

# THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1930

## The Acid Test

The Hon. Robert Weir, Federal Minister of Agriculture, concluded his recent enunciation of important new policies in agriculture with a reference to what he considered the real test of the worth of a national policy. "In working out any national policy in agriculture that I undertake, I place myself mentally in some simple farm home," he said. "Many of them come to my mind when I am working on these problems. I judge everything by that alone. If the policy when enunciated does not leave the impress in the farm home, then I know you will agree with me, it is not worthy of the name of a national policy of agriculture."

## Crime Decrease in Britain

Discussing the recommendation of a select committee that capital punishment in the United Kingdom be abolished for an experimental period of five years, the New York Herald-Tribune observes that this is an extremely interesting suggestion.

The United Kingdom, notwithstanding the industrial depression which has gripped it ever since the close of the World War, has become in the meantime a relatively crimeless country. Its murder rate is the lowest in the civilized world. It has seen fit in the last decade to abandon something like twenty-seven prisons for want of inmates to populate them. And yet all the while its machinery of justice has functioned with an efficiency and a precision which are the despair of the American system and the envy of other countries. Surely there could be no better soil for the experiment mentioned.

For the question of capital punishment is not one to be decided in the abstract. Its answer depends entirely on the community involved. There are regions in United States, says the Herald-Tribune, and doubtless in Europe and elsewhere, where the absence of official execution would result in an immediate resort to lynchings and other forms of mob violence. Far better that the occasional criminal be put out of the way by the state after an impartial trial than that murderous feuds and lynchings be encouraged to wreak indiscriminate vengeance. The thing is really a local problem, to be solved according to the frequency and quality of the murders that occur within a given jurisdiction and the temper of the populace.

The society that can hold its homicide rate at a minimum and maintain order without recourse to capital punishment is justified in abandoning it. England appears to belong to the former category. For this reason one may hope that Parliament will adopt the recommendation of its select committee.

## Looking To Ottawa

In a leading editorial entitled "Looking To Ottawa," The London Times takes the Ramsay MacDonald Government to task for the lethargy and incoherence which it displayed at the recent Imperial Conference. It wants to know what is really in the minds of the British Labor ministers with regard to Imperial economic unity. It asks if they actually mean business in regard to the wheat quota proposal. It says that Canada and Australia have a right to know—especially in view of the alarming dumping campaign of the Soviet Republics.

The Times continues:

"And how do they (the British Labor ministers) interpret the undertaking which they have given the dominions not to reduce the existing preferential margins for three years, subject to the right of the United Kingdom Parliament to fix the budget from year to year? The Government apparently regard their declaration on preferential margins as applying to the McKenna duties, but not to the safeguarding duties which expire next month; but the dominion Governments attach so much importance to this pledge, the sole concrete out-

come of the conference on its economic side, that it would be dangerous not to clear up, at once and authoritatively, the doubts which have been created by its ambiguous phrasing. To what duties precisely does the declaration apply? And what is intended to be the effect of the caveat reserving the budget rights of the United Kingdom Parliament?"

The Times, which is still the most influential organ of public opinion in Great Britain, insists that the people of Canada and the other dominions, as well as the people of Great Britain, have a right to be fully informed upon this point at the earliest possible date. Such information is essential in view of the preparations which will be necessary in all parts of the Empire with a view to the adjourned Imperial Conference at Ottawa about the middle of the coming year.

## Books Old and New

Protesting against the habit—a prevailing one among even that portion of the reading public of today which studies serious literature,—of reading almost nothing but books of the day, Bishop Gore puts forward an eloquent plea for the older classics:

"To read the books of the day ministers, no doubt, to the extension of knowledge, and to the intellectual curiosity which desires a succession of fresh excitements. But it does not commonly minister to the establishment of stable convictions for life. Yet behind all the changes in the human outlook and all the developments of knowledge, which produce such sharp contrasts between different epochs, is there not such a thing as the permanent manhood, the fundamental man, with his instincts, passions, appetites, reason, imagination, will, and his ideals, struggles, failures, realizations? Do not the pleasure and profit of reading the 'classical' literature of other ages than our own lie just in this—that it forces upon us the recognition of this unchanging manhood— which was and is and is to be? We shake hands across the ages as well as across differences of nationality, with brother man, and amongst brother men with the Great Man who stands for all time, not as infallible indeed, but as an ever-enduring witness to something essential in the worth and progress of humanity is to be maintained.

