

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1932

N. S. REDISTRIBUTION

The Nova Scotia Legislature has passed the second reading of the Redistribution Bill reducing the number of representatives from 40 to 30. That is, in future Nova Scotia will have the same number of representatives in its parliament as we have in ours. It has been felt for a very considerable time in the neighboring Province that the legislative part of the administration was top heavy, there being more members than necessary to efficiently carry on the affairs of the Province. After all, the administrative part is confined to the members of the government who take their inspiration and authority from the general body of legislators. For a Province of the size and population of Nova Scotia 30 members appears ample when we take into consideration that for the whole of the Dominion the number of representatives at Ottawa is 245. This, of course, brings us to the question of representation in our own legislature. Each succeeding premier for the past 30 years has felt that the representation should be cut in half; that instead of having two members from each constituency there should be but one. No premier, so far, has had the courage to take the initiative in introducing a measure to accomplish this end. It is safe to say that the affairs of the Province would be no worse, and probably considerably better, if handled by 15 instead of 30 members of the House.

ALL ABOUT SKUNKS

A few years ago skunks were rare in Prince Edward Island as snakes in Ireland since St. Patrick's time. Conditions, unfortunately, have changed in this respect. A number of these animals, kept in captivity by fur breeders, were unwisely released as a non-paying proposition and today it is complained that their progeny are virtually overrunning the western section of the Province. The Government has now placed a bounty on the head (or rather the snout) of every skunk killed and it is hoped by this means to again free the Island of this pest, which apart from the virulence of its maled odor is a prowling menace to every chicken-coop in its neighborhood. The skunk is a prolific breeder, and despite the Government bounty and the natural aversion in which the animal is held, the process of eradication will take some considerable time. Meanwhile, and in order to avoid embarrassing consequences, it might be well to keep in mind the usual resemblance which a skunk bears to a particularly nice-looking cat. The two animals are about the same size, though the skunk is of stouter and heavier build, with rich tawny black fur, varied on the back by a patch or streak of white. The muzzle is long and pointed, the eyes sharp and bead-like, and the grey or white tail is long and unusually bushy. So if one encounters a stray "cat" of this description, it would be advisable to resist the temptation to fondle it. This precaution is doubly necessary if one observes the animal's movements to be slow and deliberate. For the skunk doesn't often hurry himself in whatever he does. His ordinary gait is a measured walk. When pressed for time he breaks into a slow shuffling gallop. Though a comparative stranger in this Province, the skunk is by no means to be regarded as a "foreigner." In fact, his existence was first notified to European naturalists in 1636, in Gabriel Sagard's "History of Canada," where, in language which may possibly have been due to the author's experience of a personal encounter, the animal is described as "enfans du diable, que les Hurons appelle Carapance. . . the best fort chemicals and contaminates everywhere." This description, at any time it hits on explosion. Occurrence, shows in what reputation the pants of a car struck by an egg cided odor also.

skunk was then held, a reputation which has become so notorious that the mere name is one of opprobrium. Yet even the skunk has his defenders. Dr. C. H. Merriam in his "Mammals of the Adirondack Region" (1884) says: "Of all our native mammals perhaps no one is so universally abused and has so many unpleasant things said about it. . . and yet no other species is half so valuable to the farmer. Prevalent to the insect-eater, he destroys more beetles, grasshoppers and the like than all our other mammals together, and in addition to these he devours vast numbers of mice."

Dr. Merriam, however, supplies his own reason for the animal's unpopularity when he comes to describe its atrocious odor. "I have known," he says, "the scent to become strikingly apparent in every part of a well-closed house, in winter, within five minutes after a skunk had been killed at a distance of more than a hundred yards"; and other writers have declared that "under favourable (?) conditions the scent may be perceived at a distance of more than a mile."

Normally the skunk is cleanly and free from smell; it is only when he is attacked or becomes alarmed that he brings into action the devastating secretion from his anal glands. His "shooting range" is from six to twelve feet, and his marksmanship is said to be remarkably good. It is best, therefore, to treat this outlaw with respect. He always travels "armed" and the safest way to engage with him is at the extreme end of a clothes-pole, or better still, with a hefty brick-bat or shotgun.

TO BE POSTPONED

Latest advices from Ireland indicate that President De Valera is anxious that the Free State should not be excluded from the Ottawa Imperial Economic Conference and, therefore, has decided to delay the final stages of the Oath Bill until the Fall, or until the Ottawa Conference has concluded. It seems that the governments of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have despatched notes to the government of the Irish Free State urging it to seek the preservation of the bonds which tie it to the British Commonwealth of nations, and to refrain from action which might endanger its continuance as a member of the Empire. Such representation coming from members of the Empire of equal standing are more likely to carry weight with the Free State Government than appeals or persuasions from the Mother Country. The feeling still prevails among a large section of the Irish people that to listen to a request from, or to consider an argument submitted by, Great Britain is tantamount to admitting the superiority of the Mother Country. The British Government is, therefore, carefully avoiding intervening in the present crisis beyond setting forth its insistence upon the validity of treaty rights. Perhaps the Ottawa Conference comes as a God-send to President De Valera, providing as it does an excuse for delay, and after all time is in favor of the Free State remaining an integral part of the Empire.

