

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1920

HALLOWE'EN.

Hallowe'en this year falls on Sunday. Our young people and possibly some of our older people, not to be deprived of their annual night of fun and frolic will celebrate the occasion tonight as no doubt the witches and the hob-goblins and fairies will be just as much in evidence on the night before as on the night itself, particularly when the latter is Sunday.

With the witches and the ghosts who walk abroad on Hallowe'en we have no objection. Those who are desirous of anticipating their future destiny by consulting the various oracles which function exclusively on Hallowe'en are at perfect liberty to do so; they will at least get much amusement and possibly some comfort from it and the witches and the ghosts have always been respectable and more or less reliable—when encountered.

The thing we object to and which all self-respecting young people will also object to, when they think over it calmly, is the hooliganism that too often breaks out on Hallowe'en. We feel assured that none of our young people would willingly injure a neighbor yet it has frequently happened that neighbors have been injured through youngsters pranks on Hallowe'en, pranks begun in fun and, under the influence of the gang spirit which so often takes charge of a crowd of youngsters, developed into veritable rowdyism and vandalism.

In pretty nearly every gang of either young or old people there are one or two who are liable to carry things to excess. These lead into mischief and the innocent follow them incurring the blame and the responsibility for what they may be really innocent of and, often too, doing things which, without leadership, they would never think of doing.

We are informed that the police will be out tonight watching the ghosts and the witches. We trust that none of the boys or girls will be caught doing anything they should not do but we also hope, cruel as it may seem, that if any of them are doing mischief they will be caught and severely punished, for punishment often is the only thing that can save us from ourselves.

THE AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL.

It is encouraging to note that the government has modified its programme in connection with the Agricultural High School to the extent at least of abandoning the idea of boarding the pupils in the institution at four dollars a week. This, as the Guardian pointed out, would have necessitated an expensive staff of cooks, servants and supervisors, the cost of which the four dollars a week would not make a perceptible impression upon. The intention, according to the latest announcement is that the students will have the privilege of boarding, near the school, if possible, at a cost of six to seven dollars a week.

With the idea of paying the students a bonus of forty dollars each for attendance there will, we believe, be little sympathy. It is a poor compliment to the school and a move of very doubtful wisdom to attempt to induce students to attend by paying them a bonus and it is not at all improbable that the attendance will be limited to those who receive the bonus. This will mean 45 students who will receive in all \$1,800. The school will have accommodation for 75 students. If inducements were necessary it would have been much better to have given all the students the benefit and divided the \$1,800 among them by way of a rebate on board or otherwise.

We have no desire to throw cold-water on the project but the evidences of impracticability and reckless extravagance in connection with the whole undertaking from the beginning have been so unmistakable that we can only regard it as foredoomed to failure—unless a radical change is made in the whole business. The building itself is utterly unsuited, the heating alone will be out of all proportions, to say nothing of the cost of providing expert teachers on the scale projected. As said in a previous reference, the idea of an agricultural high school is a good one but, it is no use mincing matters the proposition as it now stands, even as modified, is impracticable.

FARMERS, ATTENTION! PLEASE

YOU HAVE YOUR OWN PROSPERITY AT HEART, HAVE YOU NOT? OF COURSE; NATURALLY, WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO YOU AFTER GOOD CROPS?

TRANSPORTATION!

IF YOU CANNOT GET YOUR PRODUCTS TO THE MARKETS OF THE WORLD YOUR BIG CROPS ARE USELESS. COME TO THE MEETING AT ST. MARGARET'S ON MONDAY NIGHT AND HEAR THE QUESTION THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED AND ALSO ENJOY A GOOD ILLUSTRATED LECTURE. MEETING STARTS AT 8 P. M. REMEMBER IT'S

ST. MARGARET'S

CURRENT COMMENT

The gyrations of tariff, or rather anti-tariff, hair splitters would be amusing is a subject of such importance to the country could be made the groundwork for—jest. Solemnly the Liberal and the Farmer politicians declare that they have absolutely abandoned Free Trade, and that it is no longer an issue in Canada. With equal fervor they tell us that protection has built up the country, that it is absolutely essential to our existence in the world of industry and commerce, and alike for purposes of revenue and subsistence to the home market it must be retained. This view is now acquiesced in by practically all their leaders and the whole of their press, and yet they continue to syrate, like senseless moths around a blazing light, fanatically around these discarded dogmas. For instance, The United Farmers Guide devotes a large percentage of editorial space, and in addition about seven full columns of contributed matter to a conjuring up of all kinds of argument and denunciations of tariffs and protection, and of unmeasured eulogies of the excellencies of free trade. And so, though to the very end every man Jack of them is pursuing the same course.

