

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1928

"A GREAT SPEECH"

THE consensus was that it was a great speech," says our Ottawa correspondent, of the speech of Hon. R. B. Bennett, leader of the Liberal-Conservative party, in his address during the budget debate, a brief summary of which appeared in yesterday's Guardian. Until we receive the official Hansard report, the speech must be judged largely by the impression it created in the House and the interest with which it had been awaited. As soon as the doors were opened every seat in the galleries was filled and throngs of people were unable to gain admittance. A great speech had been expected; a statesman was expected to speak on matters of vital interest to Canada and, judging by the circumstances accompanying the speech, a statesman did speak. Our summary gives only glimpses of the speech, but even these glimpses are more than significant. The hollowed-out Liberal claim that the national debt was being reduced during the past few years while the country's obligations were increasing yearly; the tariff tinkering and treaty making exploits of the Government and their consequences, the yearly increasing importations of products which we should make in Canada; the shipping abroad of our raw material, and the buying back of it fabricated by foreigners, were some of the themes he threw light upon, a light that must have dazzled in the eyes of the Government party. He did not forget the Tariff Advisory Board, one of the most contemptibly small tricks ever played upon a people by any Government, a sham so transparent that Liberal newspapers have never had the courage even to defend it. Mr. Bennett's was in no way a destructive criticism of the Government, in no way all condemnatory. He showed very clearly how provision could be made to ultimately wipe out the country's yearly increasing obligations. The Government is spending money extravagantly with no eye to economy or to a possible lessening of the burden of taxation, a burden that is yearly increasing and for which there is no compensating return. Mr. Bennett made certain recommendations in the matter of tax reduction and adjustment, immigration, the home market and home employment with which we shall deal later, and on which we shall have full information when the official report of the speech is received. In the meantime, it is quite safe to repeat our correspondent's summing up—It was a Great Speech.

DEAD MEN'S SHOES

THROUGHOUT the ages men have looked with envious eyes upon the shoes of a neighbor, longingly wondering when their owner would reach that point on life's highway where one can get along just as well without shoes. The onlooker does not necessarily wish the wearer of the shoes any harm, nor would he consciously hasten the time when they are to be laid aside and made ready for him to jump into, but the fact remains that in many cases the poignancy of the natural grief over the laying aside of the shoes is softened by the thought that they are now empty and that his chances for filling them are as good as those of anyone else. The son, with filial anxiety observes that his father's step is not as agile as it once was and the thought comes that some day the shoes shall no longer be needed. The solemnity of the thought is, consciously or unconsciously modified by the knowledge that he will step into them and become heir to the estate. But there is no certainty as to this: The old man persists in wearing the shoes he refuses to quit, the son becomes impatient and

leaves the country. The shoes are no longer an attraction. Possibly in his long waiting he dies in the old home without inheriting the shoes.

In every walk of life there are those who are waiting for dead men's shoes. The job-hunter looks forward to the time when his contemporary incumbent will shuffle off the mortal coil and the shoes and he himself will step into the latter. But the contemporary incumbent does not shuffle off, the waiter for the shoes shuffles off himself and the shoes eventually fall to someone else.

All shoes will one day be laid aside and, if they are still fit to be worn some one will fill them.

The Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, who at the time was himself waiting for dead men's shoes in the shape of a reformed Senate, complained that when men were appointed to the Senate they took on a new lease of life and lived to double the age that the mortality tables of insurance companies allotted to them. A similar complaint has often been heard concerning men whose shoes are coveted.

A DRAMATIC SOCIETY

THE marked success which attended the recent dramatic entertainments in this city has very naturally inspired the idea of organizing a regular dramatic society, and we are informed that a meeting for this purpose is to be held in the very near future. The idea is an excellent one for many reasons. We have dramatic and histrionic talent of exceptionally high order in this city. This has been clearly demonstrated on many occasions, and especially on two or three recent occasions. That this talent should be encouraged and organized is a duty as well as a privilege. The duty naturally devolves on the group of performers themselves. It is up to them to make the first move, and we feel sure they will receive the cordial support and assistance of our citizens.

It has been said by psychologists and by educators that the busy boy or girl never gets into mischief or drifts towards criminality. This is true, and while the performers above referred to are practically all young, the truth of the theory regarding getting into mischief has no age limit. For young and old the path of busy service is the safe one.

Our young friends will derive pleasure and instruction and social culture from such an organization, and we wish them good luck in their undertaking.

