

The Charlottetown Guardian

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1935.

Neglecting The Roads

From many sections of the Province have come complaints of the neglected condition of the roads since the provincial election. During the fall season, when so much trucking is being done, this neglect on the part of the Public Works Department is inexcusable. Two of the most recent complaints have to do with the Nine Mile Creek road, and with the West River road from Afton Hall to Rocky Point. Both these roads are used extensively by farmers. They were formerly kept in first class condition and dragged after every rain. This practise was dropped by the new administration, and strong Liberals of the district are now complaining they have not seen a drag nor a machine "since the Tories went out."

Hallowe'en

Hallowe'en, in spite of its legendary spooks, says a contemporary, may be credited with having had an agricultural origin, and to the present day is associated with the fruits of the earth, particularly apples. There are reasons for this. In the Christian church, Hallowe'en or All Hallow's Eve, is the name given to the evening of the 31st of October as the vigil of Hallowmass, or All Saints Day. Before the Christian era, however, the eve of the 31st of October was the occasion of harvest and other ceremonies in various countries; and the festivities which gradually gathered around the Christian Hallowe'en at a later date originated for the most part in countries under the sway of the Druid religion, chiefly Britain, plus a few indoor and outdoor celebrations borrowed from the pagan Roman festival to the goddess of fruit.

The two chief characteristics of ancient Hallowe'en were the lighting of bonfires and the belief that Hallowe'en was the only night of the year in which ghosts, warlocks, witches, and evil spirits were permitted to wander on earth. On the 1st of November the Druids held their great fall festival and lighted fires in honor of the sun god in thanksgiving for harvest. It was also a firm belief in the religion of the Druids that on the eve of this festival (Hallowe'en as we know it), Satan, lord of death, called together the wicked souls that within the past twelve months had been condemned to inhabit the bodies of animals. With regard to this belief, it is interesting to note that in parts of Ireland, the 31st October was, and even still is known as Oidhche Shamna, "the vigil of Saman."

On or about the 1st of November also the Roman festival in honor of Pomona was held. Pomona was the goddess of the fruit, of trees—hence the words, pomologist, grower of fruit, and pomology. At this Pomona festival, nuts and apples, as representing the winter store of fruits, played an important part, and thus originated the custom of roasting nuts and apple ducking—attempting to seize with the teeth an apple floating in a tub of water—a sport in which many later generations of young folk have celebrated the even of 31st October. Some cynics aver that the evil spirits of old Druidical times still exist in the shape of thoughtless youth whose rough pranks on Hallowe'en often result in injury to persons and much damage to property. Their pranks are the survival of the licentious part of the Pomona fruit festival.

It is to be hoped that locally at least, to-night's Hallowe'en pranks will be kept within reasonable bounds.

Can This Be Beaten?

"Go to the ant, thou sluggard," said the poet, or words to that effect, but more fitting advice to Canadians just now, says the Montreal Gazette, would be to take an example from Redcroft 4-N, a Rhode Island Red hen, owned by J. Burgess, of Qualicum Beach, B.C., which has accomplished the task of laying 326 eggs in 51 weeks, which seems to be the length of the poultry year. This constitutes a Canadian record, the previous mark having been 324, while the world's laying record is 334. It is reported that the eyes of poultrymen in British Columbia were turned to this egg-laying contest at the Dominion Experimental Station at Saanichton, where the now famous pullet was putting all her rivals to shame. Redcroft 4-N kept on laying with almost unbroken regularity throughout the contest, only now and again letting a day pass without its egg contribution. She was fit and active right to the end, even neglecting her personal appearance in her efforts to live up to the expectations and hopes of her owner. Inspected at her pen at the Experimental Station where she was in competition with 339 others of various breeds, the Canadian champion had all the appearances of a hard worker. She was scratching busily among the litter and was not the least bit excited or interested in her visitors, who were marvelling at her prowess. Her dark-red plumage was somewhat scraggly and most of her tail feathers were missing, but Superintendent E. M. STRAIGHT remarked that this was to be expected from an industrious bird that had laid more than forty pounds of eggs in less than a year. The superintendent explained that after she had returned to her home at Qualicum Beach, and had a rest, she would probably pay a little more attention to her appearance and spruce up. There is an interesting story connected with Mr. BURGESS, the owner of Redcroft 4-N. His health shattered by active service with the Canadian Expeditionary Forces, this returned sol-

