

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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Morning Maxim
Your funny bone is where you laugh in your sleep.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1932

STARRY MESSENGERS

If science cannot find a solution for our perplexing economic problems it can at least afford a ghastly vantage ground from which to view them. The most harassed business man might profitably pause to consider the import of a recent news item announcing the discovery of 5,000 new nebulae, or "island universes," countless of billions of miles away, and each probably containing billions of stars. These nebulae were found in previously unexplored regions of the sky during the past year with the aid of a 100-inch telescope at the Mount Wilson Observatory in California. There are believed to be millions of such nebulae out in space. Each is comparable in size to the giant star cluster, or galaxy, to which the earth belongs and in which our sun is only one of an estimated number of 30 billion stars.

Imagination cannot reach across the immensities of space intervening between us and these new-found celestial bodies. It helps us little to be told that "one of these clusters contains about 150 nebulae 800,000,000,000 miles from the earth in the direction of the constellation of Gemini." No human being can ever have any conception of what that means. But in this new revelation of the vastness and multitudinousness of the universe we are again reminded of the insignificance of our earthly problems in the great scheme of things. "Bethink thee often of the swiftness with which the things that are, or are even now coming to be, are swept past thee; that the very substance of them is but the perpetual motion of water; that there is almost nothing which continueth; and that bottomless depth of time, so close at thy side. Polly! To be lifted up, or sorrowful, or anxious, by reason of things like these!" So wrote Marcus Aurelius, wisest of the Roman Emperors. Christianly he read still nobler messages for us in the starry sky. If we have forgotten them, the approaching Christmas anniversary is a timely season in which to pause for renewed vision and inspiration.

OTTAWA CONFERENCE

While Parliament has taken a recess, officials at Ottawa are busy these days compiling statistics and other information for use at the Conference between the Federal and Provincial Governments on January 17. The Premiers of the three Maritime Provinces recently met in Charlottetown, to discuss plans for this Conference and there is every indication that the representatives of all the Provinces, as well as the Federal officials, will meet at Ottawa fully armed with information.

One of the important subjects to be dealt with, it has been intimated, will be insurance against unemployment. According to the Ottawa correspondent of the Montreal Gazette, from representations so far received by the Federal authorities it would appear that the only provinces now asking for a plan of unemployment insurance are the four lying west of the Great Lakes, one reason being that in those four provinces there is the highest percentage of rural unemployment, a problem not so easily solved as that presented in the East where the preponderance of unemployment is industrial and confined largely to the populous centres.

Another aspect of the problem is that of jurisdiction which will be foremost for consideration at the coming conference. Whatever scheme is eventually formulated, may provide for the application of the principle of local or provincial option. That is, only those provinces taking the initiative through their own legislation will participate in the scheme of unemployment in-

urance, and upon those not desiring it the scheme would not be imposed. Another serious problem confronting those eager to lay the basis for a scheme of unemployment insurance is presented in the difficulty of securing a fair statistical picture of unemployment throughout the Dominion, and it was with this in mind that Premier R. B. Bennett, in his remarks in the House in the fall sittings, emphasized the importance of working out a scheme on a sound actuarial basis and declared that unless this condition was satisfied the plan adopted might work harm to all affected.

It is true that in the census of 1921 a special unemployment questionnaire was prepared but while satisfactory returns were obtained from the answers to the series of questions the statistics showed unemployment as at June 1, 1931, which time could not be called a normal period in the Dominion or in any other country. Those figures would show a heavy increase over what might be termed normal periods and would also show considerable variation from the actual number of unemployed at the present time.

The total number of wage earners at work in Canada on June 1, 1931, was 2,093,211, of which 1,594,612 were male and 498,599 female, and of the total number of wage earners with "no job" on that date, 392,809, the males numbered 356,549 and the females 36,260. Quebec's share of the total at that date was 100,442, Ontario's 130,442. The Prairie Provinces showed a higher percentage of unemployed than the Dominion, that of Manitoba being 18.84, Saskatchewan 18.10 and Alberta 17.04, while that of the whole Dominion was 15.32. The two central provinces were below that percentage, Ontario's being 13.52 and Quebec's 14.49. New Brunswick's percentage was 16.79 and Nova Scotia's 12.03. British Columbia's percentage was the highest, 21.55, and Prince Edward Island's, 5.04 was the lowest.