"The truly great Have all one age, and from one visible sphere Shed influence, and time is not with them. Save as it worketh through them, they in it."

## More Livestock

The desirability of paying more attention to the livestock industry was emphasized recently by Premier Tolmie, of British Columbia, who said that the province produced only 15 per cent. of the pork it consumed, less than half the lamb, and only half enough beef in a year to keep the consumers going for seven months. He might have added, says the Vancouver Province, something about the large butter imports. British Columbia's livestock industry is, no doubt, supplying a greater share of the needs of the province than it was, say, fifteen or twenty years ago; but it is still inadequate to the requirements of the home market.

Of course continues the Province, what Premier Tolmie said of British Columbia is, in a measure, true of all Canada and of the prairie provinces in particular. The prairies have pinned their faith to wheat, and wheat, during the past two years, has failed them. The prairies will, no doubt, continue to grow wheat, as their staple product. But having received a very severe lesson on the folly of putting all their eggs in one basket, they may be expected to attempt a diversification of their investments. The difficulty will be for them to get a start.

## Editorial Notes

The British House of Commons has adjourned until Jan. 21, and the Labor Government can count upon a whole month of secure tenure of office.

District Attorney Fisher of Pennsylvania has inaugurated a drive to exile witchcraft practitioners and "pow-wow" doctors from York County. Civilization in the neighboring republic is a slow process.

## Notes by the Way

Let not the spirit of Christmas die with the passing of the day. The field for Christmas liberality is open from year's end to year's end and the need for it unfortunately remains while it is everlastingly true "that the poor you shall always have with you." In so highly favoured a country as ours where there is more than sufficient to meet the needs of all, there should be no unsatisfied need. It is for those who believe in the spirit of Christmas to see to it that there shall be no want or suffering. The liberality so generously exemplified during the past few days will have been greatly discounted if it ceases to function with the end of the Christmas season.

Truth to tell, the governments of the world have shown little enthusiasm (at the preparatory disarmament gathering at Geneva) for the job of disarming and a glance ahead shows rather alarming possibilities of political changes that may embitter nationalistic feelings. Unless persons of goodwill the world over can arouse a clamor against the wicked waste of money on preparations for slaughter, the world situation is likely to go from bad to worse.

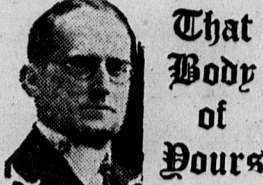
Where asks the Brockville Recorder and Times are the financial speed artists today? All out of business and many in jail. They imagined their dazzling speed would accomplish everything, without being impeded by sane control, with failure and worse as the result. Speed is essential, optimism and enthusiasm requisite, but the process that has been in course of operation for some years of discarding experience for experiments has proven a failure and a resultant collapse in many legitimate enterprises.

Present estimates place the population of Canada in excess of 10,000,000. This means that, after the changes resulting from the 1931 census became effective, the House of Commons will have about 275 members, instead of 245 as at present. Phenomenal growth will give sixteen out of the thirty new seats to the West; British Columbia will have eighteen seats instead of fourteen; Alberta twenty instead of sixteen; Saskatchewan twenty-six instead of twenty-one; Manitoba twenty instead of seventeen. In the next Parliament the West will hold thirty per cent of the voting strength instead of twenty-seven per cent as at present. When the centre of political power has definitely shifted from East to West, a western paper remarks rather ominously, the consequences are likely to be far-reaching.