Now if free trade is the wonder worker and the nation builder that they so eloquently describe, why have they relegated it to the scrap heap; and likewise if protection is the damnable drawback to the country and its prosperity which they claim it to be, why are they so vehemently declaring that it must and will be retained as the fundamental fiscal policy of Canada? In this they are only proclaiming the abundance of their hypocrisy. They pretend to believe that free trade is right and protection wrong, but because the political barometer tells them they can never navigate into power through the surging billows and over the rock strewn reefs of their beliefs, they are willing to sail in the smoother waters of grovelling hypocrisy, or through any shameful channel, so long as they can reach the goal of their ambitions—the purse strings of power. Thus in order to attract the straggling free trade vote they preach this doctrine which they admit is not in their party program, and with the vain hope of netting some stragglers from the other side they declare for a policy which they persistently denounce as the damnation of the country. And such men as these have the gall to ask for public confidence.

The Guide's seven columns of anti-tariff stuff upon analysis displays about five percent of argument, ten percent of ancient history, fifteen percent of quotations and comparisons and about seventy percent of what the adulterated pen manufacturer calls "pumpkin filler." In its history portion it

Daily Selections Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

THE TRAGEDY OF AGE.

An old gentleman entered a business house with which I am connected a few days ago bearing beneath his arm a parcel of books. In a halting, apologetic way he inquired of the assistants if they desired any books to read, and would they purchase one or two of him? The books were from his own shelves, he timorously ventured; adding, circumstances nowadays were very hard. Youth has a feeling for age in distress, and a volume or two changed hands.

The incident, however, revealed poignantly the plight of the aged and unwanted, an acute problem of to-day, which has been overshadowed by the multitudinous questions of post-war England. That it is urgent and bordering on tragedy there can be no question. This morning I saw further evidence of its reality. To my door came an old man carrying bucket and ladder. He solicited windows to clean. He was a man advanced in years, possessing an air of respectability that in the circumstances was painful to witness. Later, in a neighboring street, I saw another, of even shabbier gentility, going from door to door distributing tradesmen's circulars, and as I passed him the eyes that met mine appeared to convey a tragic note of protest.

This desperate condition of the aged has arisen through the economic situation of the country created by the War and the decrease in the purchasing power of money. The hundreds of men retired from the civil services, police, dockyards, and public services generally, who were in receipt of a modest pension before the war and happy in their contentment, have during the last year or two been living in an atmosphere of anxiety and despair, and in the effort to maintain themselves and their dependents have had to seek any sort of spare job which would bring in a little ready money.

garbles the records of protection and free trade in England and France, having especial reference to the Napoleonic, Elizabethan, Cromwellian period. Boil down its whole argument to the reduction of actual fact, and correct it to accord with actual history, and we have it that, with agriculture comprising practically the whole nation, with no markets to absorb the immense excess of production, the farming interests demanded and secured protection as a means of building up native industries and providing home markets for their products. This protection made Great Britain the largest and greatest manufacturing country in the world. The farmer was no longer starving for a remunerative market for his produce or for employment for the excess of boys from the farm. Then in later days when the nation became a manufacturing people, unable to feed themselves within their own territory, and requiring cheap food-stuffs and raw material to enable them to compete with German and United States manufacturers, free trade, by a process of gradation, was adopted. When Canada's food production is insufficient to feed her manufacturing multitude, as in the case of Great Britain, free trade will be a live and a sensible issue, and not till then.