THE VOICE OF REASON

Despite the insistence in United States diplomatic notes on payment of the Dec. 15 war debt installment, there is evidence that the American attitude on the question of the war debts settlement is gradually changing. This may be judged from the altered position taken by The Nation of New York. The current issue of this influential national weekly carries a strong editorial proving that the United States taxpayer is losing heavily by insistence on war debt payments which have gone far to destroy international trade. In 1929 the annual income of the individual taxpayer was \$704. This year it has fallen to \$450. In 1933 Federal Government expenditures will reach \$26.40 per capita. Payments on the war debt would reduce this by \$2.24. The Nation asks: "Is it better for the taxpayer to have an income of \$704 and pay \$26.40 of it in taxes, or is it better for him to pay \$24.16 in taxes out of an income of only \$450?" This argument is based on the thesis that payment of the war debts has been the principal cause of the depression in the United States. It cannot be denied that enforced debt payments are, at any rate, largely responsible for the difficult position in which the average United States citizen finds himself. The Nation cannot see how Congress can remain blind to the facts, and it calls upon President Hoover to give the people a strong lead in the direction of a reasonable settlement. At last there seems to be some reason for hoping that in the next few months one of the chief obstacles to economic recovery may be removed or largely removed. This very thought, notes a Canadian exchange, should give the world a good Christmas tonic.

NOTES BY THE WAY

It is worth recalling a speech made in February, 1932, by Mr. John H. Clarke, ex-justice of the U. S. Supreme Court of which the following is an extract: "When the war ended and victory came, we proudly proclaimed that we would not accept a dollar of indemnity from the enemy. What, in the judgment of 'a candid world' will be thought of us if we now insist upon collecting tribute from our friends which will impose taxation on them so crushing as to be equivalent for enslavement for a generation? It would be to proclaim to the world it is better to have America for an enemy than for a friend. From the point of view of the equities of the case, therefore, can the debt of the Allies be called a just debt? We have every legal right to demand it, but from the higher point of view, have we a moral right? We emerged from the stupendous struggle with clean hands indeed, but with full hands. We are the one nation in the world which has profited by the war, as it not almost like adding insult to injury to ask those who suffered the most and who were the brunt of a common enterprise to suffer still more in order to enrich us further?"

For some time relations between Great Britain and Persia have been fairly friendly, but always has existed the tension occasioned by underground influences directed by Russia. In withdrawing the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's concessions the Persian government has gone too far and there will be every sympathy with the apparently sharp note sent by the British government as an alternative to an action at The Hague. Meanwhile, Persia is held responsible for any damage to the oil company's interests.

Of all the unemployed, those whose lot is most disquieting are the young. There are still a very great many of our young people who cannot establish themselves on the soil of their father's. What are they going to do? In former days, this surplus population found its way down to the United States and into our own towns. It was a deplorable phenomenon, it marked and characterized one of the worst periods of our history; but this constant and abundant loss had from many people the real state of things or made them forget it. Today there can be no hiding and no forgetting. Neither emigration to the United States nor a drift to the towns is any longer possible as an outlet for our surplus rural population. In the States, it is even worse than it is here, and in the towns of Canada unemployment has assumed such proportions that it is terrifying all observers.

The former assistant director of unemployment relief in British Columbia charges that there was great waste of relief funds in the province, which may be more or less correct. Other parts of the Dominion have undergone the experience he alleges, and measures are being taken to prevent further abuse. It was Alexander MacKenzie, the Dominion's second Premier, who asserted that someone always had to sit on the cover of the public chest to prevent its being looted, and the same condition apparently exists to this day.