The statement that graduates of Canadian universities in applied science are remaining in Canada rather than seeking employment south of the international border or in some other foreign country is a very encouraging one. It is encouraging from two points of view. The exodus of graduates is certainly not very welcome to the tax-payers and other supporters of Canadian universities. The former in particular are apt to become a bit skeptical as to the advisability of spending good money to train men here, and then have these leave the country at the first opportunity. They can hardly be blamed for their attitude. The fact that such a procedure is no longer necessary, at least so far as can be seen from statistics regarding technical graduates, shows also that Canadian industry is expanding to the point where it can employ more and more men who have fitted themselves for some particular branch of work. Col. R. E. Smith, head of an organization which specializes in the placing of such graduates, states that before 1927 as many as 20% of the numbers graduated each year from technical courses in Canadian universities sought jobs outside the country. In 1930 the proportion had dropped to 2%.

A recent long distance telephone call has claimed public attention as the longest yet made, not perhaps in the distance between speakers but in the number of miles the conversation had to travel. A Melbourne subscriber wished to speak to Los Angeles, California, and to effect the connection virtually the whole circumference of the earth was traversed. The call passed over the land-line from Melbourne to Sydney, then by radio to London via the Anglo-Australian service, again by radio to New York via the transatlantic service, and from New York across the American continent by telephone cable to Los Angeles, California. This unique link-up was effected within an hour of the request for the call being made. Speech both ways was heard clearly, and there was no interruption.

It is the pathos of many hackneyed things that they are intrinsically delicate and are only mechanically made dull.—G. K. Chesterton.



By James W. Barton, M.D.  
MOVING PICTURES OF BODY PROCESSES

I believe everyone who reads of the discovery of the X ray feels sorry for Crookes, the British research physicist, that he was not the discoverer of this wonderful aid to medicine and surgery.

Whilst he was busy on some other research work, the tube that he originated and that bears his name, happened to be in a certain location in the laboratory of a German scientist, Roentgen, who thus accidentally discovered the X rays, and they are quite properly called the Roentgen rays.

These rays were first used to diagnose fractures of bones, then to find 'lost' articles in the body, and similar uses.

Then came the knowledge of the condition of the lungs, the working of the heart, the use of the barium meal to locate ulcer of the stomach or cancer anywhere in the digestive tract, then putting iodized oil into the bronchial tubes and spinal cord to locate any trouble there, and dyes into the system to show condition of the gall bladder.

And now in Berlin, by the use of the X ray, there have been able to take moving pictures of the actual working of the difficult processes of the body.

They have been able to take pictures for a period of twenty five seconds at a time without any burn or other damage to the skin or tissues. These films show the heart in health or disease with the effects after long periods of exertion in some form of sport.

They have been able to take side views of a person speaking, whose tongue had been made visible by coating it with bismuth. "It is hoped by the use of these views of persons speaking, that progress will be made in the training of deaf mutes since they can study in detail the motions of the tongue in producing various letters.

These moving pictures should prove wonderful help in the training of physicians. To actually see the organs working in normal healthy individuals and then see how these organs do their work when interfered with by infection or other cause, should prove of great help in diagnosis, and also in treatment.

All these steps forward are certainly comforting, but not only as we think of ourselves, but more particularly as we think of our children and the more strenuous life of people in the years that are ahead of us.



EINSTEIN AND CHRISTMAS, 1930

(A Modern Christmas Greeting)

Sages confess  
That land and sea  
And you and me  
And suns and stars  
Appear to be  
Composed of less  
Than nothingness;  
Charges of electricity;

That time is curved  
And space likewise;  
That mass (or size)  
Depends on speed.  
So say the wise,  
They have observed  
That light has swerved:  
That worlds arise  
In other guise.

Sternly they say  
That gold and lead  
And beef and bread  
And saxophones,  
And eke my head,  
May melt away  
Alike some day  
To Voltage read  
Or Ohms instead.

If Christmas time  
Be curved or straight  
I cannot wait  
To ascertain.  
At any rate  
I find it prime  
Sweet and sublime.  
Elysian date!  
The death of hate!

