

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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Creeping Prosperity

A thoughtful comment is made by the Financial Post when it says that while depression hits full blast when most of us least expect it, prosperity is something that comes to us obscurely—without definite evidence of its arrival. It develops slowly, but none the less surely. Furthermore, the business conditions always appear to be bad when actually a very decided turn for the better has come. That was the experience at the end of 1921. At first, people were too optimistic. In January, 1921, practically all the great financial leaders in the United States announced that the turn for the better had come in business; yet within seven months the number of unemployed increased by 2,300,000, payrolls were cut in 13 out of 14 industries and steel plants dropped to a 25 per cent. schedule. Then the people who had followed the optimists at the wrong time began concurring with the pessimists. Business men feared an increasing flood of imports from Germany. Trotsky had just said that England was disintegrating; he said that the United States and England would be at war by 1924, and, seeing that things were so bad, many believed him. By January, 1922, however, the turn had come in business. The following twelve months saw a revival leading to substantial progress. The experience at the end of 1921 may well prove to be the experience of 1931. This, at any rate, is the opinion of many outstanding business men so far as Canada is concerned, and it is one which the vigilant tariff policy of the Bennett Government will go far to realize.

Free Cancer Treatment

A forward step of great importance has been taken by the Ontario Government in the announcement that radium treatment for cancer will be supplied free to sufferers throughout the Province. It is recalled that Ontario led in the distribution of free insulin for treatment of diabetes and it is now the policy of the Henry Government to lead in the free treatment of cancer.

Cancer is one of the most deadly diseases of modern life. Its treatment has engaged the attention of the best scientific minds of the century. Treatment by radium, especially in the early stages of the disease, has been found highly beneficial, though the cost of this treatment has hitherto kept it out of the reach of many sufferers. It is for the relief of these people that the Ontario Government is acting. The Government will also consider the suggestion of appointing a Royal Commission, comprising medical and research experts, to investigate the cancer problem, studying the latest methods of treatment in England, the United States and several European countries.

The action of the Ontario Government in taking the initiative in this important movement is deserving of the support and indorsement of all classes, particularly public health and social service organizations throughout the country.

Cabinet Deals with Tariffs

Public tariff hearings by the Cabinet, following upon Mr. Ryckman's western tariff pilgrimage last Fall, indicate, in the opinion of the Ottawa Journal, Premier Bennett's intention of getting along without a Tariff Commission—for the present at any rate. For if a Cabinet committee can deal with the tariff at this stage, why should it not deal with the same problem at some future stage? This all the more so, seeing that by doing so it saves the country the tidy sum of \$200,000 a year, which was the cost of the old Tariff Commission.

Further, tariff hearings before the Cabinet have the effect of placing responsibility for tariff changes exactly where they belong, which is upon the Government. Under the old Commission it was impossible to tell who was writing our tariff

schedules, or why; whether they were being dictated by Mr. Billy Moore, or represented the wisdom of the Government.

One often hears talk about taking the tariff out of politics. It is absurd talk. Three insuperable barriers against such a proposition are (1) the Constitution of Canada, (2) the Parliament of Canada, and (3) the people of Canada. When all of these are abolished, and tariffs no longer involve taxation, and a score of other impossible things happen, the tariff will be taken out of politics. Until then, the tariff is in politics, and a mighty good thing for the country.

Lower Cost of Living

Prices in Canada and other countries during 1930 are discussed in a bulletin issued by the Department of Labor at Ottawa. In that year a general movement toward lower price levels occurred throughout the world and the fall was most severe in the prices of raw materials and foodstuffs. Prices of manufactured goods while showing a substantial fall in some cases were not so seriously depressed. The cost of living, as shown by retail prices, also declined in most countries, and the fall was greatest in foods. As compared with 1929 wholesale prices were lower in Canada, the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy, Australia, New Zealand and other countries, but were higher in China, Russia and Spain. In Canada the cost per week of a family budget of twenty-nine staple foods, calculated from the average retail prices in sixty-nine cities, was in December at the lowest level since 1916, with the exception of the Spring of 1924. The feature of the movement was that commencing in January, 1930, at the highest point reached since 1921 the declines continued throughout the year, there being no seasonal advance in Autumn.

