

THE CHARLOTTE TOWN GUARDIAN

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1928

P. E. ISLAND SEED POTATOES.

THE farmers of Prince Edward Island are to be congratulated on the successful series of meetings held during this year's "Farmers' Parliament," recently concluded. Every branch of agriculture, horticulture and stock-breeding was fully represented, and meetings were held by each, both separately and jointly.

Naturally the island's most recent development, the Seed Potato industry, aroused more than ordinary interest. The meeting of the Potato Growers' Association was the largest in its history, the largest agricultural meeting, probably ever held here, a pleasing proof of the sustained and increasing interest in this important industry. The reports of the secretary of the association, Mr. Boulter, and of Mr. Peppin, the senior inspector and plant pathologist, gave statistics showing the increase in production, in acreage, in facilities for handling, inspection and transportation. It was shown that the organization had shipped over a million bushels of potatoes last Fall, 800,000 of which were certified seed potatoes. The betterment in handling facilities was shown by the fact that over a quarter million bushels was shipped during the Fall months more than during the same period last year. The acreage under potatoes in 1927 was 24,845 as compared with 9,275 the previous year.

Mr. C. C. Thompson, representing the Southgate Produce Co., of Norfolk, Virginia, had much of interest to tell the Association. Representing, as he does, one of the largest produce firms on the continent and a valued customer for Prince Edward Island seed potatoes, his remarks were of special interest and were much appreciated by the potato growers. He told of the immense market in the Southern States for seed potatoes. That market was wide open to Northern growers, provided they supplied the quality required. He complimented the P. E. Island Potato Growers on having secured such a footing as they had in that market and assured them that the market was theirs for all time to come so long as they supplied the quality they have been supplying during the past several years. He also complimented the Association on its rigid system of inspection and urged upon them the wisdom of keeping everlastingly after quality both as to soundness, grading and shape.

It is worth mentioning here that Dr. Gussow, Dominion Botanist, had written Mr. Peppin, senior inspector for the province, complimenting the Potato Growers' Association on their excellent system of inspection and on very satisfactory results obtained. It is quite to be expected that the Association, knowing as they do the value of rigid inspection, will adhere strictly to their system of rigid, even merciless inspection in the field, in the store and at shipping points.

Prince Edward Island seed potatoes have the reputation of being the best seed grown on the continent. It has, as Mr. Thompson declared, this reputation in the southern market and the guarding of that reputation is in the hands of the potato growers themselves.

THE HOME MARKET

THE uncertainty of foreign markets has perhaps never been more clearly shown than in the recent history of the bacon trade. During the war, Germany offered a very attractive market for bacon. Denmark was not at that time very evident in the British market, supplying only one per cent of the British bacon at the close of the war. In 1919 Britain imported from Denmark 6,600 long hundredweights of bacon. In eleven months of the year 1927, she im-

ported 4,610,000 long hundredweights.

The latter figure was attained by an ever increasing yearly importation from Denmark and the constant supply from that source was largely responsible for the drop in British prices during the past few years. Students of world markets attribute the growing importation of Danish products into Great Britain to the propaganda against Great Britain by internationalists both in Britain and throughout Europe.

The foreign market is always subject to so many influences that it is rarely dependable. On the other hand the home market can be made dependable. It can be safeguarded by a sane fiscal policy and kept available to our own people. At present, unfortunately, our home market is not dependable. It can be broken at any time by large importations of practically all kinds of produce. It is to safeguard our markets that we need a change of Government at Ottawa.

THE "FLU"

New York Herald-Tribune says:—Our view of the influenza epidemic that is devastating Japan will be completed if it adds apprehension to sympathy. Our turn is likely to come, although perhaps not this year, for influenza is a disease of cold months rather than of warm ones and the danger season of this winter is nearly past. The mild, "grippy" colds now widespread in New York City represent, doubtless, this year's dose of influenza infections in our particular spot on earth. For some reason of weather, diet, germ character or something else Japan is suffering more severely. Influenza is one of the few diseases that exhibit at the same time the almost world-wide sprinkling of cases that physicians characterize as "pandemic" and the local and occasional outbreaks of extreme violence termed epidemic. If biologists could learn why this is true the knowledge might be of great significance for our understanding of all the troublesome but fascinating creatures we call germs.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Every virtue becomes a vice when carried to an extreme.

