

The Charlottetown Guardian

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The Burns Anniversary

It is for Scotsmen, of course, that the poems of ROBERT BURNS have their strongest appeal. Every Scotsman is supposed to be born to an intuition of them.

It is but fitting, therefore, that the celebration of the BURNS anniversary, which falls this year on Monday next, should be participated in by all sections of the community.

Lax Discipline A Mistake

Jail farms is a subject which has attracted a good deal of sentimental interest of late years, even in this Province. It is significant therefore to note the result attendant upon one experiment of this kind.

The institution at Guelph is maintained by the Ontario Government for convicted law-breakers whose terms of imprisonment are less than two years. (In this respect it corresponds closely to our county jails in this Province).

In theory, the Guelph Reformatory was supposed to be almost a perfect example of its kind. It had fine buildings, comfortable living quarters, beautiful grounds, a staff trained in kindness.

How this plan succeeded is thus described by the Ottawa paper. Sunday afternoon the prisoners at Guelph revolted. Practically they took possession of the establishment. They "dashed about like dervishes"—to quote a news report—"shouting in derision at guards and police."

It was, plainly, a case of kindness overdone. Of confidence abused. As a result, the Province of Ontario stands to take a very heavy loss; an evil example has been set other reformatories and "jail farms"; and the theory of reforming law-breakers by pampering them takes a bad beating.

Editorial Notes

William Pitt died this date 1806. Monday Burns anniversary; tomorrow Burns Sunday.

Nature has made up in a measure for the failure of the Government to provide decent roads.

The fall of Madrid seems imminent, but that does not by any means imply the end of the civil war.

What a lot of trouble might be saved here were our politicians to follow the example of Japanese politicians and commit suicide when they were proved to have made misstatements.

It shows the confidence in Canadian stability resources when an \$5 million dollar loan can be underwritten in New York at the lowest rates obtained for a Canadian issue but payable in American money.

It is significant that no sooner do affairs in Europe show an indication of settling down, than the East again attracts attention. Combined operations in which units of Britain's Far

Eastern military, naval and air force units will test the defences of Singapore will take place in February. The three services will be represented by ships from the China station, troops of the Singapore garrison, reinforced by detachments and the Royal Air Force Singapore squadron with units from Iraq and India.

If public affairs permit, Premier Maurice Duplessis, Quebec, will attend the coronation of His Majesty King George VI. An invitation has reached him asking him to go to London to represent the province and he has answered that he will attend if possible. In any event, the province of Quebec is certain to be represented at the ceremonies, probably by Hon. Gilbert Layton, one of the Montreal Ministers, and at least one of the French-speaking Ministers.

Less than a week after winning a suit in the Supreme Court before Chief Justice H. E. Ross against Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, the Beathornis Light, Heat and Power Company of Montreal initiated a second suit against the Commission. The Beathornis Company obtained a writ against the Commission claiming \$2,911,363.39 for electric energy kept available for delivery or delivered to the Commission from December 1, 1935, to November 30, 1936, both dates inclusive, under agreement between the two dated November 29, 1929.

Despite a plea by Mayor Lewis to Alderman George Sloan to withdraw his motion in council providing that the Mayor be sent to the Coronation in May as the official representative of the city, the matter was pressed to a vote, and was passed 14 to 7, after a number of aldermen had expressed their views. Rather to the surprise of some, opposition developed, several speakers stating that they would not countenance any plan to spend civic funds for such a purpose. To combat this view, there were suggestions that a subscription list be established, and the figures suggested ranged all the way from one dollar to a final offer by Alderman H. D. Marshall to head a list of ten citizens willing to subscribe \$100 each. Alderman F. J. Goodhouse, not only was in favor of the plan to send the Mayor to London at civic expense, but added that he should be equipped with the proper robes of office for the purpose.

The aggregate public debt of Canada, direct and guaranteed, on March 31, 1935, was \$6,786,869,473. The net debt of the Dominion Government was \$2,846,110,958. The net direct liabilities of the Provincial Governments, with sinking funds and available capital, current and trust account assets deducted, was \$999,440,241, and the direct liabilities of all Canadian municipalities, less sinking funds and investments on Dec. 31, 1934, was \$1,460,142,077. This makes a total net direct debt of \$5,314,693,276. The guaranteed or indirect debt was \$1,472,176,197, made up as follows: Principal and interest guaranteed on railway and other securities \$771,119,457; interest only guaranteed on railway securities \$216,207,142; guarantees under relief acts \$104,525,860, including bank advances re wheat marketing of \$39,274,661, against which grain held and margin moneys amounted to \$36,896,440, leaving a net liability of \$2,378,221 at the valuation then made on the current prices for grains; Bank of Canada, reserve of chartered banks on deposit \$149,028,902. The indirect debt of the provincial governments was \$231,204,836.

