

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1929

Credit Where Due

The speedy progress made in the preliminary work in connection with the C. N. R. hotel is a gratifying indication to our citizens that the hotel will be completed within the specified time, and that it will be creditable in every way to Charlottetown and to the railway management. The indications are, too, that the car ferry plans will now be pushed forward to early completion and that every effort will be made to give the Province a satisfactory transportation service. For both these undertakings credit is due to the sympathetic attitude of Sir Henry Thornton and the officials of the Canadian National Railways, without whose initiative and enterprise nothing could have been done. There were times when the Guardian felt called upon to offer criticism of the Government in connection with the plans of the new car ferry and with the delay in its construction. This criticism, and the criticism of our Boards of Trade and citizens generally, was thoroughly deserved. But since the management of the Railways took the matter vigorously in hand, there has been practically no cause for fault finding, the suggestions of both public bodies and the press being well received and, where found advisable, acted upon by the railway authorities. This is commendable on the part of the directors of what, after all, is Canada's greatest public utility—a utility for which the people at large have to bear the cost, either directly or indirectly. Sir Henry Thornton, a big man in every sense of the word, knows that it is very rarely that public criticism is made without some foundation in fact. In the present instance he was quick to see that a car ferry quite different from the one originally designed by the Department of Marine and Fisheries was necessary for the purpose of Prince Edward Island's trade and tourist traffic; and he insisted upon the steamer being made according to plans provided by the Canadian National Railways. Similarly with the C. N. R. hotel for Charlottetown, when the proposal was first made that the Railways should establish an up-to-date hostelry in this Province, adverse influences were brought to bear at Ottawa. Sir Henry came upon the scene himself, made a personal investigation, and, as a result, we are now having the foundation built for a hotel which will be a credit to all concerned.

A Serious Situation

"Every day and in many a way," says the Liberal press, "the fact is being brought home to our people that economic conditions in Canada are indeed highly satisfactory." This fatuous statement is uttered in the face of unemployment conditions more serious today than they have been for several years past; in the face of, to many, a disastrous stock market situation which has affected, to some extent at least, every industry in the country. The idea of the Liberal press and the politicians who are its gods seems to be that boasting and bragging will not only keep up one's courage, but, if persisted in, will act as an infallible remedy against every complaint of the body politic. At the present time, when there are many serious industrial troubles confronting the country, this panacea is being applied vigorously, both in Ottawa and at home. That it is falling in its effect, as it has failed ridiculously many times before, is evident to any one following the news in the daily press. How, for example, can one reconcile the statement of Premier King and the Liberal press that there is no unemployment in Canada, with recently reported in every

Ontario newspaper, that eight hundred men were lined up in front of an employment agency in the city of Toronto, and that the officials of another employment agency were obliged to ask for police protection. At the present time at Oshawa, according to The Guardian's despatches yesterday, there is unusual depression, quite a number of people being unemployed "as a result of the unsatisfactory state of the automobile market, which keeps the local General Motors factory slack," resulting in "greater calls than last year on the relief funds of the city." Further disquieting evidence is furnished by Mr. A. R. Mosher, president of the all-Canadian Congress of Labor and of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees, who, in a letter to Premier King, urged that the Premier call a conference of financial, industrial and labor leaders to consider "the serious unemployment condition throughout Canada." Mr. Mosher referred to a conference held in Winnipeg between representatives of the provincial and municipal governments and of organized labor for the purpose of dealing with the unemployment situation. He called attention to the fact that, from the time it was ascertained that the wheat crop would be a partial failure, the railways had made immense reductions in staff, and their example was being followed by other industries which were similarly affected, with the result that buying power had been considerably diminished. A widespread business depression was threatened. Seasonal unemployment had appeared at an unusually early period and the stock market, collapse had, in Mr. Mosher's opinion, exerted an adverse effect fully as great in proportion to population in Canada as in the United States. It was of the utmost importance, he declared, that public confidence should be restored by a survey of business conditions and that plans be drawn up for the provision of employment by both public and private agencies. Actual unemployment and the fear that it would spread to great proportions had curtailed public expenditure, creating a vicious circle which might work extreme havoc in Canadian industry. Here surely, in Mr. Mosher's suggestion to the Prime Minister that he call a conference of industrial heads for a survey of the present conditions, is a better method of restoring public confidence than any amount of inane shouting and gesticulating about the "highly satisfactory" state of our economics. The call is for prompt and determined action, not for falsely optimistic political speeches. The situation, as we see it, is by no means hopeless. Canada, with her vast resources and the indomitable energy of her people, is bound to forge ahead. But nothing can be gained by camouflage and subterfuge on the part of the Government in power. Nothing can be gained by any conceivable manoeuvring of politicians—those "eels in the fundamental mud upon which society's superstructure is reared, who, when they wriggle, mistake the agitation of their tails for the trembling of the edifice"—of which we have had enough and to spare. The situation calls for a conference of statesmen. The first requisite will be to find the statesmen; and one of the qualifications of statesmen is ability to face embarrassing facts honestly and squarely.