AN EGG BOMB

They have crime problems in England as well as in the gangster-infested centres of the republic to the south of us. But the British way of dealing with criminals is somewhat different. A recent London despatch to the New York Times and Montreal Gazette cites a case in point. It states that the chief weapon in England's new war against automobile bandits will be a secret "egg bomb", with which the experience of a personal encounter, every policeman will be provided. The missile, invented by a former army officer, contains adhesive chemicals and contaminates everywhere. This description, at any time it hits on explosion. Occurrence, shows in what reputation the pants of a car struck by an egg cided odor also.

NOTES BY THE WAY

We say that we can do nothing definite or positive until the Ottawa Conference is over. Then, as Mr. Baldwin suggests, if the results are inconclusive or disappointing, we shall turn our eyes again towards Europe. But the question which most concerns us, can we be content with the inferior role which will be imposed on us if we are compelled to mark time from now onwards until the Ottawa Conference is over, which may well be the end of the year? It seems to me that this may be the most critical period of world economic history, and cause us to forfeit the lead for which Europe has hitherto looked to us, in time of trouble.—London News Chronicle.

Seven sorrowful but determined parents vigorously wielded the strap under the watchful eye of a detention officer upon seven juvenile warehouse breakers, ranging in age from 13 to 15 years. This unusual if not unprecedented scene occurred in Winnipeg some time ago. The lads admitted that they had broken three times into a warehouse and stolen machinery and automotive equipment to the value of more than \$250. The lads deserved some punishment for their offences and the judge showed good sense in turning them over to their parents. If they had been sent to a reformatory they would have carried a certain stigma and might have become worse lads. The ridicule involved in spanking will probably be a greater deterrent than the pain inflicted.

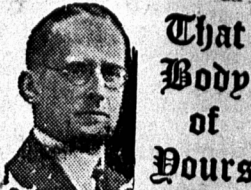
Canada has comfortable and certain trains, excellent automobile roads, first class hotels—and pays a premium on American money. To reach Canada from United States, there are no oceans to cross. There are no bars and embarrassments of language. We are right next door. Canada's tourist business declined from 300 millions in 1930 to 200 millions in 1931. It will decline still further in 1932 unless steps are taken to revive it through extensive and intelligent advertising.

With regard to foreign affairs in general the temper of the United States at present, judging by Congress, the tone of the press and the conversation of the man on the street, is strongly nationalist. Isolation has been perhaps more a Republican than a Democratic doctrine. The Democrat Woodrow Wilson conceived the idea of declaring the establishment of a year's moratorium on intergovernmental debts, which gave rise to a storm of nationalism. It therefore appears that, barring a war or some economic catastrophe of magnitude in the United States or Europe, Canadians cannot anticipate as a result of the elections a change in the government at Washington which would fundamentally readjust the international situation, and Canada must consider the interests of her own people.

Canada's High Commissioner in England says that the coming Economic Conference will be the "greatest force for good the world has ever known." This may be a little extravagant as a statement, but the Conference certainly will be important, for good or otherwise, as bearing on the future of Canada and the Empire as a whole. If it fails to bring the Empire closer together in trade and in other things it will be a great disappointment, but in the present temper of the people in the Mother Country as well as in the various Dominions it can scarcely fail.

The Government of Canada didn't intervene until a parliamentary investigation showed Beauharnois being slaughtered to make a Roman holiday for a few motorists and politicians. That having been shown, no Government could do other than intervene. Here and in Europe, says the New York Sun, the Smith proposal of an export subsidy applicable to the war debts provokes the cry of "cancellation." Far from being cancellation, it should stop the European cancellation propaganda, which is utterly hopeless. No administration at Washington will consent to erasing absolutely debts which, in a few years, Europe may well be able to pay. Nobody who knows Al Smith will suspect that he had any motive other than the stimulation of export trade.

bomb will be indelibly marked, assisting in the capture. It is understood that the bomb "leaves a definite mark on the pants of a car struck by an egg cided odor also."



By James W. Barton, M.D.

AN ORGANIZATION THAT WANTS TO KEEP YOU WELL

I believe the public and the dental profession are to be congratulated on the fact that it is considered only good sense to have the teeth examined once or twice a year. The patient saves money, saves his teeth, and is spared considerable pain by this arrangement.