Under the farm placement plan for single unemployed, 4,943 women and girls have been placed in farm positions from October 1 to January 11. Mrs. Mary M. Sutherland, only woman member of the National Employment Commission, reported. During the same period 37,831 men had been placed on farms for the winter, receiving \$7.50 a month per man, with another \$5 going to the farmer to help pay for his board. Another 3,302 men had been placed in British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba under supplementary plans. Mrs. Sutherland stated the commission had been more than satisfied with the results of the placement plan, since it was getting response from both unemployed and farmers. On the part of the farmers, there was a demand for 5,394 persons which was at present unfulfilled. Most of the female placements had been in Saskatchewan, presumably consisting of girls in drought-stricken families which had been forced on relief, Mrs. Sutherland said. By provinces, the female placements were: Saskatchewan, 3,500; Manitoba 779 and Quebec, 664. Placement of men to January 11 was: British Columbia, 198; Alberta, 4,777; Saskatchewan, 21,271; Manitoba, 8,175; Quebec, 3,410. Only five provinces are co-operating under the plan.

Canada will send a large delegation to the coronation of King George VI next May. It is understood Prime Minister Mackenzie King will be accompanied by Hon. Charles Dunning, Hon. W. R. Euler, Hon. Ian MacKenzie and two or three other ministers, some of whom will remain in London for the Imperial Conference which takes place immediately after the Coronation. Others who are expected to go from Ottawa are Hon. W. E. Foster, Speaker, Hon. Raoul Dandurand and Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, from the Senate; Hon. Pierre Casgrain, Speaker of the House of Commons, and Right Hon. R. B. Bennett, Leader of the Opposition in the Commons. There will also be a delegation of eight members of Parliament who are members of the Empire Parliamentary Association, including three Liberals and two Conservatives from the House of Commons and three members of the Senate. The military contingent will represent all arms of the services, infantry, artillery, naval and air forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and will number perhaps three hundred. At the time of the coronation of King George V the expense of transporting the Canadian contingent was borne by the United Kingdom, but Canada will pay the whole cost this time and Parliament is being asked to vote some \$200,000. The Coronation ship will sail about April 26.

Notes By the Way

The idea is abroad that marriage as a profession is somehow inferior to a job; that the mere wife is a parasite compared to the busy worker. It is esteemed more honorable to labour at a typewriter for a "boss" than to cook and mend for a husband, and the measure of self-respect is "independence." Wives compare themselves to the "career woman" whose prestige is so great, and think that they, too, might have earned money and been free and envied as a stenographer, a teacher, or a newspaper woman. Thus I often hear married women say apologetically, "I am afraid I don't do anything (I, my husband and children seem to take all my time) as though they were at fault."—Charlotte Muret in Harper's (New York).

It often is marked that hindsight seems to work better than foresight and this, of course, is necessarily so. But humanity ought to learn from experience. And, in the present ticklish situation with regard to world peace, the nations look back to events following the World War, and probably present-day statesmen are sorry that those of 18 years ago did not recognize the worth of the new German republic and treat with that Government on a better basis. Had the powers met Germany on the understanding, probably, but not too forcefully expressed, that Germany had erred and gotten through with it, was ready to climb up again, probably there would have been no Hitler and his associates in a dictatorship. But the world was angry. It was vengeful. It wanted reprisals. It wanted a reconstructed Germany might not have learned the lessons the war should have taught.—Ohio State Journal.

While herding pigs, Peter Schott, a farmer's son took shelter under a tree in Yugoslavia to escape a storm. Lightning struck the tree, according to a report received at Belgrade, and rendered the lad deaf and dumb. Three days later Peter again sought shelter under a tree. Lightning also struck that timber, hurling the boy to the ground. When he recovered he could speak and hear perfectly again.—Chronicle Telegraph.