Advices from Paris indicate that it is to be the French policy to match the Germans, keel for keel, in the construction of new warships. And in that fact lies an exceedingly disturbing omen for world peace. In pre-war days Germany began to build up a strong dreadnaught fleet. The British government, committed to the policy that the British fleet must be the equal of any two other fleets on earth, announced that every time the Germans laid down the keel of a new battleship the British would lay down two; and the race that followed was an automatic, self-accelerating affair which ended when Britain either destroyed or captured the German fleet during the world war.

We should know one thing well. Good times or bad times, or anything relative, have naught to do with the celebration and exaltation of Christmas. Thanks be, feeling here comes first, mind second. Millions of hearts respond to centuries of tradition. Detail vanishes and controversy surrenders. The tremendous assertions of love as power, redemption as truth, and the Saviour as fact, take possession. Our better selves are borne on the tide. The worst of the darkest thinking can say is extinguished by the Christmas spirit. There is no measure. By comparison of that past within the memories of living men, these are good times and this is a good year. Taking a range of nearly 2,000 years and noting how, amid such despatches as we now can scarcely conceive, Christmas was observed, becomes another reflection. But Spar-



By James W. Barton M.D.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OF THE ABDOMINAL ORGANS

Perhaps you have been reading about cases where the stomach hangs down too low in the abdomen and a considerable portion of the intestines are down at the very lowest part. These individuals are often very slender, or "skinny," and there isn't any question but that the slow emptying stomach and intestine prevent the proper digestion of the food, and interfere with the absorption of the food into the blood.

Yet in a normal individual when a deep breath is taken the floor of the chest or the roof of the abdomen, whichever you like to call it, actually pushes all the organs in the abdomen a number of inches downward, so that they are out of place as it were, no harm is done. Similarly we find some occupations that require sitting, crouched over, for minutes or even hours at a time, and yet there are no harmful effects as far as digestion or general health is concerned. Dr. A. B. Barclay, London, England, records a study of the effect of posture—position of the body—and deep breathing on the abdominal organs in which he was able to secure pictures of the abdominal organs in which he was able to secure pictures of the abdominal organs—liver, stomach, pancreas, intestines. These studies show that in normal individuals the abdominal organs are not in the one or a fixed position, and that they have a wider range of movement in relation both to the abdominal wall and to each other, than might be expected.

As you know the abdominal organs are really attached to the back bone or spinal column and hang out into the abdominal cavity supported by a certain amount of fat and abdominal fluid. Dr. Barclay's pictures show the abdominal organs as able to approach much closer to one another or separate themselves much more widely than was thought possible and yet there is no interference with their proper working. This does not mean that the abdominal organs can remain in a "dropped" position for a long period of time without causing symptoms; in fact such conditions require an abdominal belt, and sometimes a surgical operation.

It does show however how Nature provides for wide or deep movements of the organs when necessary.

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"High Hatting" Unbecoming

(Toronto Globe) The Edmonton Bulletin thinks a fitting reply to Mr. Peter G. Ten Eyck of New York, who would have "England" hand over part of Canada in liquidation of war debts, can be found in the "Sunny South" where there are States which have owed large sums of money to British bondholders nearly a century. "If international war debts are to be squatted off in that way," says the Bulletin, "the United States should take the lead. It should turn over the States of Florida and Mississippi in liquidation of the debts owing by these States."

Of course, it is pointed out that the cases are not parallel. Canada is not part of Great Britain, and directs her own destiny. Nor has Great Britain repudiated her debts as did the Southern States. There is the further difference that the debts of the States were due to private investors, while the war debts are intergovernmental.

Nevertheless, it is not an inappropriate time to raise the question of the Southern debts again, since bondholders still cling to the notion that money loaned in good faith for erecting banks and building railways should be repaid, provided the borrowers are solvent, as is the case here. More than two States are involved, however. Besides Florida and Mississippi, the defaulters are Arkansas, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia—a very substantial slice of the United States of America. Arrears of interest on two loans to Mississippi amount now to approximately \$35,000,000. What is due from the eight States would make a very large dent in the United Kingdom war debts although a writing off of this sort would not meet the needs of the investors on either side.