Just why the public and the medical profession have not completed a similar arrangement whereby the patient undergoes a thorough examination at least once a year is easy to understand. For hundreds of years disease was looked upon as something that could not be prevented, and the public is not fully awake to the fact that that day is past, that disease is not "an accident" against which no precautions can be taken, for during recent years many diseases have been made preventable through the advance of medical science.

In children's diseases there is no more the dread of diphtheria, of scarlet fever, of infantile paralysis and other diseases, as there was a few years ago.

With adults there is no longer the danger of typhoid fever, pernicious anaemia, diabetes and other diseases, because medical science can not only cure many ailments, but can also prevent them.

Why then do people die of many ailments if they may be prevented? Simply because they have not learned that it is unwise to wait until disease comes, that they should see their family doctor and get a thorough examination at least once a year.

Just as you arrange to see your dentist although you know of no cavity or root infection in the teeth, so also should you see your doctor while you are in good health and know of no reason why you should not remain in good health.

Now you are interested in your health because it is your biggest asset. Do you know that some other organization wants to keep you well, wants to prevent your death? The insurance companies naturally want you to remain well, and pay your premiums, because they must pay over a considerable sum of money to your dependents when you die.

What are they doing about preventing your health? They are actually providing the physical examination free of charge to policy holders, and paying the doctors themselves.

You can rest assured that if it pays the insurance companies to keep you well, it should certainly pay you to get this annual physical examination.

The Poet's Corner

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Farewell to the island, a garden so sweet, That lures like a lover the wayfarer's feet; Its pastoral beauty in symphony set, Like Emerald gems I shall never forget.

Farewell to the island, traditions that last Are writ on the page of her grand, storied past; The brain and the brawn of her bravest and best, Were nourished and fed from the Maritime's breast.

Farewell to the island, the dim hillsides fade In the mists that encircle the ever-green glade; Farewell to the Gulf, and the bright, sparkling streams, Farewell to the island, the land of my dreams.

—Isabel Graham, in the Winnipeg Free Press.

The proposals of the American delegation to the Geneva Conference on Armaments are worse than absurd, says the Chicago Tribune. They represent the degeneration of American defense policy which has been going on in recent years and with accelerated motion under Mr. Hoover. They represent the inordinate influence of organized pacifism and political idealism upon the present direction of our diplomacy, an influence without sanction in American public opinion and without respect for American interest.

"There is more to fear from frozen minds than from frozen assets."—Ogden L. Mills.

The Poets Of Spring

(Montreal Gazette)

Almost instinctively we fall to describing springtime by three signs, the leaves, flowers and song-birds. Is it not written in the best of books, "Lo! Winter is past and the time of the singing of birds is come"? They are the best of poets. All human craftsmen of that ilk are but secondary agents. They plagiarize unblushingly, picking their material from the little fellows who begin the annual song-fest when the sugar-snows whiten the earth and the pussy-willows put forth their earliest buds. The crow has a raucous voice, suitable, perhaps, to his black garb and sedate mien. Yet he means well enough. But the mistle-thrust starts in early and the starlings have a habit of singing from rain-soaked boughs. In some parts of England the 14th of April is known as "Cuckoo Day," and indeed Wordsworth is not far wrong in describing the whole landscape as a "cuckoo wandering voice." In this country, by the time the bluebirds and robins have put in an appearance, and the oriole and song-sparrow are looking for a nook in which to nest, the general chorus is well on its way. And the gift of music nowhere finds sweeter nor more passionate expression than within the throats of these humble creatures who gladden the atmosphere with their "melodious madness" and from under the eaves, or in leafy galleries, pipe their merry tune to our advantage, putting new hope and new courage into the heart of the wayfarer who, haply, notices how these feathered folk build their nests in the tree-tops "half-way houses on the way to Heaven."

Some expert in England has said that the bird choirists in that country have forty different melodies in their repertoire, ranging from the "strong tempestuous treble" that throbs in the throat of the nightingale to the plain chant of the cuckoo or the lyric of the hedge-row-hunting thrush. It is said that the young birds inherit the notation of their parents and will repeat it even though they may never have heard from their elders the strain. Also that, if caged amongst a host of others who belong to a different minstrel family, each representative in the chorus will keep to his own ditty. Do the birds enjoy their own music? Why not? We can hardly imagine them singing at all, or with such blithesome spirit and marvellous zest, unless they themselves rejoice to do so and shout forth the gladness that fills their hearts to the world. We owe much to these carollers. The distances they traverse is a matter for astonishment. Just how a little winged creature covers, mayhap, the space of a thousand miles to find his way back to the familiar nesting place is one of those mysteries of migration which scientists today are investigating. One of the encouraging features of modern educational efforts is the way in which children are being taught to take a friendly interest in these folk-gay singers of the summer day. It is good work.