Another of the Guide's illusive statements is that "the price which he receives for the exported portion determines the price which he receives for the portion marketed at home." This is one of the instances in which truth is utilized for the purpose of deception, for of a truth the laws of supply and demand, and the exportable value of an article is always a determining factor in appraising it for home sale. But it positively does not determine the excess value of the home market to the producer over and above the value of foreign outlet. For a concrete instance take our Island potatoes. The export price today is, say 60 cents. Is there a farmer in the province who does not get a higher price from the home consumer than from the shipper? Last week potatoes sold on our public squares, to private consumers at prices ranging from 70 cents to \$1.00. If the increased price given by the home consumer amounted to only 10 cents per bushel, and certainly exceeds this, how many millions of dollars does it mean to the producers of the country? This same rule applies to every article used in our home markets, and the fact is one which anti-tariff agitators can not successfully camouflage, for it is the every day living experience of every citizen of the country who has either to sell his produce, or to purchase it whether for home consumption or export abroad.

The Guide's next buncombe is that "the Canadian Manufacturer does live up to the level of his tariff protection" and that he does "take undue advantage of the tariff by adding freight and duty to selling price." If this were true, which has not been proven, what relation would it have to the principle of protection? Perhaps our friends will argue to repeal the criminal code because some people persist in stealing and committing crimes. And what of the manufacturer adding the freight which he is bound to pay, to his selling price? Doesn't the farmer add the freights of his produce to the cost when selling to the consumer? Whom does it expect to pay these freights: do they travel free? Follow the argument a little further. Suppose that instead of a tariff the Government were to absolutely prohibit importation, what then would regulate prices? If their argument is worth a dime there would be no limit to the cost of articles, and the biggest thief would be the most prosperous, for according to their theory neither competition nor supply and demand would be a factor in regulating prices, and the farmer would rush to pay a thousand dollars to the profiteer for a mow which another dealer would supply for two hundred. The Guide has an article headed "Piffle." It is misplaced and should have headed its seven columns.

In conclusion it dramatically declares that "Protectionism is of the very essence of war." "It was the spirit . . . that ruined the efforts for a real peace" and "that threatens to ruin the League of Nations," most surely a terrible indictment. And yet, that they may attain power and absorb the filthy emoluments of office, the Liberals and the United Farmers are willing to condone all these alleged iniquities, to stand by this destructive fiscal policy, and to throw overboard that exquisite darling of Free Trade which they have nurtured so affectionately for the last forty years. Truly this is hypocrisy in its vilest political form.

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

Lady Maud Mackintosh with her little daughter, Miss Arabella Mackintosh, is returning to England by the Mauretania next week, after a visit of several months to her parents, the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, and will be accompanied by her cousin, Lady Blanche Beresford, who has also been a guest at Government House, and by the Earl of Dalkeith. Lady Blanche Beresford has left for Washington, D. C. to spend a few days there at the British Embassy before sailing from New York.

Colonel the Hon. Harold Henderson and Lady Violet Henderson and their guest, Miss Orr Ewing, are also leaving Ottawa next week and sailing by the Mauretania for England for a few months' stay.

Lord and Lady Shaughnessy received a cable from London Tuesday announcing the engagement of the Hon. Mrs. Alfred Shaughnessy to Captain the Hon. Piers Walter Leigh, second son of Lord Newton, and at one time A. D. C., to the Duke of Connaught, while Governor-General of Canada. Capt Leigh accompanied His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to Canada last autumn. The Hon. Mrs. Shaughnessy was formerly Miss Sarah Polk Bradford, daughter of the late Judge Bradford, of Nashville, Tennessee, and is the widow of Captain, the Hon. A. T. Shaughnessy, son of Lord and Lady Shaughnessy, who was killed in action in 1916.

The Mac Edwards Company have delighted large audiences all week in the Prince Edward Theatre with their bright, witty plays and lively music, their jazz band being especially liked.

The Saturday afternoon meetings at the Women's Club were resumed last week with a congenial gathering of ladies who whiled away a few hours very pleasantly with Bridge and a social chat over the teacups.

Major A. A. Barlett's lecture on Monday evening gave a great deal of pleasure to the large audience that assembled in the Hertz Memorial Hall to greet him. The Major's lectures are always a real literary treat.

