

THE CHARLOTTE TOWN GUARDIAN

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1925

THE READING HABIT

Reading, besides being a necessity of life like eating and drinking, is a habit, and like eating and drinking may become a good or bad habit. The man or the woman, and more especially the boy or the girl, who pampers their natural appetite for wholesome food with sweets and condiments of no food value eventually becomes a hopeless and incurable dyspeptic. Similarly, the one who pampers the natural appetite for useful information, for the beautiful in literature with trashy and meaningless sensationalism very soon loses the taste for wholesome reading and becomes a hopeless mental and intellectual dyspeptic.

Physically or mentally the habit is soon and easily formed. It is particularly easily formed in childhood and all wise mothers see to it that the child's physical health is not injured by indulgence in highly seasoned and be-peppered foods. Unfortunately the great majority are not so careful about the mental health of their children. To the spirited boy or girl tales of adventure, of wild Indian life, of the sentimental and sloppy experiences of imaginary heroes and heroines is more palatable than history, biography or really informative and elevating reading. Yet the habit of reading wholesome books is as easily cultivated as that of the trashy and sensational. The prudent parent with some judicious guiding can find in history, biography, poetry, elementary science much more to interest and to wholesomely entertain the child than in the trash so often placed or left in the hands of children. The healthy boy or girl has a natural appetite for real stories, for things that really exist, for things that really have happened. History is full of real heroes and heroines, biography tells what real men and real women have achieved and science, even in the elementary stages which the child can grasp, is full of real wonder.

The child's mind can be trained to wholesome reading just as his physical appetite can be trained to hunger for wholesome food, and the habit once formed will endure through life. Old and young hanker after the wonderful, the beautiful, the heroic and the true. These they will find in real history, in the doings and the discoveries of the world's greatest men and women in the lives of the men and women who have made the world as it is. They will find them in science, in poetry, in art, they will find "sermons in stones, books in the running brooks and good in everything."

Let us lead the young minds into these greater and better channels where real life is and where real, beautiful, uplifting entertainment is to be found.

ELECTION RUMORS

While the Liberal press is informing its readers that there is to be no election this year, Mr. Duncan Marshall, Liberal Organizer for Ontario and whose words occasionally float on the wings of the wind into the adjacent provinces, is warning his hearers that the general election will come off during the coming summer. Accordingly Mr. Marshall is carrying the fiery cross through Ontario and warning the faithful to get their armor on. Now, whether the Liberal press or Mr. Duncan Marshall is the better authority on this question is not for us to say but he would be a bold man who would tell Duncan that he didn't know what he was talking about for Duncan would immediately rise up and make reply. It would appear that the Liberals and Progressives would prefer

election for which their political opponents were unprepared and this we take it is the source of the inspiration which stirred the Liberal press into predicting a 1926 election and which also inspired that brazen canard that there is no present demand for an election as the people are well satisfied with the Mackenzie King government. The truth is that never in the history of Canada has there been a more insistent demand for an election and Duncan Marshall knows it, hence his warning to the people of Ontario whose political advisor he is at present. We don't believe all that Duncan says, for he says much and he says it often but it will be the part of wisdom for Conservatives everywhere to be ready. It is more than probable that the general election will be held during the coming summer.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Ash Wednesday.

We have travelled far from the period when Samuel Johnson declared "A young man should read five hours a day."

"Most people are inclined to view the \$4,000 indemnity at Ottawa as a bit of extravagance," says the Toronto Globe. That is putting it at its mildest.

Ex-Premier Ramsay MacDonald has no use for the stage-tricks of the street corner tub-thumper who would seek to make capital out of the cost of the Royal visit to South America. "We are too big for that sort of thing," says the ex-Premier. "It is not consistent with self-respect."

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Motherwell) was caught napping in the House the other day. He expressed his approval of placing an embargo upon chickens and horses from the United States and when caught up by Mr. Stevens and Mr. Meighen tried to wriggle out of his admission. We shall publish the discussion for the edification of our readers.