AS OTHERS SEE IT

THE people of Prince Edward Island would like to see the Dunstan Report implemented in the matter of a second ferry steamer. The Canadian National Railways have been doing excellent work in providing cars for the movement of Island produce, but the ferry cannot handle the traffic. The Associated Boards of Trade and shippers of the province have just sent an appeal to Ottawa showing that the need of a second ferry is increasing every day, because of a growing business in potatoes and other perishable agricultural products; and that progress will be retarded until provision is made for prompt shipment across the Straits. The communication says that the railway was short that day of 200 protected cars, while orders were increasing faster than the cars could be ferried across. The railway could not overcome the limitation of the ferry. It had more cars available at Toronto than the ferry could carry across. A thousand cars would be needed for the March movement, and this number was beyond the ability of the ferry under average ice conditions.—Sackville Post.

Notes by the Way

THE utter failure of the King Government's immigration policy under the Ministry of Hon. Robert Forke, is notorious throughout Canada and beyond its bounds. It has been ventilated repeatedly in the House of Commons and during the recent budget debate. Out of this has come revived interest in Mr. Forke's relations with the Conservative, Liberal and Progressive parties at the time when he became a member of the King Government and head of the Department which he now holds. The Moncton Daily Times points out that during the Parliamentary impasse of 1926, in which the King Government had been defeated, Mr. Meighen had been called upon to form a new Administration under difficult circumstances. Mr. Forke was then leader of the Progressives. The support of this group was necessary to any Government to complete the work of the session. The Governor-General, after consultation with Mr. Meighen, asked for an interview with the Progressive leader, at which interview Mr. Forke took from his pocket a document which he said was a resolution of the Progressives declaring their willingness to support Mr. Meighen until supply had been voted. His Excellency declined to accept the document.

What followed was that the Progressives did not support Mr. Meighen; his Government was defeated and a second appeal to the country became necessary. Mr. King was called upon to form a new Government and Mr. Forke abandoned the Progressives and accepted a seat in the King Cabinet. The document which Mr. Forke had offered to the Governor-General and which the latter declined to accept has not been made public. Mr. Forke was the last known custodian of it, and although he denies having broken any promise made to His Excellency, he should produce the document in question. It is necessary to his own defence against the natural inference that he is guilty of a treacherous breach of faith.

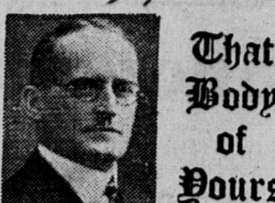
The bill to "give votes to flappers" as it has been called, now before the British Parliament, will give the right to vote 5,125,000 women between the ages of 21 and 30 years. It ends a bitter newspaper fight over the question. The opposition was based on the contention that young women would vote for the Socialists. At the next election the British electorate will number 12,125,000 men and 14,500,000 women, which will give for many years to come a feminine majority of over two millions.

The question "How dry is Hoover?" is now being vigorously debated in the newspapers of the United States. He is admitted to be the strongest of the Republican candidates for nomination in the Presidential election, but the Anti-Saloon League are by no means satisfied with his public statement of his attitude toward prohibition, especially that part of his published statement in which he says: "Our country has deliberately undertaken a great social and economic experiment, noble in motive and far-reaching in purpose. It must be worked out constructively." The dry leaders are disappointed because he said nothing about the advisability of a dry plank in the Republican platform, or against any liberalizing of the Volstead Law.

His statement is so evasive that it leaves many in doubt whether prohibition would fare any better in his hands than it would in the hands of an honest opponent. And as for the wets, they are having no end of fun over his words about "a social and economic experiment." As one prohibitionist paper puts it, "Mr. Hoover is in favor of the dries, but not against the wets."

It had been hoped that the result of the voting on the three amendments at the close of the budget debate would have been announced from Ottawa in time to reach Charlottetown yesterday morning, but such was not the case. It has been conceded by both parties that the Government would have majorities, variously estimated at 15 to 30 on the main and sub amendments. Almost half the total number of members in the House—120 out of 245—had spoken during the prolonged debate, breaking all records in that regard.

The exceedingly able speech of the Hon. R. B. Bennett in the closing hours of the discussion aroused tremendous enthusiasm on the Opposition side of the House and surpassed the highest expectations of his supporters and admirers. Mr. Bennett powerfully impressed the House, and the Government emerges from the discussion seriously damaged in morale and weakened in its hold upon the country.



By James W. Barton, M.D.

