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seasonable goods.

The People's Paper Read by Everybody

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew

Providence hands
no derricks around to
hoist folks out of ruts.

Charlottetown Guardian Two Cents
Morning Guardian, Founded 1887

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Making Biddy Pay in Winter

By W. D. MacNEILL

One of the great things that operate against the successful carrying on of the co-operative egg game in Eastern Canada is lack of volume—especially in winter. It costs just as much to operate the organization in winter as in summer, and when the volume is not forthcoming, the overhead keeps up, but profits are less than they should be.

Biddy has a habit of going on strike during the cold weather. If she doesn't happen to be the right kind, and if she doesn't have the proper feed and attention, but if Farmer Jones, next door, can average over forty dozen eggs a week from a flock of 150 hens, there is no reason why the rest of us can't. They call Farmer Jones lucky. Perhaps he is, but I think Farmer Jones is chiefly lucky in that he has brains, vision and a determination to have only the best. He says he can't afford to keep a collection of mongrel birds that only eat their heads off, and he doesn't find it good business to keep them in a ramshackle house and feed them anything that might come handy. He has the best laying strains he can procure—and he feeds and houses them properly. As a result, Farmer Jones' hens are paying him a good dividend—summer and winter.

Hens will lay in summer, but if they go back on the job in winter they are apt to eat up all the winter production that pays. Farmer Jones has made a study of the matter for years, and he has also availed himself of every scrap of

information the Experimental Station have been putting out. (That is what the Stations are operating for—giving information to farmers that mean dollars and cents.)

"Any hen of good laying strain will do her duty if she is given a chance," Farmer Jones says. "All she asks for is good feed and care. They have to be housed comfortably and have lots of room. They have to be kept free of disease and lice, which can be prevented with reasonable attention—and prevention in this, as in all other cases, is better than cure. They should be given clean litter to scratch in (it is necessary to keep them working) and they should be fed regularly morning and evening a suitable grain mixture, and they should have a good dry mash before them all the time. Besides this they must have green food every day, as well as grit, oyster shells and clean water." A little dose of salts once in a while helps out. Yes, son, there's no secret about it, hens of the proper strain will pay dividends in winter if they are given a chance."

And Farmer Jones should know. Folks want fresh eggs in winter—and they are willing to pay the price for them, and if they are shipped regularly to the co-operative clearing house in good volume the statement the co-operative presents its patrons at the annual meeting would be much more interesting. The co-operative is pretty much like Biddy—all it wants is a chance.

The Babe of Bethlehem

A little Baby, long ago,
In Bethlehem was born,
And angels told His birth before
The coming of the morn.

The shepherds from the fields near by
Wise men from far away,
Came to the lowly stable where
The little Christ-child lay.

That little Babe of Bethlehem
Still lives in Heaven above,
He came to teach us how to live
To show our Father's love.

His coming made our Christmas Day
The very best of days,
The time of joy, of loving gifts,
Of happiness, and praise.

ST. LUKE II: 7-18



7. And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.

8. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them; and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were afraid.

10. And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

15. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

16. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in the manger.

17. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

18. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

Recollections of a Private Secretary

By J. L. PAYNE

Article Three
Sir Mackenzie Bowell came to Canada a poor boy, nine years of age, and won his way to the highest post in the gift of the Canadian people. He provided his own equipment as he climbed the long ascent. In a large sense, greatness was thrust upon him; for it had never been his ambition to become Prime Minister of Canada. He told me so—not once but many times, and he was not the kind of man who talked insincerities. His final flight to high place grew out of a long series of promotions; yet the play of circumstances had more to do with his reaching the peak than anything else. He became the logical legatee of Sir John Thompson's mantle by right of Cabinet authority, rather than by commanding merit in a free field.

I was very happy with my big-hearted old chief Sir John Carling, but Sir Mackenzie Bowell needed a private secretary, and Sir John took the view that my interests would be served by accepting the post. It would not be established as a fact; yet I fancy Sir John had a premonition that Cabinet changes were impending which might affect himself. At all events, he yielded to Sir Mackenzie Bowell's request. That was in the autumn of 1892. My new chief was then Minister of Militia. He had been Minister of Customs from 1878 to 1892, and made a name for himself in a department calling for high judicial qualities and administrative skill in his head. I had known him well for years. Everybody knew him. He was what the world calls a good mixer. He was in particular the

warm friend of all the members of the Press Gallery, and of newspaper men in general.

This may have been due in part to the subtle freemasonry which draws journalists together, since he belonged to the fraternity of the fourth estate; but I suspect it was also due in part to a shrewd sense of policy. The press is a powerful force in politics. It can make or break men. That is not my postulate. It is the indubitable teaching of modern history. It is probable a genial and companionable man like Bowell would have come to be on good terms with pressmen in the ordinary course of events, especially in a centre like Ottawa; yet I know that he would have done a good deal to make sure of his footing in that regard had it been in doubt. At bottom he realized that he needed helpful influences. He certainly did not adopt any meretricious methods to win these influences; yet he valued them and did all in his power to keep them in his favor. At all events, he got them.

A Hard Worker.
Sir Mackenzie's estimate of himself was frankly given to me under pathetic circumstances, to which I shall come in a few moments. A few things must first be said, for the sake of sequence. As Minister of Militia he was an industrious man; he had been in the Customs Department, and held the rank of colonel. He was a hard worker. He reached his office early, and rarely left it

(Continued on Page 3)

Three Seaplanes For Denies Intention of Alaska-Spitzbergen Adopting Protection Policy

(Canadian Press.)