The Bulletin quotes this stinging rebuke from Daniel Webster: "The philosophical is needless. There is no measure, least of all a money measure. We are seized by that in the heart, forget restraints and give.

That Body of Hours



POESY

Singer, sing on! Your medium does not die, The world's romantic now, and love as young As when blind Homer or sweet Sappho sung. Life has its splies yet; no drought can dry Those founts of tears that rose in Arcady, The seasons in their grand procession go, And on Earth's beaches the tides ebb and flow; Sing on! None can like you old Time defy.

'Tis yours in unborn summers to be read, In homes unbuilt; effective, your command, When all our village gossiping is dead, And gilded monuments are worn to sand, If you around life's common things but shed "The light that never was on sea or land."

—Alexander Louis Fraser, In "By Eastern Windows."

Sees Potato Famine

(Watford Guide-Advocate) Market experts continue to predict that Ontario growers will experience a potato famine early in the new year, caused by the heavy loss of crop in many sections of the province, due to "blight rot." Last year's crop, officially valued at nearly \$5,000,000 and weighing 12,000,000 hundredweight, will be cut at least one-fifth by blight and rot, and while there are a few early shipments coming in by water from Prince Edward Island, much of the Eastern crop will go to Britain, and one Toronto buyer, who is trucking large purchases of potatoes direct from the fields in the Simcoe County potato area, says the price of potatoes in Ontario will climb to \$2 or more a bag early in the new year. The Alliston Herald, commenting on the situation in that area, where huge quantities of potatoes are grown, says that buying is demoralized, and farmers selling in bags direct to dump every bag for close examination for rot before the buyers would accept them.

Pillar To Postbox

(New York Tribune) The circumstance that even the most firmly established of institutions are, with the passing of time, mutable and impermanent could be no more graphically illustrated to good Londoners and those familiar with things English than by the decision on the part of British postal authorities that the old time postman's hat must go. Since the middle of good Queen Victoria's day the postmen of England have made their appointed rounds

through all the boroughs of Metropolitan as down the quiet streets of suburban communities, from house to pillarbox to general postal station, in the famous postman's double-peaked cap of blue, with its scarlet pipings. Now, however, they are to have a new and, unhappily, "snapper" cap modeled on the pattern worn by our own New York police force, and one more symbol of Victorian security has vanished along with the inviolability of consols and those Perrier-Jouet numbers of the '80s so beloved of all the Forsytes. If pillarbox must inevitably give way to the American postbox, even as windscreen has been supplanted by windshield and footway by sidewalk, there is no telling where this sort of thing will stop. The doctrine of repudiation has inflicted upon us a stain which we ought to feel worse than a wound; and the time has come when every man ought to address himself soberly and seriously to correction of this great existing evil." As Secretary of State, Daniel Webster had an uncomfortable time in England in 1840. Reporting to a meeting in Wall Street, on his return, he said: "People frequently applied to me to know what security there was that the American debts would be finally paid and the interest in the meantime regularly discharged. I told them that they might rely on the pledged faith of the States and their ability to redeem their obligations. . . . I endeavored to uphold the credit of all the States. A large banking house in London put to me, as a lawyer, the professional question whether the States were empowered to issue evidence of debt payable by the States. I answered that, for this purpose, they were as completely sovereign as any State in Europe, that they had a public faith to pledge, and they did pledge it."

However, the States ultimately repudiated the debts, and the Federal Government has declined to permit an action at law to determine their liability. This point is far removed from the present issue, where nothing more than open-minded discussion and understanding is asked for mutual benefit and the good of the world. Repudiation or default has not been suggested. The case of the defaulting States, however, should serve to remind some Congressmen with their minds made up that "high-hatting" is not becoming.

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are now reported to be gravely upset by the postman's cap controversy.

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