dier turned to poultry-raising as an occupation which he could follow outdoors, and which would not be too heavy for him. He secured employment with a poultry breeder at Qualicum Beach and learned the business thoroughly. As soon as he felt ready to start on his own account, he acquired several properties that had been abandoned by soldier settlers, and met with success. His name became known among poultrymen and he had the faculty of selection in remarkable degree. For several years he has been entering pens of his Redcroft birds in the laying contests, and invariably his pullets completed their tests near the top. This year one of his entries secured the championship of the Dominion with a total of 326 eggs in 51 weeks, as already stated. Perhaps next year J. BURGESS's hens may do even better and secure the world's championship.

Indian Summer

After a spell of cold weather, and even a snow-flurry, it is reasonable to assume that the present fine weather represents that illusive touch known as "Indian Summer." The characteristics of Indian Summer are a relative warmth, and the haziness and smokiness of the atmosphere. But the New York Times has looked further into the matter and finds that the atmosphere of Indian Summer is not the only thing that is hazy about it. Some persons seem to believe that it falls between certain definite dates; others apply the term to any warm Autumn day. Most generally, it is thought to be due late in October or early in November. But no one really knows where it got its name. One theory has it that the term originated because the Indians used to predict just such spells of weather; another that it refers to the smokiness produced by Indian fires; a third that it refers to the supposed Indian character of deceptiveness; a fourth that it is derived from the fact that the cold spell preceding it was called "Squaw Winter."

The term first made its appearance in print in the late 18th century. If there has ever been any statistical attempt to establish its existence, regularity, time and duration by consulting the records, the result is certainly not widely known.

Editorial Notes

This is Hallowe'en, the eve of All Saints Day.

Premier MACKENZIE KING has come into line with the League of Nations on sanctions.

The only difference between the saint and the sinner is that every saint has a past and every sinner has a future.

There is no use of boasting overmuch about our weather, but meantime it is pleasant to comment on the difference between conditions on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

In 1931 a political vote catcher was seized with election liquor and promptly prosecuted and stiffly fined, the Prohibition Commission being in office. In 1935 a political organizer was similarly arrested, but his case still hangs fire, there being no Prohibition Commission.

Goblins and spirits and what-nots may be abroad on Hallowe'en, but in every house there should be good cheer and the spirit of fun. Diving for apples, walking backwards at the crossroads, "pull" taffy, and devil's food, are still essential to the successful Hallowe'en party.

Evidently Hon. VINCENT MASSEY wants to close out his party's election bills, he being the organizer, before he assumes duty as High Commissioner at London. Meanwhile the Hon. "HOWIE" FERGUSON graciously announces his willingness to remain on the job till his successor sees fit to relieve him.

Premier LAVAL is acting as the "go between" in the case of Italy and the League of Nations, and so far has succeeded remarkably well. By the time Italy has conquered Ethiopia, two years hence, the authority of the League of Nations to enforce sanctions will have been endorsed by all the nations still remaining members.

In Amherst they have found it necessary to resort to Curfew law, and now no boy or girl under 16 may be allowed on the streets in restaurants or in places of entertainment. Pool room proprietors or others encouraging boys about their premises after nine o'clock have been warned and in future will be prosecuted.

It is a most heinous offence driving a motor vehicle in the City streets between two and three o'clock in the morning, (when there is not another soul to be seen), to the common danger. No wonder that His Honour the City Magistrate marked his stern disapproval by a fine of \$50 and costs or thirty days in jail.

The white man has been conqueror and modernizer of every land in Africa except Ethiopia. This Empire surrounded by enemies has fought and defeated the Arabians, Egyptians, Turks, Dervishes and neighboring races and tribes of every description—the Adels, Danakils, Gallas and others—and in modern times inflicted severe defeat on the Sudanese and Italians.

Strong efforts are being put forth to have Mr. PETER SINCLAIR made a Parliamentary Under Secretary instead of Mr. MACLEAN, who it is claimed, is too old a parliamentary hand for the job. The salary of an Under Secretary is likely to be \$6,000 per annum, in addition to \$4,000 indemnity and travelling expenses and it is presumed that Mr. SINCLAIR would be prepared to sacrifice his other financial interests in order to help out the Government.