A great deal of interest is being evinced in the series of lectures given under the auspices of the Caledonian Club. They supply a felt want and provide a centre for those ladies and gentlemen who consider mental recreation represents something more worth while than bridge and jazz. Tomorrow evening the Rev. E. L. Malone, of St. Peter's will deliver a specially prepared address on "The Medieval Legend of the Holy Grail," a subject that should be of intense interest to everyone. The first important version of the Holy Grail stories in English literature is the work of Sir Thomas Malory, who lived in the fifteenth century. About 400 years later the legend was given poetic treatment by Lord Tennyson, whose "Holy Grail" is one of the most beautiful poems in his "Idylls of the King."

Let us not forget Paardeburg Day, on Friday. Just twenty-five years ago Canadian troops were winning their spurs on the battlefields of South Africa, the first Canadian contingent taking part in the operations and the severe fighting which culminated in the battle of Paardeburg, and the surrender of General Piet Cronje and his Boer forces on Majuba Day—Feb. 27. To the Canadian the commemoration of the Battle of Paardeburg has special significance in the fact that it was the first time in which a military unit, raised and officered in Canada, battled alongside veteran regiments of the British line, overseas in the defence of the Empire. There was sharp preliminary fighting and a gallant charge, with heavy losses, at Paardeburg. The Canadians delivered the final as-

Notes By The Way

The Dominion of Canada was the first in the order of federal unions created within the British North America. The British North America Act, 1867 enacted by the Imperial Parliament created the Dominion as such and it is only by the Imperial Parliament that the B. N. A. Act can be amended. The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia was given fuller powers than were accorded to the Parliament of Canada in that it can amend its Constitutional Act without asking for Imperial legislation. In some of the Dominions there is no appeal from the decision of their own highest Court while in Canada the privilege of appeal to the Imperial Privy Council is retained.

There are among Canadian public men some who think that Canada should have the power to amend her own Constitution, and some of these and others would have the appeal to the Privy Council abrogated. Both these questions have recently been discussed to some extent in our federal Parliament. Premier King announced intention to restrict the power of the Senate has led to the discussion of our right to amend the Constitution, and the Privy Council's decision against the validity of the Lemieux Act has raised the question of the value of the appeal to a court of last resort outside of Canada.

Upon the larger question of the right to amend the Canadian Constitution in Canada something may be said on both sides. Canada being the first, the largest in area the most wealthy and populous of the Dominions, why should not her Federal Parliament have as much power to amend her Constitution as the Parliament of any of the Dominions? In fact our Federal Parliament has less power over the Constitution of Canada than the Provincial Parliaments have within the arena apportioned to them. For instance it is quite within the power of Quebec or Nova Scotia to abolish their respective Legislative Councils, without saying "By your leave" to the Canadian or British Governments or Parliaments. But the Canadian Parliament even if both its houses were agreed, cannot legislate away one iota of the powers of the Senate.

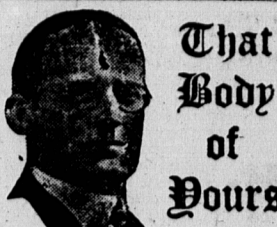
Section 92 of the British North America Act deals with the Exclusive Powers of Provincial Legislatures, and its first sub-section reads as follows:

1. The Amendment from time to time, notwithstanding anything in this Act of the Constitution of the Province except as regards the Office of Lieutenant Governor: The Parliament of Canada is given no such power to amend the Constitution of the Dominion.

That Canada purchased last year foreign made goods to the value of "the enormous sum" of \$812,905,157 is quoted by the local Liberal organ under the heading of Startling Facts. The facts are indeed startling and should be given more attention than they have heretofore received by the Canadian people. This is nearly three million dollars for every working day and nearly three thousand dollars for every working hour. That shows to how large an extent foreign manufacturers and producers have obtained possession of the Canadian home market.

For instance, there were in last year's imports a million dollars worth of canned vegetables, half a million dollars worth of pickles more than thirty million worth of wool products, nine millions of other textiles, more than six million of common laundry soap, half a million of toilet brushes and three millions of vegetables and so on. Just here we have a striking illustration of the difference between the policies of the Conservative and Liberal parties. The Conservatives would keep this home market of \$800,000,000 for Canadian producers and manufacturers. Our Liberal friends would throw open the gates wider and wider from year to year, as they have been doing to let in foreign goods and products and put Canadians out of business.