Britain Pays Twice Over

Mr. Francis W. Hirst, formerly editor of the London Economist, a noted authority on international finance, declares that under the existing war debt settlement with the United States, Great Britain is paying the American Republic twice as much as she ought. In a statement at the National Liberal Club last week, he said in part:

"I reckon that in 1917 and 1918, when the British war debt to the United States was incurred, prices of munitions, provisions and war materials were at least double what they are today and, therefore, the British annual payments of \$165,000,000 are really payments of \$330,000,000. In other words if we were repaying fairly to our American allies what they lent we should be paying interest and principal not \$165,000,000 yearly, but \$32,500,000 yearly."

Editorial Notes

Canada's fire waste is placed at a hundred million dollars a year, apart altogether from what is burned up in the forests. This is approximately half as much as the people of Canada pay in taxes and much of the fire waste could be averted.

According to the Toronto Globe, "Captain Philpott won the campaign in West Hamilton, but his opponent won the election." This reminds us of the story about the operation that was "a great success, but the patient died."

If the Russians are as slow in completing the Soviet industrial programme as they are in manipulating their electoral machinery, the Five Year Plan will require to be extended indefinitely. In the election now in full swing in Russia voting is protracted over a period of several months.

The homicide rate in the United States is more than ten to the hundred thousand of population, or one hundred to the million. London, England, reports but ten murders in a year, or less than two to the million of population. In England they punish criminals.

Notes by the Way

Out of some millions of remarks about business depression not one contains more of the meat of common sense than the statement of Roger Babson. Babson says, briefly "Well directed advertising can do more than any other factor to hasten economic recovery. The time to advertise is when sales are hard."

There is little prospect that the bill to restrict Canadian immigration into the United States by ninety per cent. will get through Congress. Canada is not worrying whether it does or not. There are opportunities enough in the Dominion for all its people and when the present world-wide depression is ended and business and industry resume their normal course more people will be seeking entry to Canada than a way out.

Improvisation is not creation, and the business of bringing into being a work of art is infinitely more arduous than play. It does not look as if the artist was gratifying a merely personal need to relieve the strain of some emotion or moving in a void where there were no rules but those set by his own caprice. On the contrary, he hardly seems to be his own master. He cannot do as he pleases. Necessity is laid upon him. He has a duty to himself and, after that, to others. He has a potential audience who, if the artist has his way, like the wedding guest, "cannot choose but hear." Poetry and music make us aware by contrast of the thinness of philosophy and still more of the thinness of science and common sense—as though music and poetry restored to experience a dimension of the universe which the accepted ways of knowing were always leaving out.

The one thing that all religions, all philosophers, have agreed on is the fundamental desirability of happiness. Man's normal wish is to be happy, and he carries about within him some spirit-level which tells him whether he is happy or not. The human heart is so strange that one man has often found happiness in what would make other people miserable. Men have so complicated, invented, sophisticated their satisfactions as to bewilder the world. The fact remains that the normal human being, though he can be hopelessly confused between right and wrong, is not, in an unperverted state, easily confused between what is pleasant to him and what is unpleasant. He knows; and happiness consists in a preponderance in his life of what gives him pleasure instead of pain.

Mussolini has recently declared that Italy never will take the initiative in starting a war. Moreover, "Neither I nor my Government nor the Italian people desire to bring about a war. Even if it were to arise between two countries only, a war nowadays inevitably would become a general war. Civilization itself would be endangered. New discoveries of science would make war even more dreadful than the last. The danger of death would not be reserved for the fighters, but whole populations would be imperilled without the possibility of effective protection." He added that Italy needs peace and that Fascism is working to ensure it. Mussolini's eyes are open. He was a soldier in the last war, and was wounded. Moreover, he is convinced that Italy did not make the profit out of the last war that her military achievements entitled her to. But it has been pointed out that therein may lie the danger of another war. A nation that had had luck in the last war might feel that she would have better luck in another war.