Tennyson wrote of the "eternal landscape of the past" and Young had a line about those "eternals" which "looked backward with a smile." For many the eternal landscape is still a verdant and fair prospect; while this occupation of looking backward has been a recreation for the dreamer throughout the ages. Recollection, says Richter, is the only paradise from which we cannot be turned out.—Max Fennerton.

The whole tipping system comes down to us from less democratic days. It has its roots in the crumbling stones of medievalism when servants had few rights and lived by the favor of their masters. It is quite out of keeping with this day and age of the free laborer and the general recognition of the principle that the laborer is worthy of his hire and should be paid accordingly.—Winnipeg Tribune.

It is the advent of air power which has most affected the Mediterranean situation. Its influence did not develop early after the war, although its shadow began to stretch across the inland sea. Italy had no serious air force until Mussolini rebuilt the force. Spain has never had one. France herself was too remote from the traffic route, and although her African colonies bordered it, they were separated by a wide expanse of sea from their sources of aircraft supply. Even if a war between Britain and France had been politically conceivable, the British fleet and its aircraft carriers might have had a powerful effect on the latter's strategic situation by interrupting the passage of trade and reinforcements between France and French North Africa. Moreover, the scope of shore-based air attack was limited by the comparatively short radius of the machines possessed by the post-war air forces. The situation has radically changed with the rise of Italian air power, the development of bombers that have a radius of 400 to 500 miles, and the promised attainment within a year or two of double this radius.—Winter Yale Review.

Glasgow, the most Scottish of cities, is considering the suggestion of William Reid, deputy chairman of the transport committee, that the municipality operate a fleet of 800 taxis. Under the plan the city would take no profit but would insist that the service pay its own way. The location of the city considered that last provision could be taken for granted. Whether Glasgow runs taxis or not, such a move would be consistent with its history of developing municipal ownership of transportation and other public and semi-public services. Glasgow owns and runs water, gas and electric companies, tramways, ferries, lodging houses and numerous other undertakings of the sort. A good many wastes have been committed in Glasgow's name, which is no fault of the Scottish community, and it evidently remains unchanged in its faith.—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

One of the richest examples of unconscious German humor may be discovered in Goering discussing with Mussolini "the assistance Italy and Germany would give to Spain's Fascists if the insurgents win the civil war." He should acquaint himself with the English proverb regarding pre-nuptial census of chicken.—EX.

An investigation has shown that one of the main difficulties in obtaining army recruits in the Old Land—there are plenty of volunteers for air service—consist of circumstances that at the end of a military career there is little hope of work in civil life. A plan is now under consideration whereby a soldier, after completing his term, may obtain a position under a definite arrangement with employment firms.—Brantford Exposition.

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.

WHAT NEXT?

Sir.—Under the above heading Mr. J. W. Mitchell of New Dominion endorses strongly the proposed Wood Island Ferry, mainly because of the attraction that the around the Island route would be to tourists from the mainland, all of which is very good. Let it not, however, be forgotten that there are tourists and tourists. One class of tourists will come in by one ferry, race over our hard surfaced roads and help to wear them out, rush through the future national park, buy some cheap food at a lunch counter and a few gallons of gasoline at a service station and hasten back to the mainland by the other ferry, all in a day or at most two days. Such visitors are an expense rather than a source of revenue to the province.

The other class of tourists will come leisurely to pay a visit to this beautiful Island, not for a day or two but for a few weeks and sometimes for months. They will enjoy our cool summer, splendid scenery and unequalled sea-bathing. They will spend of their means generously and return to their homes to tell their friends that nowhere else on the continent can such perfect summer conditions be found. These are the tourists that we should beckon to our shores.

But, here comes the rub, how can we ask them to come when we are not in a position to give them the kind of accommodation they expect and are willing to pay for? Possibly, having purchased Dalway, the National Park Commission has plans for an up-to-date tourist seashore hotel. Would it not be well for the Wood Island ferry promoters to offer their suggestions to those responsible for the future Island National Park operating so that each can assist the other not to mention the Provincial Government by whom must be considered which of the Island roads are to be asphalted.

The whole thing certainly looks encouraging and to Judge Arsenault and his little band of tourist workers let us say, cheerio. I am, Sir, etc., H. K. S. HEMMING.

POTATO SHIPPERS

Sir.—A letter from a reputable brokerage firm in Toronto has recently been received by a number of potato shippers throughout the province. As the letter is of vital interest to growers as well as to dealers I am enclosing a copy for your columns. In the interests of the potato industry of this province it will behoove growers to digest it well. I am, Sir, etc., A. K. LORD Cape Traverse, P. E. I.