And so to you  
My love, good friend,  
Though worlds may bend  
And solids disappear  
And light-rays bend,  
Still love holds true  
As God's Son knew.  
And may He send  
Love without end.

—J. E. Middleton, the crow.—James Stephen.

## When Winter Reigns

(Montreal Gazette)

There have been authors who have ventured to say a good word for winter, and their creed, conned over beside a comfortable fire, has its interest. Yet occasionally the wintry weather calls attention to itself in such a way that the experience is not quite so pleasant, and all topics go down before the felt pressure of a bitter tang which Leigh Hunt, in his characteristic fashion, illustrates by telling how, during a special spell of cold weather, a gamin solves his problem by making his younger brother "go to bed first." The British papers, last winter, were displaying pictures and graphic descriptions of the Arctic "snap" that seemed to have descended upon the European continent, prompting a very understandable conjecture as to whether the Great Ice Age was about again to visit our little planet. The cold depression extended over a wide area. We read of seventy-seven degrees of frost in the Balkans, of skating on the lagoons at Venice, of a Siberian climate in Germany, of wolves making raids upon some of the villages in northern Europe and of people perishing of the cold in Constantinople. In England there were snow drifts ten feet deep, and although the actual temperature was not anything we this side of the Atlantic would consider terrific, yet the humidity of the climate renders a drop down below zero, real physical punishment except to the few hardy folk who have the courage, say, to take a dip into the Serpentine at this season of the year. We imagine that even they would be constrained to quit their cold water habit during such a rigorous spell of frigid weather as obtained in the British Isles during last year. The English people do not build their houses so as to fortify themselves against such sharp attacks of cold weather, and consequently when they occur there is much discomfort and suffering whilst prudence compels those who can afford to do so to "den up" until milder and more normal temperature resumes its sway. Conditions are not so bad this year, fortunately for the poor.

Yet there have been remarkable frosts in Old England during the centuries that have gone. In the time of our William the Conqueror, the frost set in at November and lasted until the following April. Again, in 1683, the Thames was frozen over and a sort of public festival held upon the ice. In 1708 descended upon the whole of Europe one of the severest frosts ever known or recorded, although, strange to say, Scotland and Ireland were the two countries which scarcely felt the pang at all. And here is one of the mysteries about these extraordinary visitations, for some spots on the map which geographically lie within the depressed zone seem to escape the biting fang of wintry attack.

What explanation can be given of this phenomenon? Amongst geologists there has been much speculation as to the cause or causes of a gradual change in the earth's climate such as brings about an Ice Age that extends over many ages, or even millenniums, but it is questionable whether any satisfactory theory of this transformation has ever been found. In Canada we are fortunate in having as a rule a winter season which, taken all in all, affords no room for grumbling, and whilst sometimes the thermometer goes down considerably below zero mark, there is no great discomfort, and thousands of our citizens look with pleasure to the coming of the snow in order that they may indulge and enjoy the winter sports which, happily, have become so marked a feature of our social life. They are waiting now for a touch of real winter.

The serenity of truth and the peace of death can only be secured through a largeness of contempt embracing all the profitable servitudes of life.—Joseph Conrad.

Nothing is so hopeless, so intolerable, as the pride of a foolish man who has passed through a process of thinking, so as actually to have found something out. He believes there is nothing else to be found out in the universe. Whereas the truly great man, on whom revelations rain till they bear him to the earth with their weight, lays his head in the dust, and speaks thence—often in broken syllables.—John Ruskin.

Nothing is true forever. A man and a fact will become equally decrepit and will tumble in the same ditch, for truth is as mortal as man, and both are outlived by the tortoise and the crocodile.—James Stephen.

## The Second Offence

(Manchester Guardian.)