It is not too much now to expect that automobiles will continue uninterruptedly to run all winter; consumption devoutly to be wished.

When it becomes necessary to lop off the branches of our street trees to accommodate electric light or telephone wires it is not necessary to destroy or disfigure the tree as has been done in many cases. Those trees belong to the city and some respect at least should be shown the owners.

The police court report for February does not hold out much hope for that bone-dry millennium which was promised before the last election. Probably the speed with which this period is coming may be gauged by the fact that in over 120 raids for liquor, four were successful in locating the stuff, the remainder being false alarms and humiliating experiences to innocent citizens.

Signs of Spring are multiplying. The sound of the hammer is being heard in the land. Here and there a new garage is being erected or an old one being rejuvenated. In early morn and towards dewy eve a man is encountered carrying a pail of whitewash, a whitewash brush and a step-ladder, ominous indications of household disturbances fortunately of a temporary character. Those duties performed, Spring which is due on the 21st instant, but is generally late, will arrive in due course.

Notes by the Way

A bill to fix the date of Easter has passed its second reading in the British House of Commons. From a purely secular point of view the reasons are very strong. Historical and other considerations have divided the opinions of Churchmen in regard to the merits of the proposed change. Although the Archbishop of Canterbury, among others of high estate in the Church has pronounced in its favor, "I believe," said His Grace recently "that the establishment of a fixed Easter would be a gain in the civil life, and in the ecclesiastical and educational life of the community as a whole."

As is well known, the festival commemorating our Savior's resurrection, has hitherto been a movable one, and may occur at different dates between March 22 and April 25. The date suggested in the bill is the second week-end in April as the fixed date for Easter. Should the bill become law in England that will be but a beginning, affecting the Church of England only. It will remain to be seen what view and action the Roman Catholic, the Orthodox Greek Church and other church organizations of Christendom may take in regard to the proposed change. Still it is thought desirable that Britain should take the lead in a movement which finds its strongest present support within the United Kingdom. And whatever date may be finally selected it seems almost certain that it will be accepted there, and very generally throughout the Empire as permanent.

It is rather shocking that a Saunders Government organ in this Prohibition Province, should at this time feel compelled to record that "the essential coal pillars of Summerside are becoming almost numerous enough to form a Coal Miners' Union, if not a new political organization. And 22 of their number, most of whom had confessed, were adjudged guilty and sentenced by Stipendiary Wyatt, each to two months in jail and to pay costs of two dollars each. It has always been contended by non-believers in Prohibition that a Statute law which has from the beginning of its operation been continuously and openly violated breeds contempt for all the laws of the land. Does not the coal pillar contention up to the hills? No such wholesale outbreak of petty thievery ever occurred in pre-prohibition days as that above referred to.

Compared with other Provinces the Maritimes make a poor showing in building operations according to a circular recently issued by the Royal Bank. During the past three years in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec the outlay for residential construction was \$53.60 and \$47.40 per capita respectively, as against only \$2 per capita in the Maritimes. British Columbia made a high record also at \$49.94, followed by Manitoba at \$23.78. Alberta and Saskatchewan were quoted each at \$8 per capita. The records for some Canadian cities in the year 1927 were, Saint John \$5.90; Moncton \$31.60; Halifax \$26.30; Sydney \$11.70. The per capita expenditures in Port Grey, B. C., Westmount, the Border cities, and Niagara Falls, range from \$95.80 to \$212.60 and many other cities range above \$50 per capita.

The R Progressives in Parliament disapproved of raising the tariff on butter from four to five cents a pound and giving a preferential rate of three cents a pound on butter from Australia and they brought the King government to their terms. The general tariff rate was left unchanged; the Australian rate was reduced to one cent a pound, greatly to the disadvantage of the Canadian butter industry. And then, in order to give Australian growers of raisins and currants a substantial preference in the Canadian market, Australian raisins and currants were placed on the free list, and the duty on raisins and currants from foreign countries was raised from two thirds of a cent a pound to three cents a pound.