Notes By The Way

England's foreign policy is commendable as well as traditional, as it has always allowed her to deal with foreign politics with a firm hand, meanwhile protecting her trade, home affairs and colonial interests. The English foreign office recalls, for instance, and probably that are not the only ones—that some ten years ago Mussolini emphatically declared that only one stand, and one alone, was important; to create privileges and impose indemnities, whether justified or not, and then to demand her decrees if necessary. This may explain why the British are not in the least doubtful concerning Italy's current and future intentions. To justify her campaign in Ethiopia, for instance, Italy went back fifty years to look for a quarrel. Later she may state some other imaginary grievance to divert the course of the Nile in order to benefit her African possessions. Still later she may want to absorb some part of Egypt, some rich strip of territory in the near Orient or elsewhere.—Exchange.

Such an overturn is reminiscent of kindred phenomena on this side of the border and, coming a year before our own national elections, is not without its significance for Americans. The two countries, politically, have very much in common. For example, the principles dividing Liberals from Conservatives in Canada are quite as vague as those which separate Republicans from Democrats here, yet our cousins to the North have refused to depart from the two-party system, though under provocation to do so from a half-dozen racial movements, as we have done before, and will undoubtedly do again, they have staged a first-class revolt merely by switching from one major party to another.—New York Herald-Tribune.

The arrest of a man on a charge of collecting money from householders, ostensibly for radio licences, is calculated to provoke citizens into wondering why they are periodically called upon to ferret out their licence receipts as proof that they really have paid for them. Cannot some less annoying means of checking up be discovered?—Toronto Exchange.

It would be a serious mistake to take as a pretext the faults and errors of the League of Nations in order absolutely to condemn the League and the institution absolutely and to refuse it all support, moral and material. Let us rather be restorers and rebuilders in this field. Let us apply ourselves rather to creating everywhere a spirit of order, peace and justice. Let us criticize the League of Nations, but solely for the purpose of improving it, not of destroying it. Let us rather be propagators of the idea which it serves and should serve still better. With years and centuries of education, particularly if God is given a place, a success will be obtained in the way of an honour to the generations that have done the building and will be the happiness of the human race.—Exchange.

The plain fact is, things have been happening at Geneva that seem to us to be outside and beyond any deliberate planning of the statesmen. It is fairly clear that when the League Council met after Italy's first savage gesture toward Ethiopia few felt that the Assembly would be voting almost unanimously to support the Covenant against the sanctions. The sudden uniting of the nations to espouse the cause of a small and unimportant power is almost incidental. But how significant! The world has swung away, as Italy realizes with dismay, from its former ideas of conquest. The right of the smallest becomes the concern of the mightiest—And that fact might seem to silence for a moment all the pessimism in the world.—Christian Science Monitor.

Nipponese officials have evidently decided that it is cheaper and less dangerous to "dominate" in China rather than set up more "independent" states. No move has been made formally to separate North China from the control of the central government at Nanking, but Japan is virtually in control of the region without having to foot any of the bill's except for its armed police force. Long before Manchukuo begins to return a profit, Japan will be collecting fat profits from mining concessions, rail projects, retail business, and from taxing the densely populated region. It is potentially one of the richest markets in the world, and it is ready to be worked for quick profits.—Business Week.

In 1888 there were 159 cases and 52 deaths from diphtheria in Hamilton. In the antitoxin period the number of cases and deaths remained relatively high, and it was not until the discovery of toxin-antitoxin and toxoid and the intensive campaign of education, waged by the health department, that the decline in the case and death rate became marked. The number of cases for the five years 1923-1927 was 1,256 and the deaths 76; during the five years 1928-1932 the number of cases had fallen to 45 and the deaths to six. During the four years ending October 31, 1934, there was not a single death from diphtheria in this city; and last year there was not even a case.—Hamilton Spectator.

Obviously, America's determination depends on future events. Within even a few months the attitude toward the League has changed. America, which began, and then disowned, the League is probably considering it now with more sympathetic interest as the defender of Ethiopia, than at any time in the past seventeen years. After all is said, the League is the only mechanism of man, since time be-

What Body of Power

By James W. Barton, M.D.