Almost too good to be true is the story of Judge S. Davis of Danbury, Conn., who, being summoned in his own court for violating a motoring law, tried his own case and sentenced himself to pay an exemplary fine. Not so long ago, however, a story of even stricter justice came from East Africa, where a magistrate and his deputy, having broken the law by journeying together one night without a light, agreed that justice could best be served by each appearing before the other. The magistrate, taking precedence, tried his deputy and fined him five shillings. The deputy then tried the magistrate and fined him five shillings. The justifying such severity by pointing out that, as this was the second case of the kind that day, the offence was evidently becoming far too common.

## Making Nightmares Pay

(London Times)

It is often observed that competition in the modern world is intense and that only those who succeed who work extremely hard. To many men, however, hard work has two grave objections. It is irksome in itself, and, more serious, it cuts into the time needed for enjoying life, and in particular for eating and drinking and sleeping. The English have been not unskilful in so arranging matters that the larger meals count, as business, and the best transactions take place over the dessert. But the problem of sleep remains. If the night hours also could be made to yield their toll of profit, many men would be pleasantly amazed at the rapidity with which their accumulations would swell. What has just happened in Wisconsin is accordingly of considerable moment to all business men, and will lead to a drastic revision of the values hitherto attached to the different kinds of slumber. The Wisconsin jurymen have given a thousand dollars to an athletic coach who had a nightmare on the evening following a motor-car collision. Rising in his sleep to avoid another impending collision he injured his hand by putting it through a window. It was his contention that the injury was due to the nightmare, and the nightmare to the shock caused by the real collision. It followed that the drivers of the other car, if they were to blame for the first collision, were also to blame for its later consequences.

Many a man, on reading this and looking back upon his life, will feel that he has lost by carelessness a pot of good money. He will recall the nightmares he has known and see how many people he might have sued. The large profits with which writers of "shockers" are credited will not go far if the public learns that an action will lie against over-exciting books and plays, and blood-curdling literature will become a pastime confined to a few wealthy amateurs. No reports have been received as to the attitude of Chicago meat packers to a legal decision which threatens them with ruin; but retail grocers will presumably attach to the pork a card disclaiming liability for damage suffered during subsequent sleep, if any. The larger question that arises and calls for a test case, is whether the Inland Revenue Department itself is not liable for the damage through bad dreams caused by worry and fear. In any case, if dreams are to become at least a source of revenue, it will clearly be important to apply the rules now governing blackmail and divorce actions, so that names shall not appear in open court, to describe horrible nightmares and their subsequent ill effects. Counsel for the defence will seek, as a matter of routine, to trace the nightmare, not to the action or appearance of his client, but to the guilty conscience and past actions of the plaintiff.

## Facts

(Brandon Sun)

A professor of the Ohio State university says the well-informed man is a useless bore. He told a body of scientists just recently. We must remember that the mere storing of one's mind with facts, however interesting they may be, is not education; neither is it science. All modern philosophies of education cry out against it. Henry Adams says somewhere, "I have never loved nor taught facts, if I could help it, having that antipathy to fact which only idiots and philosophers attain," and one of his students has stated that "mere facts bored him. Adams-like he was unhappy unless he could get at laws, principles."

## That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

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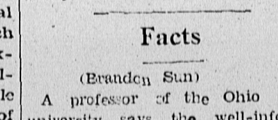
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Composed of less  
Than nothingness;  
Charges of electricity;

That time is curved  
And space likewise;  
That mass (or size)  
Depends on speed.  
So say the wise,  
They have observed  
That light has swerved:  
That worlds arise  
In other guise.

Sternly they say  
That gold and lead  
And beef and bread  
And saxophones,  
And eke my head,  
May melt away  
Alike some day  
To Voltage read  
Or Ohms instead.

If Christmas time  
Be curved or straight  
I cannot wait  
To ascertain.  
At any rate  
I find it prime  
Sweet and sublime.  
Elysian date!  
The death of hate!

And so to you  
My love, good friend,  
Though worlds may bend  
And solids disappear  
And light-rays bend,  
Still love holds true  
As God's Son knew.  
And may He send  
Love without end.

—J. E. Middleton, the crow.—James Stephen.

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