Editorial Notes

Judging by the present crowded condition of Queen's County Jail, there will not be much room for the Christmas guests. The jailor reports twenty-three prohibition offenders at present in the jail, in addition to ten others, including four for drunkenness. Among the prohibition boarders are seven women.

Notes By The Way

Wheat pools in the West have disclosed the reason why Canadian wheat growers should hold on to their wheat. They claim that there is a world shortage, and consequently a marked advance in prices must come before this year's crop season is over. Importing countries need to buy 770,000,000 bushels and wheat exporting countries have not more than 708,000,000 bushels to sell, is the claim. The wheat and flour exporting countries include Argentina, Australia, Canada, United States and Russia, but several of them have less to sell from year to year because population and home consumption of flour are increasing more rapidly than wheat production. So many automobiles have been seized by federal authorities in the United States in connection with the illegal transportation of liquor that it has become a matter of serious concern to the motor car industry. The Supreme Court has consented to consider and decide whether the federal Government has the right to confiscate cars under the internal revenue laws as has been the practice hitherto. A brief item of news from Moscow, printed in the London Daily Mail on Monday last, tells that the Princess Lady Lieven is now in jail in the Russian Capital. The lady mentioned is a sister-in-law of Sir Kynaston Studd, who was last year Lord Mayor of London. She is in prison because of her Christian missionary activities in Russia, the specific charge against her being that she read portions of the Bible to the children of Soviet working people. The Toronto Globe remarks upon this that it shows the aim of Communism first of all to overthrow Christianity. And the point to be borne in mind is that the "Red" in Moscow is not different from his fellows throughout the rest of the world, including Toronto. In face of such facts it seems strange that the resumption of diplomatic and trade relations with Russia should now be under consideration. The making of automobiles no doubt requires the employment of workmen of exceptional skill and capability. They are carefully selected and trained. The Ford Company, which has immense factories in both the Republic and the Dominion, has led in the payment of very liberal wages to its workers. Years ago the minimum wage was fixed at \$5 a day. Later on the minimum was raised to \$6, and has been raised to \$7 a day in Canada. The great car-builder has always paid his workers generously and while doing so has become rich beyond the dreams of avarice. And now he is turning out airplanes as well as cars. Run-running airplanes had been extensively in use at and near Detroit in smuggling Canadian liquor into the States, until recently, when co-operation between officials on both sides of the boundary were established with the result that 12 of the contraband vehicles of the air were captured. Already defeat in the House of Lords has come to the Labor Government. The probability of such reversals for the Administration was pointed out in The Guardian some months ago. The first of these occurred a few days ago when the window's pension bill was under discussion. An amendment to the bill, moved in opposition, was adopted by a vote of 37 to 16, providing that pensions payments shall be only made to widows in need. This is probably only a forerunner of further opposition in the Upper House to Government measures. A long session of Congress is predicted at Washington, possibly continuing until June. A large Republican majority can be counted upon to support the President's tariff policy, but the Senate is said to be split in factions which are a serious obstacle to progress in legislation. State control of railways, and state ownership of all transport facilities in the metropolitan area of England has been announced by the MacDonald Government in the House of Commons as its policy. This is a very radical movement, as it includes street cars and buses. The railways alone and the system of underground tubes have cost hundreds of millions sterling. Full details have not yet been disclosed but the Government has made known its intention to explore with all the interests concerned, a plan for complete consolidation, upon fair and equitable terms, of the passenger transport agencies now providing services of omnibuses, trams and local railways in the London traffic area. The aim



By James W. Barton, M.D.