Of course the Liberal "Anzacs" in Parliament, included those from Prince Edward Island. In 1927, a total of 39,497,420 pounds of raisins was imported. Of this 25,768,110 pounds came from the United States and 824,691 pounds from Australia. Of currants, 4,609,481 pounds were brought into Canada, of which 3,384,898 came from Greece and 333,112 pounds from Australia. United States raisins and Grecian currants have always been cheaper than Australian dried fruits, but the Ottawa tariff tinkers have prepared the way to make them dearer.

At long length the Provincial Legislature is called to meet on March 20—the latest date with a



By James W. Barton, M.D.

That Body of Ours

FEW MISTAKES IN SURGERY

Most folks naturally wish to avoid an operation if it is at all possible. There is the expense, the time away from their occupation, the fear of the operation itself, and also of the anaesthetic.

Added to that is the thought that perhaps the doctors are wrong and that an operation is not really necessary. You have of course heard the old joke that doctors bury their mistakes and no one is the wiser, but when you consider the number of operations that are performed there may be a few mistakes in diagnosing the trouble, but the doctor telling the patient what he thinks is wrong with him, but it is very seldom indeed that the operation has not been found necessary. Drs. Gregory and Vesburgh, in compiling the number of times the diagnosis was found to be wrong after operation, tell us that in 10,000 operations performed at the New York Hospital, there were just 268 mistakes in the diagnosis.

Just think of that, the condition is inside the body, out of sight, and with only the help of the symptoms and something the X ray, the doctor has been right nearly 98 times in every 100 cases.

Now this does not mean that the other two or three cases in the hundred really suffered because of the mistake, because once the operation was under way, and the real condition found, the surgeon was able to correct or help the condition, notwithstanding that it was not what he expected to find.

For instance a number of cases of appendicitis are thought to be due to gall bladder trouble, and gall bladder trouble has been mistaken frequently for appendicitis. In fact some surgeons tell us that in gall bladder trouble the appendix is also affected in more than half the cases.

However the point for you to remember is, that mistakes in diagnosis are made in a very small percentage of the cases, and even when they are made, it makes very little difference, because practically always the operation was necessary anyway.

The figures are very comforting coming as they do from the records of a large hospital where thousands of operations are performed yearly. It certainly is a wonderful advance in safety due to the newer methods of diagnosing cases.

Modern Etiquette

By ROBERTA LEE

Q. Should a woman guest at a bridge party remove her hat and wraps?  
A. Certainly.  
Q. What tone of voice is always the most pleasing?  
A. The low, gentle voice.  
Q. Who should say the grace before meals?  
A. The father; but if he is reluctant to perform this rite, the mother should do so.

Daily Selections

FOR Guardian Readers  
March 13, 1928  
A DREADFUL DOOM—Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me. For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: They would none of my counsel; they despised all my reproof.—Prov. 1:28, 29, 30.

PRAYER—God, be merciful unto us sinners.

WISHING

Do you wish the world were better? Let me tell you what to do. Set a watch upon your actions, keep them always straight and true; Rid your mind of selfish motives, let your thoughts be clean and high, You can make a little Eden of the sphere you occupy.

Do you wish the world were wiser? Well, suppose you make a start. By accumulating wisdom in the scrap-book of your heart. Do not waste one page on folly; live to learn and learn to live. If you want to give men knowledge, you must get it ere you give.

Do you wish the world were happier? Then remember day by day. Just to scatter seeds of kindness as you pass along the way; For the pleasure of the many may be oftimes traced to one, As the hand that plants the acorn shelters armies from the sun.—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

single exception in seven years past. And this in face of the Premier's promise of an early meeting and the persistent demands of the Alliance. The Bulletin and the leading Prohibitionists of the Province. Still the clamorous early sessioners accept the delay in meek subjection and whispering humility!