The British press considers it to be a part of a fixed policy on the part of the Soviets to ruin the world's markets and bring about universal revolution. Such further action as that now contemplated by Ottawa to ban Soviet coal entirely from entering the Dominion would commend itself to the Canadian people generally, and especially to Nova Scotia, and other coal producing provinces, where it would ultimately mean increased employment for our own Canadian miners.

A United States newspaper observes: "It is perhaps sufficient to learn the sober fact that students of the narcotic problem describe present conditions as unthinkable and predict that if the conference fails these conditions will probably last another five years. Is it sufficient to learn this? It is not sufficient unless the knowledge results in positive action and in an assurance of enlightened and national support of the delegates sent to the conference, who should be instructed that the conference must not fail because the most sincere national efforts remain largely ineffective for lack of concerted international action."

The rules of traffic, says Toronto's chief constable, are not rules im-



By James W. Barton, M.D.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT BLOOD PRESSURE

One of the things it took me some time to learn was that a little rise in temperature was not a serious matter in a patient. Like other young doctors the first thought about temperature was that it meant that the patient was feverish and that fever should be reduced.

I failed to realize that the rise in temperature showed that the individual was sick of course, but that Nature by increasing the heat was doing her best to fight the sickness. The extent of the rise in temperature showed how serious was the trouble, and how strongly Nature was fighting for the patient.

Nowadays your family doctor always takes your temperature and measures in his mind the quality of your heart beat, but he is not usually anxious to give you medicine to lower your temperature and reduce the power of your heart beat until he sees some real reason for doing so.

And similarly with the blood pressure. As you know, for the past twenty or more years you have been hearing and reading a great deal about blood pressure. It would seem that high blood pressure has become an every day expression in our language.

Now I'm not saying that high blood pressure is to be ignored. In these days of hard work, hard play, and high living, diseases of the blood vessels are more common than ever before and the deaths more frequent. But that any one should worry about high blood pressure where there are no other symptoms is most unwise, in fact worry is one of the things that can make a harmless blood pressure, a harmful one.

Dr. Alvarez and Stanley, Mayo Clinic, have studied the blood pressure of 6400 individuals who were not sick. They tell us that blood pressure is greatly a matter of heredity and is affected by nervous strain, excitement, the day's work, the amount of fat in the body, and the temperature of the surroundings.

Further, they tell us that, contrary to the general impression, thick set stocky individuals are apparently no more likely to develop high blood pressure, than tall, thin weakly looking folk.

So forget about blood pressure, even if high, if your doctor assures you that you have no heart, kidney, or blood vessel trouble.

Keeps Own Counsel

(Toronto Mail and Empire) One Liberal and one Conservative newspaper have joined in criticizing the Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett for his silence regarding his trip to Washington, and for his characteristic tendency to abstain from premature communication regarding projects of state which he has in hand. Before his accession to office the present Prime Minister was attacked for talking too much, and now he has been assailed for saying too little! Our own view is that the change is all to the good. The head of a Government is wise to be less discursive than an Opposition leader.

Talkativeness is, moreover, not an absolute proof of high statesmanship. Sir Wilfrid Laurier used to boast that he scarcely ever gave a newspaper interview. And, whatever our differences with him may have been, he will go down in history as one of Canada's great Prime Ministers. In the few short months during which Mr. Bennett has held office he has proved himself to be the very statesman the Dominion needs in this time of world depression. To the pressing issues of a trying period he has brought a mathematical mind, a clear grasp of economic problems, a wide experience in big business, a profound knowledge of international relationships, marked strength of character, tenacity of purpose, the ability to initiate far-reaching, curative policies, and an inspiring faith in Canada and in the potentialities of Imperial economic unity.

posed on the public for the benefit of any authority. They are the rules of the game, to be observed for the protection of each individual, and it is surely not too much to ask each citizen to preserve his own safety by respecting the rights of others. This summarizes in two sentences the whole traffic problem. It can be condensed into one: As each individual guards his own safety, he is protecting to an appreciable extent the safety of others.