MIDDLE AGED FOLKS

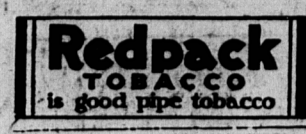
You read from time to time about the span of life, and how by our knowledge of hygiene, and medicine, the average span of life has been lengthened by ten years during the last half century. This of course is pleasing news, but at we mentioned more than once before, all this means is that more babies are saved at birth, and during the first year. That is of every hundred children born as a larger number will live after the first year, the general average of life will be lengthened. However there is now an urgent demand all over the world for the preservation of the health and life of the man or woman of 40 or over. There is no question but that at this age of 40 or over, that something will have to be done if the lives of these individuals, in the prime of life and at the best age to serve the world, are to be prolonged. Of course our economists point out that it is only to be expected that a great many of these middle aged folk will pass away, because a great number of them were not strong as youngsters and were only kept alive by the utmost care on the part of parents and physician. Another point is that certain ailments, cancer for instance, do not appear until middle age, and this increases the number of deaths at and after middle age. Now why have physicians been able to save so many children's lives. By careful feeding, and fresh air and sunlight, and by getting ahead of ailments before they appeared. Is this done by physicians for a middle aged folk? No. Because the family doctor or the specialist can't walk into the home and tell the middle aged or older individual just how he should live. In England and Wales more thought has been given to the care of middle aged folk and they have shared in the improvement in the death rate of all groups. In America however there has been an increase in the death rate in age periods beyond 40. Now if middle aged folk are to be preserved in health for further usefulness, the same care that was bestowed on youngsters must be obtained. This means that the individual will go to his family doctor not less than once a year for a complete overhauling. Any "beginnings" of trouble anywhere in the body will thus be found, and little ailments corrected to give more comfort and efficiency, and even serious ailments such as early cancer can be removed, and heart disease so supervised, that a fair measure of health can be enjoyed for many years. Remember also that the youngster's life was saved by proper food, fresh air and sunshine.



OLD Says the son of man: "I am old!" Yet he knows there are older things: The lurking wolf on the world; The windy, spumy wings Of the sea-gull; and the sea-creatures, careful and cold. Likewise, though these be old, There are ever older things: Mountains in snow-clouds stoled; The golden downgoings Of the spent sun, in his harness of changing gold. O what is it then to be old? Still older and older things Pulse through the vast untold In seonian journeyings: Majestic orbs and orbits, mysterious, manifold. —George Herbert Clarke in Queen's Quarterly.

THE LAND WE LOVE

By FRANK YEIGS THE SKEENA RIVER Q. Where is the Skeena River? A. The Skeena River flows into the Pacific after a course of 335 miles. Prince Rupert stands on an island will be to provide commercial management on a self-supporting basis under vigorous administration. Unemployment in Montreal and Ottawa is reported to be making more than usual demands on public charity.



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 of correspondents.

FAMILY LONGEVITY

Sir—The foreword to the 'public forum' explicitly states that that column is open for discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. This is just a tip to would-be correspondents that they confine their remarks to subjects which may reasonably be expected to be of general interest, and that they may not abuse this privilege by fostering endless discussions which appeal only to those directly concerned. In the "Guardian" of the 2nd inst., this entire column was occupied by an article entitled "Family Longevity"—with emphasis on the "Longevity." I confess to wading through that article with ever increasing interest (not in its contents) and wonder as to what lengths this "question of interest" would extend. When I finally gained the end I found myself in possession of one very definite fact, namely, that the Gallant family has a prior claim over the Doull family to the honor of greater longevity. The logic of the arguments seemed to be devoid of any fallacies, and the mathematical calculations appeared equally flawless, so that, provided the statistics are correct, I am constrained to concede the aforementioned honor to the Gallant family. But I cannot concede that "Rustico's" idea of a question of interest is equally divorced from logical fallacy. Supposing, for the moment, that the Gallant family is the oldest living family in Canada, does "Rustico" fondly imagine that any one (except, possibly, some members of the Gallant family) will accept that fact with a thrill of delight, or will store it up as a gem for future reference? Be that as it may, I'm afraid that "Rustico" cannot be justified even in this lone assumption. Gene Tunney was recently proclaimed the world's greatest heavyweight boxer; but would any person dare to assert that there is no other living man who with equal training might not lick Tunney? Is it not quite possible that on this very island there may be some families, the aggregate age of whose members eclipses even that of the Gallant family, and yet, due to modesty or generosity they refrain from snatching away the palm? Qu'en s'abes? I would suggest that both Mr. Doull and "Rustico" should pursue their investigations in a more private manner, and if, after the pressure of a process of systematic elimination, it be brought to light that either the Doull family or the Gallant family is really the oldest living family in Canada, — then and only then, I would consider either Mr. Doull or "Rustico" fully justified in having the details of the matter published. Under such circumstances, indeed, a group picture of the family would undoubtedly be publicly sanctioned. I am, Sir, Etc., J. M. BOYER, December 2, 1929, 31 Larch Street, Halifax, N. S.