There are between eight and nine millions of people in Canada. The figures quoted by our Liberal contemporary show that our imports of outside goods and products amount to almost \$100 per head of our people, or \$500 per family. Surely that is enough for Canadians to be buying abroad! Yet when the King Government began to open the gate by reducing the tariff they told the country there was more to follow in the same line and their Progressive allies in the West cheered them on. It is not often that the Patriot and the Montreal Herald



By James W. Barton, M.D.

"SWEETENING" THE STOMACH AND INTESTINE

You hear a great deal these days about acidity, acid stomach, hyperacidity, all meaning the manufacture of too much of the acid juice which digests the food in the stomach.

There is no question but that too much meat, eggs, and fruits, (not usually ripe fruit), all have a tendency to cause this extra acidity and cause what is known as acid indigestion. Accordingly in an endeavor to prevent this condition, you may decide to eat a great quantity of bread, and find that you are not any better, perhaps even worse.

You see the acid condition of your stomach has persisted for such a long time, that the stomach has got the habit of manufacturing an excessive quantity. Thus when you eat bread and it arrives in the stomach, this tremendous quantity of acid juice immediately pounces upon it.

What happens then? Why the action, the alkaline action, of your saliva or mouth juice, which has been acting on this bread food, is overwhelmed and quits work entirely, instead of completing its work of starch digestion.

What does this mean? That this undigested starch actually stagnates in the stomach, and becomes really an irritant of the stomach lining, and so more and more stomach juice is manufactured, causing an even greater acidity of the stomach.

What is my suggestion? That bread is all right in this condition if eaten properly, that is that the slices should be thin, should be baked or toasted dry, with very little butter on them.

The next important thing is to chew it well. It should be chewed and chewed in this dry state, without liquids so that the saliva can get well mixed up with the very small particles into which the food is divided by this extra amount of chewing. This permits digestion of the starches to begin right where it should begin, that is in the mouth. Remember then that bread can cause acidity if eaten too rapidly and therefore your excessive acidity is not necessarily due to meats, cereals and raw fruits.

Daily Selections FOR Guardian Readers

February 25, 1925

ALWAYS PROTECTED:—When thou passeth through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. Isaiah 43:2.

PRAYER.—We are glad, Lord, that thou dost keep us dear unto thyself as the apple of thine eye.

WAITING

(John Burroughs)

Serenely, I fold my hands and wait. Nor care for wind, nor tide, nor fate. I have no more 'gainst time and fate. For lo! My own shall come to me. I stay my haste, I make delays. For what avails this eager pace? I stand amid eternal ways. And what is mine shall know my face.

Asleep, awake, by night or day, The friends I seek are seeking me; No wind can drive my bark astray, Nor change the tide of destiny.

What matter if I stand alone? I wait with joy the coming years; My heart shall reap where it hath sown, And garner up its fruit of treasures.

The waters know their own and draw The brook that springs in yonder heights; So flows the good with equal law Unto the soul of pure delights.

The stars come nightly to the sky; The tidal wave comes to the sea; Nor time, nor space, nor deep, nor high, Can keep my own away from me.

Your Birthday FEBRUARY 25.—Probably fond of people and society. Good-tempered, but you can make things unpleasant for anyone you do not care for. You are of a romantic turn of mind. You want perfection, but as you can't have it, put up with the best you can get. You should marry very happily. Your birthstone is an amethyst, which means sincerity. Your flower is a primrose. Your lucky colors are light blue and yellow. So frankly as they have now done,

The Public Forum

This column is open for the discussion of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

Sir,—I read in The Patriot last evening, this statement: "Canada's purchase of foreign made goods last year totalled the enormous sum of \$812,905,157." Certainly this is as the Patriot remarks, "A Startling Fact."

It is, the Patriot states, "equivalent to nearly \$3,000,000 for every working day,—nearly \$300 for every working hour." And this money has been sent out of the country, never again to be returned, never to go into circulation among the people, or to add to the deposits of the people in their banks. Is it wonderful that many Canadians—including those of this Province—find it rather hard to live and make ends meet and that we see many farms advertised for sale?