NOTES OF A NATURALIST

FEBRUARY, 1928. Specially Contributed to the Guardian

Slowly, but surely, Spring is coming; the day which afforded us 9 hours 49 minutes of sunshine on the 2nd, gave us 11 hours 4 minutes on the 28th, and pleasant it was. On a rough calculation, without the aid of special instruments, we have had this year almost as many hours of sunshine in the month, as we had in February, 1927, being a little over one hundred. There was a dark period from the 9th to the 18th inclusive, broken by two partially sunny days, the 13th and 14th. Rain fell on the 4th, 15th, 23rd and 24th, in each case of course preceded by a cold spell. The thermometer registered 11 degrees on the night of the 21st, the lowest reading here for the month.

The sun is not yet due south at noon, local mean time. On Dec. 24th the sun is "on the Meridian" at 12 noon, but gradually falls behind the clock and the greatest difference occurs on February 12th. On that date the clock reads 12 hours 14 minutes 22 seconds, as the sun souths. Thence onward the sun's motion is accelerated until April 16, when it again agrees with the clock. They who possess those useful (as well as ornamental) additions to the furniture of their gardens—sundials—must make these adjustments in reading them.

What the Barometer Indicates

The action of the barometer is often disappointing from the viewpoint of the solitary observer. In 1857 a Scottish writer on meteorology remarked: "Important as this instrument is in many respects, the experience acquired by long observation, leads to the conclusion that its indications are rather of the present than of the future state of the weather." This experience is frequent at the present day. While the barometer is still high and stationary, with a keen frost and strong sunshine, unmistakable indications of a thaw will appear in the sky, and the instrument only falls when the thaw has actually commenced. Again, on February 21st, 1927, an incident of an opposite character occurred. On the previous day, an aneroid barometer gave a reading of 31.2 inches at 5 p.m.; from then it fell till about 7 p.m., on the 21st when it read 30.05 inches. Heavy sleet fell on that morning, with the thermometer at 32 degrees above; by 4 o'clock it read 34 degrees, and the weather was dull and mild, with no wind to speak of. Now this fall of the barometer was portentous of a gale; the gale was not here however, it was in the United States, and raged with violence from Maine to Delaware, sweeping the waves inland three-quarters of a mile on some places, and causing many deaths. Had the writer, in either case, ventured to predict the weather from the barometer alone, his reputation as a seer must have "fallen below zero."

A recent note in "The Guardian," records the presence of wild ducks in the "Rockies," and as this is unusual, a guide sees in it the promise of an early Spring. Non sequitur! An old clerical friend would have argued otherwise: "Nature always gives up; if the winter is sufficiently mild to allow these birds to stay with us, then depend upon it, the Spring and Summer will be colder and later. If we get a 'pet' day, look out for a storm! If we get a cold spell, a thaw follows. Nature always tries to establish an equilibrium, just as she abhors a vacuum." As the late Lord Oxford once advised a persistent heckler, "Wait and see!"

The Land We Love

By Frank Yeigh

Canada and the League of Nations

Q. What are some of the important results of the League of Nations of which Canada is a member?  
A. There are 220 treaties of peace and friendship in force between nations according to the League records. 40 were registered in 1927 alone, chiefly between European countries. 18 nations have accepted the compulsory jurisdiction clause of the League's permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague, under which they accept the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court for the settlement of all disputes coming under its powers. A score of European countries have, under the League, set up permanent Councils of conciliation. Canada is interested in all these Peace efforts as a member of the League.

HOUSEHOLD SCRAP BOOK

By ROBERTA LEE

Indelible Pencil Stains

Marks from an indelible pencil can be removed by greasing the spots with lard, rubbing well. Then wash with soap and warm water.

Cleanly Beds

One of the best remedies recommended for bed bugs is to vacuum the corners of the bed.

Fresh Fish

Fresh fish can be distinguished from stale fish by using the following knowledge. The gills should be red, the flesh thick and firm, and the fins should be stiff. Otherwise the fish is not fresh.

Minard's Liniment kills warts.

ANOTHER WAR-RUMOR BLAST

THE DRUMBEAT ECHOES YET EGYPT REPORTED HOSTILE

Historicus.