Provincial Legislatures

(Sydney Post)

All of Canada's Provincial Legislatures are now in session except those of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The Nova Scotia House of Assembly is to open on Thursday of this week, but the Island Legislature, which generally holds late sessions, has not yet been convened. The Quebec Legislature, which was the first to meet, is expected to prorogue shortly and to be dissolved very soon after prorogation. The coming session of the Prince Edward Island Legislature will also be the last before the general election, which will probably take place in May or June. Both these Provinces will be the scenes of exciting campaigns. They are the only ones in which Liberal Governments hold office, and in each the signs point to an Opposition victory.

The New Magic

(Vancouver Province)

It is a saddening thing to learn quite by accident that magicians go in for conventions and that they have just held the 300th regular meeting of the Society of American Magicians in New York. Somehow one liked to think of a magician as a rather removed person who lived and worked by himself apart from all men—except when making use of the magics he had invented. But this getting together for support and the exchange of views is a lamentable confession of ineptitude. Fancy Paracelsus, Faust Manfred, Cagliostro and all the great galaxy of magicians getting together! They did certainly fail of their desired achievements, but they failed each of them alone and only deceived themselves with hopes of success.

These modern magicians are honestly devoted to deceiving people, while the old magicians were honestly devoted to finding something that would help suffering humanity in some way. There is no individuality any more, not even in magic.

Hollow Trees

(Exchange)

A concrete-filled cavity in an old apple or sycamore tree is just a hole filled with concrete. It may appear neat to the sylvi-cultural eye, but it puts an end to the mystery which is the rightful heritage of every hollow tree. It may prolong the life of the tree, but it spells death to the life that would normally go on in the tree.

For the natural history of a hollow tree is a rich and varied story. First, perhaps, a little borer cut a tiny hole into the sapwood. Then came a woodpecker, hammering away at the wood, enlarging the hole and removing the juicy worm. And then the rain, softening the wood about the hole; and, perhaps, another woodpecker, enlarging the cavity, cutting it out to provide a home for his spring family. A bluebird or a screech owl may find it next, hiding

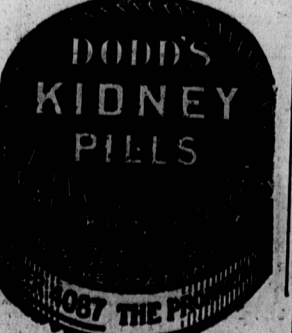
comfortably away from wind and snow in its recesses; and a squirrel may follow, storing it full of hickory nuts or, if it be big enough, bringing up its own family in its warm depths. Or perhaps mice established themselves there; for wood mice are great tree climbers. And, finally, some moonlight night, a coon or a possum nosed his way into it, scuffled out the squirrel and mice trash and set up housekeeping. It is a big hole now, but not too big, should the coon possum have had luck with the farmer's dogs, to accommodate comfortably a pair of two great horned owls which we so often hear and so seldom see, which lay their eggs in hollow trees when the snow is on the ground and are done with family cares before most smaller birds have built their nests.

Every hollow tree has a story of its own; every cavity in the wood is worth investigating. And this is the safest time of year for such searches, for even if the tree turns out to be a bee tree there will be no worse result than sticky fingers.



HEARTHSTONE

Not vainly have all ages held divine The hearth, the lonely chastities of thought; There nightly is the holy battle fought By dark primeval and the soul a-shine. The stones are hallowed as the stones that sign A spot among the mountains where men wrought And fought to keep their freedom. There, unbought At last, the heart may murmur: This is mine. It is most strange that from a square of light Below tremendous heavens man should dare To hurl rebellion in the throat of night; Should make the phalanxes of stars despair, Should trip the thundering darkness with a sleight And hang its lightning, trophies in his lair. —Geoffrey Johnston, in London Spectator.



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