In view of the fact stated by The Patriot isn't it about time that our politicians—our Government—did something to stay the importation and purchase of "foreign made goods"? Isn't it about time that the Canadian electorate woke up to the advisability of following the example of the United States—now the richest country in the world? To buy in the cheapest market may be all right for an individual. But for a nation—the United States has proved that the purchase of home-made goods, even at a higher price is the "more excellent way." Surely it is better to encourage home industry in the making of the goods the people require and in the development of the latest resources of the country; and so, also, keep the money that the people pay for the goods for home use, for circulation among the people and for the promotion of National prosperity and the increase of National wealth.

I am, Sir, etc.

AN OBSERVER

REPLY TO REV. MR. PENWARDEN

Sir,—In a recent issue of your paper, Mr. Penwarden speaks of the churches of Montreal Presbytery and missions, claiming a greater liberality for the schemes of the church on the part of those going into union. He takes no notice of the fact that during the last two years these churches have had to raise funds to fight those who were planning to place our whole ecclesiastical life in jeopardy, while the unionists have been using mission funds for unionist propaganda. The Presbyterian Witness during the past few years has sunk the givings of many Presbyteries. One church in Montreal which had been a most liberal giver to the schemes of the church raised in a week, last year over \$7,000 for the present vital purposes of Presbyterianism in Canada. Because of the activities of the Unionists our Church is facing at the present time nearly half a million of deficit. This would represent no more than the normal givings of the churches remaining Presbyterian that have withheld their givings during the uncertainty of the past two or three years. The Unionists are welcome to any cold comfort they may secure from their advertised liberality. They will need it all, in the last detailed report they have issued of congregations going into union by unanimous vote they mention eight congregations that last year gave a total of \$187 to the schemes of the church and raised a little over a hundred dollars apiece toward stipend. In four Presbyteries of Ontario which contained altogether only nine Presbyterian congregations the union committee have reported 181 "congregations" as going into union. Over three-quarters of the congregations reported as going into union were union to start with. We were told that there were 1250 of those with over 8,000 preaching stations, when the bill was before the Parliament of Ottawa, they had already entered union. Now they are going in again. What the unionists have done is to cut off their congregations from their sources of supply. They have broken their line of communication.

In seven of the congregations in the Montreal Presbytery that have voted union, services are being held by the Presbyterian minority, and strong congregations will soon be formed in these areas. Of the eighteen churches reported as going in without taking a poll, three are now voting and others are preparing to vote. They will all probably vote before the 10th of June.

I am, Sir, etc.

JOHN J. McCASKILL

Maisonnewe Presbyterian Church, Montreal, 19th Feb. 1925.

THE SMELT FISHING INDUSTRY

Sir,—Our smelt season is near to a close, and should have closed on February the 15th according to the Fisheries Regulations by law, only for some political pull, regardless of the fast depletion of our smelt industry which has fallen off 70% in the last season. Now the great falling off in our smelt fishing is no surprise to our fishermen. There are thousands of men engaged in smelt fishing, and hundreds of thousands of dollars invested in gill nets, and bag nets, and other fishing gear, and that our legal season lasts four months out of each year, the gill nets are set October the 15th, and they catch smelts "No 1" in size, and "Extras" which the fisherman ships to the United States fish markets and finds ready sale at good prices.

The last season has been a total failure and a great loss to the fishermen. And why? Because our streams are not protected as they should be in the spring of the year when the smelts go to the brooks to spawn. There are large quantities of those spawning fish caught for fox feed. Now this is a crime and one of the causes of depletion. The other cause is the bag nets that catch all of the small fish that the gill nets won't catch. The small fish are taken in large quantities in the latter part of the season and it takes thirty smelts in number to make one pound in weight. The fisherman gets 2 to 3 cents per pound for these small fish for fox feed and oftentimes they are left on the ice a total loss.

If those small fish were left in the water to grow and to swim for another season, those thirty smelts would make 3 lbs. in weight and would be worth to the fisherman 40 or 50 cents.