The wires from abroad state that Egypt is becoming restless, and threatens England with unsheathing the sword for her independence. It is only a short while since we penned an article which appeared in this column, giving a pleasing account of the great strides made by Egypt under the Protectorate and later under the mandate of the League of Nations. It comes, therefore, as a surprise to read of a renewal of hostilities so soon afterwards. Doubtless some hot-headed patriots are anxious to again waste what the country has gained under a period of peace.

Viewed from this distance it appears as if they regard the effects of war in those countries very lightly; and moreover don't value the blessings of peace and prosperity. On this side of the Ocean, thank heaven, the people view war very seriously, and only resort to war when the supreme interests of the state are at stake.

War, all know, is a terrible game, and is very vividly portrayed in the following sketch of an ordinary engagement. This, understand, is only one clash of arms; what must be when the battle extends over hundreds of lines. Let us look on for a few moments:

A Battery in Hot Action:

"Did you ever see a battery take action?" "It hasn't the thrill of a cavalry charge, nor the grimness of a line of bayonets moving slowly and determinedly on, but there is a peculiar excitement about it that makes old veterans rise in their saddles and cheer.

"We have been fighting in the edge of the woods. Every cartridge has been emptied once or more, and one-fourth of the brigade has melted away in dead and wounded and missing. Not a cheer is heard in the whole brigade. We know that we are being driven, foot by foot, and that when we break once more the line will go to pieces, and the enemy will pour through the gap.

"Here comes help!" "Down the crowded highway gallops a battery, drawn from some other position to save ours. The field forces scattered while you rushed from the hills behind us. Six horses to a piece—three riders to each gun. Over dry ditches where a farmer would not drive a wagon, through clumps of bushes, over logs a foot thick, every horse on the gallop, every rider lashing his team and yelling—the sight behind us making us forget the sight in front. The guns jump two feet high as the heavy wheels strike a rock or a log, but not a horse slackens his pace, not a cannoneer loses his seat. Six guns, six caissons, sixty horses, eighty men, race for the brow of the hill, as if he who should reach it first would be knighted.

"A moment ago the battery was a confused mob. We look again, and the six guns are in position, the detached horses hurrying away, the ammunition chests open, and along our line runs the command: 'Give them one more volley and fall back to support the guns.' We have scarcely obeyed when boom! boom! opens the battery, and jets of fire jump down and scorch the green trees under which we fought and despaired!

"The shattered brigade has a chance to breathe for the first time in three hours, as we form in line and lie down. What grim, cool fellows those cannoneers are! Every man is a perfect machine. Bullets splash dust in their faces, but they do not wince. Bullets sing over and around, they do not dodge. There goes one to the earth, shot through the head as he sponges his gun. That machinery loses just one cog, and then works away again as before.

"Every gun is using short-fuse shell. The ground shakes and trembles, the roar shuts out all sound from a line three miles away, and the shells go shrieking into the swamp to cut trees short off, to mow great gaps in the bushes, hunt out and shatter and mangle men until their corpses cannot be recognized as human. You would think a tornado was howling through the forest, followed by billows of fire and yet men live through it—aye, press forward to capture the battery. We can hear their shouts as they form the rush.

"Now the shells are changed for grape and canister guns are fired so fast that all reports blend into one mighty roar. The shriek of a shell is the wickedest sound in war, but nothing makes the flesh crawl like the demontiacal singing, purring, whistling grape shot, and the serpent-like hiss of canister.

"Men's legs and heads are torn from their bodies, and bodies cut in twain. A round shot or shell takes two men out of the ranks as it crashes through. Grape and canister mow a swath and pile the dead on top of each other."

This is as far as we can continue the description of an unnamed battlefield, but it is a graphic portrayal of the whole theatre on a small scale. It is a sad fact that those eastern countries are so strongly wedded to war as means of preserving peace, and thus keep England and France ever on the alert to safeguard the business of the nations and the liberties of the human race. But for the foreign peoples of the East a large enough body of people could be found to enter into and agree in treaties the conditions of those documents. It seems impossible, however, to secure such a happy consummation and that force by means of war will be the only solution of European difficulties for many years yet. The numerous disagreements that crop up from time to time even while the League of Nations is actually endeavoring to establish order and peace, leaves

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