UIGG SCHOOL

Honor roll for Uigg School month of November:— Grade X—1 Arthur Reynolds; 2 Everet MacLeod. Grade IX—1 Eileen MacPherson. Grade VII—1 Marion MacLeod; 2 Euphemia MacLeod; 3 Sadie MacLeod. Grade VI—1 Wesley MacLeod; 2 John MacPherson. Grade V—1 Catherine Shaw and Evelyn MacPherson (equal); David MacLeod; 3 John Shaw. Grade IV—1 Christine MacLeod; 2 Isabella MacLeod; 3 Olive MacLeod 4 Donald Hume. Grade III Sr.—1 Irma Gillis; 2 Sinclair MacLeod; 3 Martin MacPherson; 4 Ewen MacLeod. Grade III Jr.—1 Dorothy MacLeod. Grade II—1 James MacLeod. Grade I—1 Esther MacLeod; Stanwood MacLeod; Edna Gillis; Evelyn Dawson. Florence MacLeod, principal, Ailsair MacLeod, assistant.

METHVEN

The ancient family of Methven, or Methuen, is stated to have taken its name from the Barony of Methven, Perthshire. The Rev. Paul Methuen, Prebendary of Wells, son of John Methuen, of Methven who fled from Scotland in consequence of the part he had taken in the Reformation, was apparently the first of the family to settle in England. He died in 1606. The representative of the family is Lord Methuen of Carsham, Wiltshire. Arms—Arg., three wolves, heads, crased, ppr., borne on the breast of an imperial eagle. Crest—A wolf's head, couped, ppr. Supporters—Two fiery lynxes, regardant, ppr., collar and chained, or. Motto—Virtus invictioe scopus, which means, Virtue is the mark of envy.—James Seton-Anderson.

MURREY

Murray is one of the oldest and greatest of Scottish names, from Moray, the province, once an independent marmorship under Macbeth. The Murreys descend from a Fleming named Freskin, who obtained large grants of land in Moray and took the name as a surname. His descendants became some of the greatest nobles in Scotland, and there are many

ORIGIN OF SURNAMES

ARNOTT

Originated from lands of that name in Fife. Previous to 1710 there were Arnott of that ilk of Woodmill, Balthie, Balcomro, Freeland, and Berlythole, in all the Kingdom. The name may possibly be derived from "Earnocht," barleyland.—J. H. J.

BURNET

This is of French origin, and signifies, of brown complexion or dark skinned. Brunet is one of the commonest French names. In Somerset there is a place named Burnet, the burn-head (O. E. Burne hedfo), whence some of the name may spring. Lord Monboddo, the famous old Scottish Judge, was a Burnet. He was a Darwinian before Darwin, believing in the relationship of man and monkey. He entertained Dr. Johnson once at his estate. Miss Burnet (the "beautiful Miss Burnet" of Burns) was his daughter.

BURNETT

The family of Burnett, originally Burnard, is of Saxon origin, and was one of considerable importance and large possessions in Wiltshire and Bedfordshire during the two centuries following the Conquest; their ancestor appears in Domesday as mesne tenant of William de Ow, in the Counties of Beds, Hants, and Wilts. Robert Burnard, who settled in Taylrolde as early as 1128, was the first of the name in Scotland. There are two principal families of the name of Burnett in Scotland, and they both claim the chiefship.—James Seton-Anderson, F. S. A. Scot.

DAVIDSON

The Davidsons, called Clann Da'ldh, from their first known leader, David Du of Invernahaven, were chief actors in two battles—Invernahaven (1370) and the North Inch of Perth (1396), and the losers in both battles. There is a Clan Davidson—James Seton-Anderson.

FORBES

The following tradition has been held in the family—One Conachar was hunting on the hillside in the district of Forbes, Aberdeenshire, with his kinsman, King Conel, or Clomnell, when the latter was attacked by a savage bear. Conachar went to his rescue and killed it, for which he was called "Forbasach"—literally "the man of the bold forehead. Around brown stone resembling a bear's head marked the spot until 1700, when it was taken to the present Castle Forbes. The same tradition is also held by the descendants of Peter Forbes, who married a French lady at Marseilles in 1225, and founded the branch now represented by the Marquis de Forbes des Issaris. Further information will be found in "The Book of the Four Masters"—A. Forbes.

FLAT RIVER SCHOOL

The following is the standing of the pupils of Flat River School for the month of November:— Grade X—1 Jean MacKenzie; 2 Hilda Beaton; 3 Donald Ross. Grade IX—1 Donald MacKenzie; 2 Willie MacRae. Grade VIII—1 Earla Beaton; 2 Malcolm Ross; 3 Charles Babbitt; 4 Florrie Beaton; 5 Ruth Beaton. Grade VII—1 Christine MacLean; 2 Sinclair MacRae; 3 Ida MacMillan; 4 Elliot Ross.

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