(ENCLOSURE)

"P. E. I. Potato Shippers: As shippers of potatoes you are no doubt proud of the favorable reputation attained by the P. E. I. product—AND JUSTLY SO.

"It took years to build up this reputation to a point where Island spuds commanded a considerable premium in price. The buying trade appreciated your quality and the consuming public were glad to pay the extra price. "Is it possible that P. E. I.'s are now travelling principally on reputation? Please give this question your serious consideration. Personally we are inclined to think this man a buyer.

"When a buyer orders a car of Island stock and pays a premium of 15-20 or 25c over N.B.'s and still more over Ontario's, he does so with the feeling of confidence that he will receive a corresponding premium in quality and appearance. If the expected super-quality is not received—he hollers for adjustment or takes his medicine and looks elsewhere for supplies. His confidence is shaken and he thinks twice before again ordering at premium prices.

"It is true you sell Canada No. 1 grade BUT unless Island No. 1's are superior to New Brunswicks or local No. 1's how can you expect the premium to continue.

"Legally or technically the buyer may be obliged to accept cars which

TWO FRAGMENTS FROM BURNS

I.

I thought me on the ourle cattle, Or silly sheep, wha bides this brattle Or wintry war; Or that the drift, deep-lairing, sprattin' birds, Beneath a scaur. Lik happy bird, we helpless thing, That in the merry months o' spring Delighted me to hear thee sing. What comes o' thee? Where wilt thou cower thy chattering wing, And close thy ee?

II.

A wish I mind his powe, A wish that to my latest hour Will strongly heave my breast, That I, for poor auld Scotland, sake, Some useful plan or book could make, Or sing a sang at least. The lough-burr Thistle spreading wide Aman the bearded bear, I turned my weeding-clips aside, And spared the symbol dear.

Burns The Poet

(T. B.R. in the Winnipeg Free Press) A few days hence—on the evening of the 23th of January, the annual flood of oratory about the Scottish poet, Robert Burns, will be again unrolled, and newspapers all over the world on the morning of January 26 will report to their readers what the orators said about the poet the night before.

They will tell their listeners, those orators—who are even now composing new speeches on the subject, or rubbing a few more recent jokes in between the creases and wrinkles of the old ones—that Burns was a deeply religious Scotch peasant, that he was a godly-hearted ploughman with some obvious faults falling; that he was a great lover of humanity. We might reasonably conclude, on January 26, after reading the reports of the anniversary speeches, that Burns is one of the immortals because he was an altruist, or an idealist, or a philosopher, or a patriot, or practically anything you care to mention. The official speeches have been running in this groove for so long that they are now far too well-worn, and a wonderful opportunity to be fresh and original is open to some enterprising orator. Why not, for a change, discuss the bard for what he really was—a poet.

The last formal Burns address to which we listened seemed to make it imperative that something should be done to remind the Scottish people that Burns really is a great poet. We sat and listened to Burns' poetic reputation being placed on the poems that would have gone into the grave with the poet, and his memory too, had he not written the other ones. Why Burns is an immortal, what he had done that made him a supreme figure, were questions left untouched. The speaker was so determined to prove his ploughman to be at heart a theologian that he didn't even bother with the poet.

Burns, however, is nothing but a poet. When this is admitted, you see him mount to the highest places in the roll of immortal names. If you deny him his poetry he is just nothing at all out of the ordinary, a poor fellow, who led his life and died young. See him as a poet, however, and your gaze expands to the firmament of fame, and the Ayrshire collier—to speak in appropriate poetic figures—is one of the stars of eternity.

The explanation is an apparently simple one. Burns had the gift of writing. When he writes—Waste dwell on Tweed, the place they called it Linkum-doddie, we begin to smile in anticipation of what is coming. When he writes—"Flow gently sweet Afton, among your green braes," melancholy's pensive finger touches and softens the emotions. When he writes—"then down ye'll hurl (dell nor ye never rise) and dash the gullie jumps up to the pouring skies," we see and hear—it understand the Dor's with sufficient ease—the roar of the flooded river and the crash of the falling bridge.

In inspired writing the lines have often a curious appearance of simplicity—"The one remains; the many change and pass."