CAUSES OF SLEEPLESSNESS

ALTHOUGH the actual causes of sleep are still under question, nevertheless the soundness or intensity of sleep has been investigated by different research men, and the findings are all in agreement. The experiments were made by using sounds whose degree of loudness or noisiness could be measured, and seeing at what hour or time it was most difficult to arouse the individual after he went to sleep. They found that there was a rapid increase in the soundness of intensity of sleep during the first two hours, which reached its highest point between the first and second hours, and then dropped very rapidly again, so that by the third hour the patient was very near the waking stage again.

Now this knowledge is worth something to the individuals who find that they get off into a sound sleep, and then "in the middle of the night," as they call it, find themselves wakeful.

It would appear that the sense of hearing is the most easily aroused of all the senses, and it is only good sense therefore when you are in a strange city or in a strange room or surroundings where the noises will be "different" to those to which you are accustomed, to put some absorbent cotton in the ear before you retire. By rolling the absorbent you can get it to fit snugly into the ear canal.

And of course if when you wake, you begin to worry about being awake, or about things you should have done, or should not have done, sleep is likely to flee from you. Being awake and touch which so easily awakens you, the emotions stimulate the heart to increased action, the blood pressure is raised, and more blood is of course circulating throughout the brain.

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The point then is to look over the above list, and if unable to locate the cause of your sleeplessness consult your doctor.

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—Alice Elizabeth Wilson in The Canadian Bookman.

SOME OF THE COMMONER LICHENS OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

(Specially Contributed to the Guardian.)

In passing through the woods we often see a shaggy, thread-like growth festooning old trees. This is one of the commonest of our lichens, and so insignificant in popular opinion that it is rarely given more than a passing glance. Yet the family of the lichens has a distinct place, and that an important one, in the scheme of nature. I recall the immense heaps of slag and scoria which at one time disfigured the northern districts of Britain—the rejector of the iron furnaces. Year after year these lay exposed to the weather and anything less fitted for the support of plant life would be difficult to conceive. Unnoticed and mostly unknown, however, the lichens were at work; they encrusted the forbidding surface with sombre tints, brown, grey and sometimes yellow. They died and decayed and in their decay formed a sparse soil where a few deaup-erated grasses maintained a precarious foothold. The soil decayed and in their turn produced a soil at last, which bore the higher forms of plant life. Such is nature's process in Alpine regions, and those lands where igneous rocks come to the surface, and so, we are told, do the bare coral atolls of the Pacific become palm-bearing islands.

The violent eruption of the volcano on the Island of Krakatoa in 1883, covered the whole island with ashes and pumice stone in a layer from 3 feet to 240 feet thick. Three years later, Dr. Treub, Director of the Botanical Garden at Buitenzorg, Java, visited the island and found it covered to the top of the mountain with vegetation. It consisted for the most part of ferns—eleven species—but Dr. Treub observed that these were not the first living plants which grew on the destroyed island. The ashes and stones had been covered by a thin layer of lichens which softened the surface and made it capable of retaining water. These plants prepared the way for the ferns, and the latter, in their turn, for the flowering plants which he found here and there.

Much link and argument was formerly expended on these plants by botanists, one of whom, Schwendenber, averred that a lichen was a compound plant—an asci-bearing fungus parasitic on a green alga. According to his theory, the hyphae (thread-like tissue) of the fungus held the algae in thrall for the same purpose as the Barons of old held their serfs. Nylander, also an authority on these plants, as stoutly denied this theory, and the balance of the evidence seems in his favor.

Humble as these plants are, in some regions man cannot live without their help. The Reindeer Moss (so-called) grows in great abundance in Lapland, and forms almost the sole winter food of the reindeer, that useful animals without which the native of that barren clime could not exist. "Thus," says the great naturalist, Linnaeus, "things which are often deemed the most insignificant and contemptible by ignorant men, are, by the good providence of God, made the means of the greatest blessing to his creatures."

The lichen mentioned in the first paragraph, as clothing old trees and fence rails with a shaggy greenish mat of long "hair," is Usnea Ericheoides, Ach. Its secondary branches bear the long lax fibres, circular in section. The apothecia (spore-bearing structures) are small, consisting of pale flesh-colored discs, with a few fibrils on their margins. Closely related to this is Usnea barbata, L. the "Bearded Lichens," also "shrubby" and pendulous, greenish like the former, but with the fibrils radiating. These fibrils, too, are circular in section, and covered with fine papillae, and the general effect is that of a pointed beard. The apothecia are somewhat oval, with a pale disc. The habitat of this lichen is also on trees, living or dead.