CHRISTIANIA, Dec. 21.—Captain Amundsen, referring to the proposed Spitzbergen-Alaska flight said today that the expedition would have at least three seaplanes which are now being built at Friederichshafen and will be sent north as soon as possible. The start will be made some time between May and August of next year. It is expected the expedition will cost approximately \$150,000.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—A statement issued from Liberal headquarters on Abingdon street today signed by former Premier Lloyd George describes as an invention the statement made by Lloyd Bathurst at Cirencester that Lloyd George had prepared to wave the flag of protection when he returned from America thus hoping to get back to power but that news received on shipboard that Prime Minister Baldwin had forestalled him caused Lloyd George to decide to oppose the Prime Minister on the protection issue.

Ocean Race Won by Seconds

(By Dominion News Service)

PONTEFRACT, Dec. 21.—Major A. N. Braithwaite, the Conservative nominee for the Pontefract division of the West Riding of Yorkshire made a dramatic entry with his nomination papers three seconds before the expiry of the time limit.

The incident might have been taken from Jules Verne's famous romance Major Braithwaite had travelled 5,000 miles, from America, in order to be in time for the election.

As his boat, the Scythia, dropped anchor in the Mersey he sprang into a waiting tender, specially chartered, and caught the train to Leeds. At the station a powerful car awaited him, and he sped to Pontefract in a race against seconds. As Major Braithwaite burst breathlessly into the nomination room the ninth stroke of the hour of twelve sounded.

Bank Suspends on Court Order

(Canadian Press.)

PORT VENDREZ, on the Franco-Spanish frontier, Dec. 21.—The Banco de Castilla of Madrid on Monday morning posted a notice on its doors announcing that it had suspended payments until the courts had decided to grant it an order to continue operations. The bank is one of the oldest in Spain. It has been doing business among the agriculturists and also the grandees.

The notice created considerable excitement and lines of depositors gathered outside the doors. They were unable to enter, however.

Auto Driver is Dead at Wheel

(Canadian Press.)

MOOSE JAW, Dec. 21.—A. E. McKibbin, of Moose Jaw, was instantly killed in a most peculiar manner near Vanguard, Sask., on Monday evening.

McKibbin was found by people driving along the road sitting behind the wheel of his automobile, dead. The windshield on the car was smashed as was also the steering wheel.

The car was right side up and in the middle of the road. Investigation showed that the car turned completely over once and McKibbin had received a blow on the head from which he died.

Will Not Press Beer Referendum

(Canadian Press.)

VICTORIA, Dec. 21.—Because of opposition, it is believed the provincial government will not press the passage of the clauses of the new beer referendum, under which the minority of British Columbia voters could bring back the bar by voting in favor of beer sale by the glass.

Greek King and Queen Depart for Rumania

(Canadian Press.)

ATHENS, Dec. 21.—King George and Queen Elizabeth complying with the government's request that they leave Greece embarked on the steamship Daphne for Rumania this afternoon.

Brakeman Loses Leg in Accident

(Canadian Press.)

INGERSOLL, Ont. Dec. 21.—Thomas Bril, aged 21, Canadian National Railway brakeman, fell under a car being shunted here late this afternoon and suffered injuries which necessitated the amputation of his left leg at the hip. Bril showed great pluck.

He was sitting up when the ambulance came for him, and after getting into it he asked a pal to make a cigarette for him. He smoked on the way to the hospital.

Oil King to be King of Albania?

(Canadian Press.)

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—It is reported that the throne of Albania had been offered to Harry F. Sinclair, oil operator and turfman. The report originated in Rome and it stated the Albanians hoped Sinclair would be able to put the country on a sound financial footing. No statement was forthcoming from the Sinclair offices. The throne has been vacant since William of Wied fled to Switzerland at the start of the world war.

Girl Pianist's Heroism

(Dominion News Service)

BRAINTREE, (Essex) Dec. 21.—Miss Ella Field, the pianist of a travelling theatrical company, continued calmly playing her piano during a fire panic at the Congregational School, Polstead, until the flames enveloped the instrument and destroyed it.

The fire broke out about nine o'clock, before the performance was half over. It was caused by the overturn of one of three oil lamps, which served as footlights.

Wild panic broke out. The exit doors were near the stage, and the audience of more than 200 men, women, and children surged in a great wave from the back of the hall, endeavouring frantically to reach safety.

The two remaining oil lamps were knocked over in the struggle. The oil burst into flames, and in a moment a stream of liquid flame ran from the stage to the floor of the schoolroom.

Women shrieks and the cries of terror-stricken children drowned the shouts of the men who strove to calm them.

The whole stage was in flames as Miss Field played, and terrified men, women, and children were fighting for life at the exits, but she played on as calmly as if the fire had been merely a scene in a stage drama.

Forty on Trial For Murder

(Canadian Press.)

DUESSELDORF, Dec. 21.—Forty persons were placed on trial yesterday before a French court charged with murder and other crimes in connection with the recent Separatist movement in the Rhineland. The defendants are members of the security police and German officials.

MANAGER IS PROMOTED

(Canadian Press)

MONTREAL, Dec. 21.—At a meeting of the Board of Directors today Mr. J. E. McLurg, general manager of the Halifax Shipyards, Limited, was appointed vice-president in charge of the operations of all the constituent companies with headquarters at Sydney, N. S.

WAGES IN LABOR WORLD

(Canadian Press)

OTTAWA, Dec. 21.—Declining wages in the majority of industries throughout Dominion were recorded by the Department of Labor during the past two years. Exception is shown in the printing trades where an advance is registered, wages of coal miners showed no change. The greatest decline was in the wages paid to lumbermen.