"Life is all a variorum, we regard not how it goes." "These things seem small and indistinguishable, Like far-off mountains turned into clouds."

One of these excerpts is from Burns; the others are from Shakespeare and Shelley, and it would be an interesting task for a Burns orator to take selections from his poet's work and put them in comparison with other great poetry and show how sound is the claim that can be made for Burns as one of the elect.

Such a comparison would also get us back to something like a just pass grade with a push BUT we believe you will realize he does have moral cause for complaint. "There have been many disappointing cars here this season and while possibly the large percentage of these cars passed or would pass re-inspection—all complaints have NOT been made account "pricities." "May we respectfully suggest that you individually endeavor to maintain and uphold the prestige of the P. E. I. reputation by rigid personal supervision or by collective request to Government Inspectors to report "just passable cars" to you before shipment.

"This is not a knock but we hope a constructive criticism or suggestion. We are vitally interested in the Island movement to this market. Continued complaints are not only unpleasant—expensive and unsatisfactory to all involved but we fear may curtail your movement and our movement."

A BAD COLD? Colds just don't come too bad to enjoy smoking when you light up a Spud the original menthol cigarette. Spud is always dependent on a clean-tasting satisfying smoke... from morning to night. A refreshing change for your cough-racked throat. And when your cold is over, you'll find you've discovered a brand-new pleasure in cigarette enjoyment. 10 for 10c 25 for 25c. Cork Tip or Plain. Also, Spud Fine-cut Tobacco for rolling your own, 10¢ the package.

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true valuation of Burns' poetry. It would compel us to admit that "The Cottar's Saturday Night" is a second-class poem, and that Scots Wha Hae," though it may seem heresy to say so, is not in the poet's best vein. But it would bring out very clearly that Auld Lang Syne contains lines which are not excelled in the whole range of lyric verse, and that "The Jolly Beggar," is a lyric masterpiece. Burns' reputation as a poet would be seen to rest on satires, such as "Holy Auld Reekie," which put him abreast of Swift; of narrative poems like "The Twa Brig," and the "Twa Brigs," which are unique in British literature for drollery, verve, and graphic power; of songs like "Willie Brewed a Peck o' Maut," and "Ca' the Yowes to the Knowes," which enshrine the humor and charm of Scottish country life with an insight and beauty of diction equal to the Greek classics—"Star of evening, bring all things that bright dawn has scattered, you bring the sheep, you bring the goat, you bring the child back to its mother." Twenty-five hundred years lie between Sappho and the Scottish rustic, but they both drank from the same intoxicating springs of genius, and they were both consumed by the flames of the same fire.

Here is where Burns would come into his own kingdom. Let the orators give the platitudes about his spiritual integrity a rest stop looking on him as a cross-bearing blackguard and a saint, withdraw the inquisitive nose out of his private life, the junk-bin, and take him for what he was—a poet. It would be a novel and thrilling experience for the audiences of the annual celebrations of the immortal Memory. They would understand why, indeed, the memory is immortal.

our daily tasks unafraid. This of course is due to the fact that wastes not filtered out by the liver affect every tissue in the body. It is because of the important points that I have written about the liver so much and so often, but henceforward I will not need to make any excuses for writing much and often. Why? A recent "foreign letter" from Paris to the American Medical Association states:— "A large number of medical meetings at which all nations will be represented from an important part of the program for the World's Fair of 1937 to be held in Paris. The Congress on hepatic (liver) insufficiency is to hold its meetings at Vichy, September 15 to 18, 1937. The Congress includes two sections, one on medicine and biology (life, growth, action of the body) and one on medical treatment and hydrology (water or bath treatment). This means that for three days representatives from "all" nations will discuss the insufficiency of the liver in doing the different kinds of work mentioned above. You can see how the information given out at this international meeting is bound to help in increasing the health and happiness of mankind. In the meantime you can help your liver to do its best work—not to be inefficient—if you will do just two things: (1) Do not eat too much food at any one meal, especially starch and fat foods; (2) squeeze the liver daily, thus helping the circulation of the blood in it, by bending exercises forward and back, and from side to side, keeping knees straight.

GETS JOB HOLLYWOOD REFUSED LONDON—Donald Gray, footballer and salesman, lost his job by overstaying his leave in an effort to interest Hol. Wood during a business trip. Returning, he landed a five-year contract with a movie company.

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