THE PHYSICIAN'S METHOD OF REDUCING WEIGHT

It is fortunate for our overweight friends that physicians are now giving more thought to the reduction of weight. In the past the physician simply advised the patient "to eat less food and do more work." If this advice were followed there would be results in every case because less food and more work will reduce weight in every case.

However just how much less food to eat and just what particular kind of food should be reduced in amount must be made clear to the patient, if weight is to be reduced surely and safely.

Similarly with work or exercise; just how much exercise and the kind of exercise to be taken must be fully understood or disappointment or something more serious may occur.

Thus from the food standpoint the physician now outlines the amount and kind of food that should be eaten, making sure that meat, fish, cereals, eggs (though containing some fat) are eaten at least once a day in order to keep up the strength without adding to the weight. With the addition of clear soups, fresh fruits and stewed fruits without sugar, green vegetables, skim milk, a small amount of bread without butter, and not more than one potato a day, an all round diet, containing all the food substances, vitamins and minerals is provided.

In regard to exercise the physician has the patient take light exercise and examines the heart before and after, thus finding out how a definite amount of exercise (running 50 steps, going upstairs, stepping up on a chair a number of times) affects the heart by increasing the number of beats per minute, and then finds out how long it takes—2 minutes, more or less—to come back to its normal rate.

He first prescribes walking a certain distance daily, gradually increasing the distance, and also outlines one or two bending exercises which must be done with the knees straight so that the work will be done by the abdominal or waist muscles instead of the thighs and legs. These bending exercises while helping to reduce weight everywhere are particularly useful in reducing the fat about the abdomen.

The Poet's Corner

COME SLEEP
Come, Sleep, and with thy sweet deceiving
Lock me in delight awhile;
Let some pleasing dreams beguile
All my anxieties; that from thence
I may feel an influence,
All my powers of Care bereaving!
Though but a shadow, but a sliding,
Let me know some little joy!
We that suffer long annoy,
Are contented with a thought
Through an idle fancy wrought;
Oh, let my joys have some abiding!
—John Fletcher, 17th Century.

The Craze For Speed

(Manchester Guardian)
The agitation of motorists for the removal of the speed limit from a number of roads to which it is at present applied is not surprising when the mentality of the age is taken into consideration. But it is surprising if the Ministry of Transport decides in favor of a large measure of decontrol as a result of the inquiries which is being held in Manchester, Birmingham, and other towns. The moral of all that has happened on the roads in recent months is that the limitation of speed lessens danger. Only a few days ago Mr. Hore-Belisha himself, in a broadcast talk, claimed that there had been a large reduction in the number of accidents in towns since the speed limit was introduced. Do not the appalling casualties of the last few months suggest that what is needed is the application of the speed limit to more roads, rather than the removal of it from any road which it now controls?

The progress of the machine, its accomplishments of (or "impossibility" after another, makes us to be readily infected by the confidence of the engineer. We are told from Washington of a project for a "regular overnight" aeroplane service between London and New York. Remembering the number of trans-Atlantic flyers who have had hairbreadth escapes and the number who have not escaped at all, reason impels us to regard the announcement with incredulity; but faith inclines us to accept it as at least within the bounds of possibility. A fifty-ton flying boat to carry passengers, mail and other freight, has, we are told, been planned. The Pan-American Clipper, which is now being tested on the Pacific, is only half the size of the projected new boat, and it has a speed at sea level of 160 miles an hour. We are not sure that the new machine, which has succeeded in printing the world's finger at one state, with the terrible indictment of Zola, "J'accuse!"

Two missionaries, an Australian and a Swiss, were tortured by their Red Army captors in Hunan Province, China, because ransom money was not forthcoming. This is not an isolated case, and until the Chinese manage to prevent such outrages by setting their big political house in order, they will continue to lack considerable moral support from abroad when their interests clash with those of Japan, for instance.

Scots' Hallowe'en Customs

(Exchange)

Perhaps your memory of the right way to celebrate Hallowe'en is not as fresh as it used to be. Perhaps you belong to the younger generation who know not the true observances of Hallowe'en. Anyway, it is an appropriate day to recall some of the Scotch customs which have descended from generation to generation. What says Robert Burns, than whom there can be no better authority?

