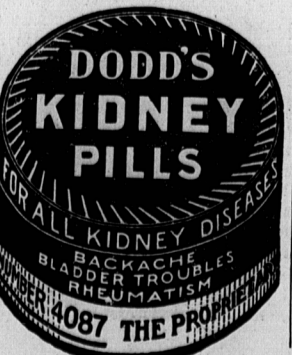
Amid the unnumbered stars of night He lifts his measured space, And covers under points of light The fashions of his face.

He makes no gesture, gives no sign; You form is all we know, So, belt and scabbard used to shine Millions of years ago.

Across the regions of the night, Across the darkened lands, He travels on in changeless might, And none may loose his bands.

—Laurence Housman.

likely to occur within the next few hours, a mixture of sulphur tri-oxide and chlorine sulphonic acid is dropped on the lime on the windward side of the garden. A thick fog is thus generated which takes most of the sting out of what otherwise would be a disastrous cold snap. Gardens near foggy areas thrive well as a rule, but there is a consideration due the human product who doubtless both in London and along the Atlantic seaboard—Nova Scotia for example, will feel that there is a sufficiency of the natural article without experimenting with artificial ones.



The Public Forum

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

PUBLICITY AS A PUNISHMENT

Sir,—It should be clear to all observing and reasoning persons, that the one great weak link in our Prohibitory Law is its non-deterrent punishment.

If a law breaker will not pay a fine or if he is not allowed the option of it, he is sent to jail for a few weeks or months. His name is not published out of respect for the feelings of his friends. His term is spent in idleness, living at the public expense! Do you call that punishment? The Premier says it is very hard to find work for jail inmates. They must not take the work from honest laborers. Quite right, but a little nominal work, a little sham work, such as parading the streets in prison stripes, bearing picks, spades, and hoes under the command of police officers, might be as great a deterrent as hard labor.

The 81 persons taken in a recent raid on a Montreal den, very many of whom were prominent professional and business residents, pleaded in vain with the Chief to be allowed to go in their cars to the station. They feared the publicity. They dreaded the jeering crowds. But the plucky officer was adamant. They were law breakers and as prisoners they would go in the police vans.

How different here. Their names are not published and now it is proposed to let them out when they began saying their prayers.

I am, Sir, etc., ANTI HUMBUG

Sausages as Tithe

(London Times)

A controversy over the contents of sausages is being fought out in the Courts of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, a small German State. The holders of tithable property in the town of Demmen, in that State, have been bound for 150 years to contribute each year 130lb. of Mettwurst (a sausage peculiar to Mecklenburg) to the maintenance of the Church and its servants. This custom lately fell into disuse, but in 1928 the Church renewed its claim and demanded the payment of arrears for three years.

The tithepayers refused, the Church sued them and obtained judgment; and the overdue sausage was evidently supplied. The representative of the Church, however, after tasting the sausage, denied that it was that which the Church in Mecklenburg was in equity entitled to demand as Mettwurst (the main ingredient of which should be apparently minced lean pork). The food inspection authorities in Rostock agreed that too much beef had been used, the sausage was returned, and, as nothing further was heard, the Church has again gone to law. Expert opinions about the composition and taste of Mettwurst are much sought, while ancient recipes are to be put in as evidence. The tithepayers have declared their secession from the Church, and the Church has answered that they must nevertheless continue to deliver the sausage, as the obligation to do so rests on the property and not on the holder.

One question comments the London Times immediately demands an answer: Suppose the church had accepted the tithe, what would have been done with it? One hundred and thirty pounds of sausage—it is an idea so massive as to oppose the imagination of all but a hungry school-boy.

To The Pole By Submarine

(Manitoba Free Press)

Captain C. Hubert Wilkins is to attempt to visit the North Pole by submarine. This is the first time most of us realized that traffic the other way was getting too congested for comfort.

Sir Hubert has already taken over the reconditional undersea boat U-12, named it the Nautilus and prepared for a voyage where he can be certain there will be no competition. Many explorers have been to the North Pole but they have seen only the dry end. Captain Wilkins will be able to report back whether the other end has barnacles.

Some people can't get enough adventure. Sir Hubert is a pioneer Graf-Zeppelin hitch-hiker but wants something more dangerous. In a submarine dash to the Pole he will get it. A four-minute film of an Arctic trip without a single penguin would be the biggest screen novelty in years. Sir Hubert doesn't plan to linger around the Pole. He will merely see how it looks from below and proceed under the ice to Alaska, sailing by dead reckoning which is very much like swimming the English Channel in a sack.

Sir Hubert thinks he will find clear sailing under the ice and won't have to worry about the weather. But there will probably be moments when he and the crew will wish they



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were up on a nice big floating iceberg in a blinding blizzard.

There is no more embarrassing moment imaginable than being under the ice in a submarine when your engine stalls. The more you think of this kind of Polar trip the more you wonder why Houdini never included it in his repertoire.

Anyway, here's wishing Sir Hubert bon voyage! If a man wants to take a blindfold test in Arctic exploration it's his own business.

Brother Joseph

(Manitoba Free Press)

A notable figure of the world died on March 26 in Hawaii. This was Brother Joseph of Molokai. Though he spent more than half of his long span of eighty-seven years in a remote and mournful community from which no man who goes thither can return, Brother Joseph's name was as wide as that of the tragic and ancient disease with which he secluded himself.

Born Ira Dutton, of Stowe in the State of Vermont, he served in the American civil war, rose to the rank of captain, and twenty years after the war closed, being then a healthy man of forty-three, went to spend the rest of his days in a mission on the island of life in death, succeeding Father Damien as administrator of the leper colony, in the village of Kalawao. It is a matter of record that Brother Joseph could himself see nothing strange, or even deserving of comment, on his gift of forty-five years to his brothers who had the malady of Naaman.

A Puzzling Point

(Toronto Mail and Empire)

A caller in the editorial office yesterday, whose strong opinion had apparently lost him a bet, asked for assurances that the word "biannual" meant twice a year. We told him it meant once every two years, and pointed out that the Latin word bis was twice, and that when we bisected a thing, we cut it into two parts. "That's just my argument," he said, "when you bisect a year into two equal parts you get six months." And he departed confirmed in his original error.

Arctic Islands

(London Times)

Canada's title to the Arctic Islands known as the Sverdrup group has been formally recognized by Norway. The islands were discovered between 1898 and 1902 by Commander Otto Sverdrup, leader of the Norwegian Polar Expedition in the Fram, who took possession of them in the name of his Sovereign. But Canada had long claimed the whole area north of the mainland; the rights acquired by Great Britain were transferred to her in 1880 by Order in Council. The Sverdrup group was the one possible ground of dispute, which has been removed by the friendly action of the Norwegian Government. In the Pacific the ownership of Clipperton Island, disputed by the French and Mexican Governments, is stated to have been decided in favour of France by the King of Italy, who was asked to arbitrate.

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