Theochistes parietinus (L.) Norm., the "yellow wall-lichen" is foliaceous in character; that is, it consists of "leaves" or scales instead of hanging "branches." It is found on trees or rocks, generally near water. The thallus (or principal part of the plant) is often circular, pale yellow to orange above, white below, and the margin is sometimes upturned. It is never gelatinous when moist. The discs of the apothecia are of a warm orange color, with entire (undivided) margins. This lichen is fairly common; it was formerly known as Xanthoria parietina.

On logs or on the ground, in more or less flat extended patches, in rather damp situations, may be found the "Dog Retigera," Peligera canina, (L.) Hoffm. The thallus is large, membranous, round-lobed, furrowed and downy above, greenish, gray, ash, or brownish in color. Below it is whitish, with light colored veins and hairs, sometimes becoming dark. Apothecia, large, rounded, reddish-brown, becoming semi-revolute and vertical "resembling dog's teeth." The spores are needle-shaped, 4 to 8-celled, and the so-called "algal" cells are blue-green.

Peligeria aphthosa (L.) Hoffm., resembles the preceding, but has the upper surface of the thallus smooth (not furrowed) and sprinkled with brown warts, and the "algal" cells green.

Clinging to old fence rails and trees, but readily detachable, is Cetraria lacunosa (Ach.) Gries. Its thallus is a pearl to slate-colored mat of leafy lobes, broad, compressed, and channelled, and with their margins scalloped. The surface of the lobes is pitted, whence the specific name. The apothecia are abundant, rather elevated, with light chestnut discs, growing darker in age. From its flattened circular shape, this plant is commonly known as the "Spanish Shield-lichen."

These little sea-green cups which adorn rotting stumps and bare earth belong to the genus Cladonia. There are, in this genus, first a horizontal thallus, scale-like, variously lobed and sometimes persistent (lasting), and secondly, a vertical thallus, known as a podetia, which is leathery, hollow, and cup or funnel-shaped. The apothecia are usually little "heads" like beads, hollow, various in color, but never black. Cladonia cristatella, Tuckerm., the "scarlet-crested Cladonia," has a "scarlet" thallus; the podetia is hollow cylindrical, sometimes branched, small, and with apothecia as scarlet knobs. This grows on dead wood. On the ground we find Cladonia cornucopioides (L.) Fries, the "red-fruited Cladonia." It also has the thallus branched like coral, but the podetia is hollow top-shaped, smooth but becoming warty, and about an inch high. The apothecia are scarlet knob on the tips of the fruiting branches. Differing very considerably from the two foregoing is Cladonia rangiferina (L.) Hoffm., a very common denizen of our wastes and barrens. This is the cosmopolitan "Reindeer Moss." The plant is "shrubby" with cylindrical hollow branches from two to five inches tall. (It grows a foot high in Lapland); the divisions wide spreading, ash white, or greenish, straw color; their surface fibrous, sometimes mealy or warty. These branches which are sterile, curve and droop at the tips while the apothecia are tiny brown knobs on the tips of the podetia. Baeomyces roseus is very common with us, on bare raw soil along the roadsides. The thallus is expansive, a mere scurf on the ground, almost evanescent, it is so thin; salmon-pink in color. The apothecia are convex, stalked, and of a brighter salmon-pink or rosy tint. One can scarcely fail to notice the little pink "beads" dotted over the bare patches of clay.

This short list, compiled in odd moments, is by no means complete, and any who may be interested, will find help towards further identifications in the "Nature Series" of books, which may be consulted at the Public Library, and excellent articles on "Lichens" in various encyclopaedias in that institution.

I saw you making a call on Mrs. Flake. Was she at home? "That's just what I'd like to know."

That Body of Ours

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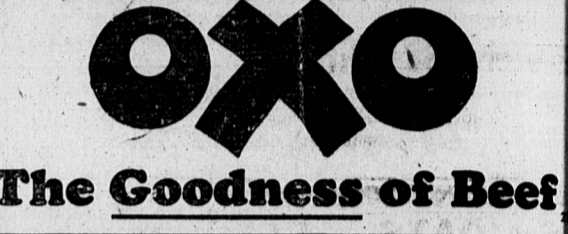
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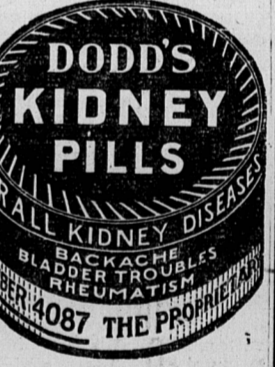
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