An event of unusual interest to the Charlottetown public took place last Tuesday evening when Mrs. Ruby B. Lord became the wife of Lieut. Philip B. Palmer, Head of the Vocational Branch of the D.S. C. R. St. Paul's Church was filled to its utmost capacity to witness the ceremony. The popular young couple received many beautiful presents, among them being a handsome silver tea service from the bridegroom's office staff and a cut glass and silver cheese dish from the Manager of the Fisheries Dept. where the bride held an important position. The Guardian joins with their many friends in extending heartfelt congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Palmer.

Mrs. Charles C. Thompson, Montague was "at home" on Wednesday afternoon and evening, to a very large number of friends. Mrs. George A. Thompson received with the bride, who looked exceedingly sweet in turquoise blue. Miss Marjorie Mabon opened the door, Mrs. Matilda McDonald and Mrs. H. J. Mabon graciously poured tea and coffee, while Mrs. Hagen and Miss McMullan served. The rooms were artistically decorated with yellow chrysanthemums and maidenhair ferns, for the occasion. Mrs. Thompson is a very winsome bride, and is being cordially welcomed to Montague, where she will have many friends.

Mrs. W. Hillhouse and sister, Miss Emma Nicholson are being cordially welcomed home on a visit to their parents, Mr. Donald Nicholson, M. P., and Mrs. Nicholson.

Another event to which the ladies are looking forward with pleasure is the annual at home of the Charlottetown Club which this year takes place on the 25th of November. This is always looked upon as the big social event of the year and already the ladies are making engagements with their customers in anticipation of the occasion.

Rev. H. C. Light of Dartmouth, who has been appointed Priest during the illness of Canon Simpson.

Continued On Page Three.

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THE PUBLIC FORUM

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

Important To Fox Men

Sir: May I, through the valuable columns of your paper, direct the attention of the fur-farmers and other interests of Prince Edward Island associated with the development of the fox-ranching industry to one or two points in connection with the Live Silver Fox Exhibition to be held in Montreal, Nov. 24th, 25th and 26th. The Commission of Conservation has assumed a very large proportion of the responsibility of organizing this Exhibition and we have been successful in our efforts to secure the co-operation and financial assistance of the Dominion and the Provincial governments of Eastern Canada which are essential if this initial Exhibition is to be a success. In undertaking this work, the Commission of Conservation has been actuated solely by its appreciation of the value of the fur-farming industry and by its belief that such Exhibition will contribute more than any other factor toward securing adequate recognition of the fox-ranching business as a legitimate branch of scientific animal husbandry. I need hardly point out that the success of this Exhibition depends upon the hearty support and co-operation of the fur-farmers of Prince Edward Island, and strongly urge that the attendance of Island fur-farmers and the number of animals exhibited by them be made as large as possible. We wish to draw attention particularly to the fact that the Exhibition is international in character and that, judging from present indications, there will be a very strong list of entries of foxes from

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the United States. It will be a most unfortunate outcome if at this first Exhibition, the Canadian Fur-farming industry, centred largely in Prince Edward Island, should, for any reason, fail to uphold its reputation as the leading factor in the Fur-farming industry. While the organization of such an Exhibition presents many difficulties and involves a tremendous amount of labor, the Commission of Conservation will feel amply repaid for its efforts if the Exhibition achieves the double purpose of establishing beyond all question the soundness of the Fur-farming industry, and the pre-eminence of Canadian ranch-bred foxes. This achievement depends largely, if not entirely, upon the whole-hearted co-operation of Prince Edward Island breeders. Entries should be made immediately. Entry forms and full information can be obtained from Mr. (Continued on Page Eight.)

Great Saving Prices on Dress Goods. PRICES THAT WILL PLEASE ALL and put money in your pocket, Just at the season when every cent counts. A SWEEPING SALE IN OUR DRESS GOODS DEPARTMENT is necessary and our prices are so low that every lady in P. E. Island can have a new dress at a fraction of what it cost formerly. We can even sell you the pattern to make it by and PATONS STYLES are the BEST.

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