"The first ceremony of Hallowe'en is pulling each a stock, or plane of kail. They must go out, hand in hand, with eyes shut and pull the first they meet with; its being big or little, straight or crooked, is prophetic of the size and shape of the grand object of all their spells—the husband or wife. If any grid or earth stick to the root, that is tocher, or fortune; and the taste of the custock, that is the heart of the stem, is indicative of the natural temper and disposition. Lastly, the stems, or, to give them their ordinary appellation, the runts, are placed somewhere above the head of the door; and the Christian names of the people whom chance brings into the house, are according to the priority of placing the runts, the names in question.

"2. They go to the barnyard and pull each, at three several times, a stalk of oats. If the third stalk wants the top-pickle, that is, the grain at the top of the stalk, the party in question will come to the marriage bed anything but a maid.

"3. Burning the nuts is a famous charm. They name the 4ad and lass to each particular nut, as they lay them in the fire, and accordingly as they burn quietly together or start from beside one another, the course and issue of the courtship will be.

"4. Whoever would, with success, try the blue-clue spell, must strictly observe these directions: Steal out, all alone, to the kiln, and, darkling, throw into the pot a clue of blue yarn; wind it in a new clue of the old one, and towards the latter end something will hold the thread. Demand who hauds? An answer will be returned from the kiln pot, by naming the Christian name and surname of your future spouse.

"5. In eating an apple at the glass—Take a candle and gaze alone to a looking glass; eat an apple before it and some traditions say you should comb your hair all the time; the face of your conjugal companion to be will be seen in the glass, as if peeping over your shoulder.

"6. Take an opportunity of going unnotic'd to a bear stack, and fathom it three times round. The last fathom of the last time, you will catch in your arms the appearance of your future conjugal yoke-fellow.

"7. The dipping of the sleeve—You go out, one or more, for this is a social spell, to a south rye, or spring or rivulet; where three lairds' lands meet, and dip your left shirt sleeve. Go to bed in sight of a fire and hang your wet sleeve before it to dry. Lie awake; and some time near midnight, an apparition, having the exact figure of the grand object in question, will come and turn the sleeve, as if to dry the other side of it.

"8. The three luggies—Take three dishes; put clean water in one, foul water in another and leave the third empty. Blindfold a person and lead him to the hearth where the dishes are ranged. He, or she, dips the left hand. If by chance in the clean water the future husband or wife will come to the bar of matrimony a maid; if in the foul a widow; if in the empty dish it foretells, with equal certainty, no marriage at all. It is repeated three times and every time the arrangement of the dishes is altered.

"Dwellers in city homes and apartments will, doubtless, laugh at these directions as old-fashioned; but there are many country homes even yet where the old customs are observed. Long may they continue.

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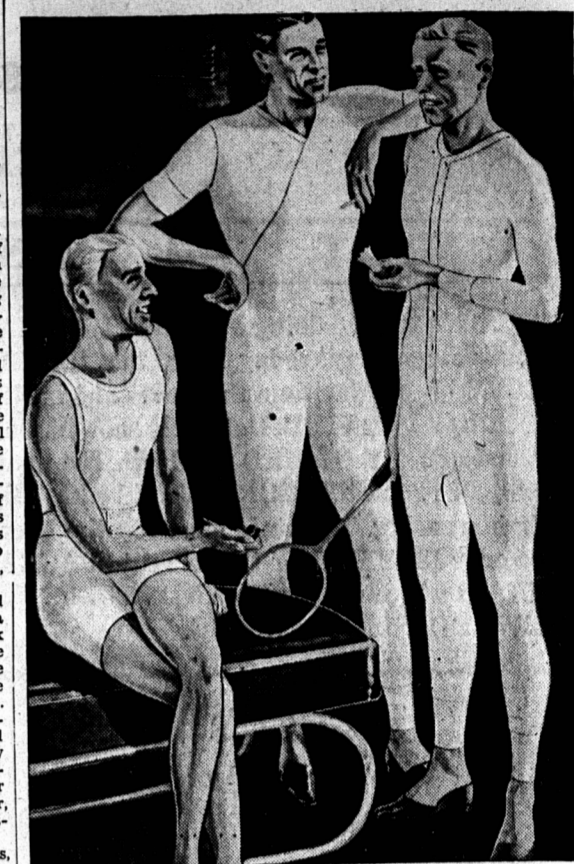
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