I see the Pioneer gives the Hon. A. E. McLean the credit of getting the bag net fishermen an extension of the season until the first of March, but I would like to know how he got it. Was it through the Fisherman's Union, or was it by petition from the smelt fishermen, or did the Fishery Department just give him the favor to help him out in the future?

I am, Sir, etc.

FISHERMAN

THE ASSESSMENT QUESTION

Sir,—I am enclosing a letter from the Halifax Chronicle which tends to clarify the assessment haze which has been discussed in your columns.

I am, Sir, etc.

PRESBYTERIAN

A METHODIST VIEWPOINT

To the Editor of the Chronicle:—Sir,—Any pronouncement from so distinguished a body of men as the Halifax Church Union Committee would be edifying and interesting. I do not know who constitute that committee but I am satisfied that they are distinguished and able men. The Methodist Conference and the Presbyterian Synod never put even second-rate men on important committees.

However, it wasn't quite clear to me what they were trying to prove or disprove in their editorial deliverance on the question of collecting church funds. If they meant to say that the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches use the words "assessment" and "allotment" as synonymous terms they said what is not true, and they must have known that they were fibbing just a wee bit. The Methodist Church makes a very radical distinction between assessed and allocated funds. All our funds are called Connexional Funds, a phrase that has a charming sound to every Methodist preacher, although the music which it makes in the sinner's ear is sometimes the dolorous notes of the "Dead March in Saul," rather than the lifting air of "See the Conquering Hero Comes."

Several years ago at a Methodist District Meeting a well-known layman, a prominent lawyer by profession, was asked to say what would really happen to a Methodist minister who should flatly refuse to pay up any funds said to be assessed upon his circuit. And the lawyer said very emphatically that the minister would be disciplined, reprimanded and, if he then didn't cough up, expelled from the ministry. If the Presbyterian Church has a system like that in operation, never heard of it. The General Conference of the Methodist Church believes that the Act of Parliament of April, 1884, gives it a legal right to enforce these assessments. I am of the opinion that the Methodist Church is entering the Union believing that the new Act confers similar powers upon the United Church. Do the Presbyterians entering the United Church so understand it?

The word "allotment" is used by the Methodist Church in the sense of suggested amount. These amounts are not legally enforced. There is no penalty attached, no threat of expulsion hanging over the head of any stubborn delinquent.

Then there is a slight difference in the way in which the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches handle these allocated funds. In the former church, all allocated funds had to have at least one dollar to their credit. In the Presbyterian Church this is not demanded.

I should like to see a Methodist minister put this claim of the H. C. U. C. in operation at the District Meetings in May. I feel sure that such a ministerial kicker

Washington Records Violent Earthquake

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—An extremely severe earthquake about 3,200 miles was registered on the Georgetown university seismograph last night at seven o'clock. It was the most violent recorded here in years and lasted about twenty minutes.

CARIBOO GOING IN FOR MUSKRATS

WILLIAMS LAKE, Feb. 23.—From the success of the Scanlon muskrat ranch, located within a few miles of Lone Butte, it is rumored that many people are going into the business of raising these animals.

Scanlon came from New Brunswick three years ago and went into the Willowford district, where he took up a section of land adapted for muskrat farming. Forty acres of the section is under water and he has about 100 acres enclosed by a wire fence, where he keeps his furry flock.

It is now nearly a thousand muskrats and expects to kill half of them this season when the fur is in prime condition. The muskrat is very prolific, there being nine or ten kittens in each litter and there are four or five sets of each family per year.

Although this should be a good country for fox farming on account of its dryness and coldness, fur ranchers believe that muskrat farming is safer and more profitable in the end. One fox is worth many muskrats but it is easier to raise fifty muskrats than one fox. A fox litter is usually four or five and that once a year, while it is not uncommon for one female muskrat to have fifty kittens a year. Muskrats again are far more easily fed, as they live principally on roots, but are very fond of apples.

The greatest obstacles to the raising of muskrats in this country is the presence of owls and hawks, which are as greedy for muskrats kittens as they are for young birds.

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