Faith And Energy

(Victoria Daily Colonist.)

In some quarters it is well to know that the processes of sanity govern thought in consideration of the present state of human affairs. All men are not pessimists; all do not agree that because something goes temporarily wrong with their material fortunes there is something inherently at fault with the functions and duties of government and with government itself as at present constituted. There are optimists who can see the bright side in any eventuality. They do not yield to cynicism or disheartenment. They have a better understanding of the method and character of human progress than to believe that there can be any such thing as floundering in a mire of hopeless futility.

The lesson of the time, according to Dr. Albert Shaw, editor of The American Review of Reviews, is that we must either strive for better things or else drift towards worse things. He sees a gleam of truth in the doctrine that a man must run as hard as he can if he is to stay where he is. It may be hard to row up-stream when the currents are strong, but it requires all the greater effort to reach the stretch of quiet water and secure anchorage. It is a matter of courage and strength, not one of repining against fate or some imaginary dispensation under which men labor. Whatever dispensation there is of a mundane character has been men's own creation and the blame rests with themselves. As Dr. Shaw says:

"They have no reason to despair of fine visions, or to abandon generous hopes. No simple panacea or magic formula will cure the ills that beset mankind. We must first analyze situations that confront us, and act upon the belief that it is well worth while to seek means to conquer the obstacles one after another that lie in the way of further advance towards the ends that

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Memories Of The Little Church At West Point, P. E. I.

(Oakland Maple Leaf)

Religion to me will always be a vital thing because my first impressions were gained in the little church of West Point whose founders belonged to the staunch and true who had the kindness and the love of their fellow man deeply interwoven in their nature. Here the major events of birth and of death called out the sympathy and love of the entire community.

The church itself is vivid in memory yet. The very epitome of elegance was typified to me in the red plush balls that hung from the Bible stand in the pulpit. How those would delight me! Then the congregation would start to arrive, and how I would love to hear some one's shoes make a delightful squeak as he walked up the aisle. Some how it always seems that we should have a similar squeak in our buildings even yet.

Then I could see, from my seat, right out a window, the familiar horses coming down the road. Every one knew exactly who that was who drove the chestnut horse, white faced, etc. Then the nearby ones would walk down the road. Familiar-yet strange and awesome in their Sunday best and not till they got home again and assumed their more ordinary clothes did I feel as though they really belonged in this workaday world.

Finally the pastor, Rev. A. MacLean would arrive and mount the steps to the pulpit. The tuning fork would be brought into use and finally we would hear the long meter tunes being sung by all.

The little plush covered plates for collection to me were something quite different from anything else, and who can guess the feeling of solemnity the sacrament imposed on me even if I was too young to really know what it was all about.

When I was two, or a little over my baby brother was christened in the church and I remember being told that I went up with the rest and sat on the step while the ceremony was performed, no doubt pleased to be able to get a closer view of those wonderful red plush balls.

Do you think that we with our modernism have done as much as we could to keep alive the spirit expressed by the poet when he says that "Man to man the whole world o'er Will brothers be and a that."

No Complaints

(St. John's, Newfoundland Evening Telegram)

According to the Canadian Press despatch published in yesterday's Telegram, the Manchester Guardian expressed the opinion that the despatch of a British warship to St. John's might be regarded as an undue interference in the affairs of this Dominion by the Mother Country. From that point of view, there is little likelihood that exception will be taken to the arrival of H. M. S. "Dragon". Little enthusiasm has been shown over the new status conferred upon Newfoundland by the Statute of Westminster. In fact considerable doubts have been expressed as to whether it would be to the country's advantage in its present stage of development to be left "to paddle its own canoe." The benevolent guiding hand of Britain has not been regarded as anything but helpful in the past, and its withdrawal in exchange for the doubtful advantage of being mistress of our own house has occasioned regret and even misgiving.

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The Walls Of Jericho (London Daily Telegraph) How the walls of Jericho fell to the trumpets of Joshua has been discovered, Sir Charles Marston tells us, by the last excavations. Earlier and rather conjectural scepticism had instructed us that the narrative in the Old Testament was rhetoric and metaphor. "The wall fell down flat," one orthodox modern commentary interprets, "is merely literary hyperbole." But Professor Garstang's excavations show that the wall did actually fall down, and fell outside in the manner most convenient for a besieging force to enter the city. The cause of the collapse was indeed not the march of the Hebrew host, or its trumpet peals, but an earthquake.

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Periodic Eye Examinations Don't wear your glasses for five or ten years, as some do, without re-examination, for in that time serious changes are vitally important, whether one's eyes are good or otherwise. may take place, which if not discovered, may work permanent injury to the most precious sense you possess. Guard your eyes. G. F. HUTCHESON OPTOMETRIST

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