

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1934.

LIBRARY EXTENSION

As mentioned in these columns more than one occasion, there has been a tie-up in providing Charlottetown with the facilities of the Carnegie demonstration library, which in other centres of the province has been inaugurated successfully.

Contrary to a somewhat prevalent belief, the Canadian Government is in no way connected with the commercial production of radium, the work of the Federal Department of Mines in devising the method now used by Eldorado as a basis for the treatment of the ore, and in mapping the area, being in the nature of services rendered to the mineral industry.

The proposal of an additional contribution for this purpose will be made to the new Mayor and Council. No doubt it will be because of the impending civic election that action in this matter was not taken earlier.

AN EMPIRE BULWARK

February 13th in 1900, the organization known as Daughters of the Empire was founded in the city of Montreal. Noting this event a writer in a mainland exchange says Canada was then in the midst of a great wave of enthusiasm owing to the participation of our own boys in the war in South Africa.

Many of these organizations of 1900 were short-lived; but this one has lived, chiefly because it had to do with the children. The founders were Mrs. J. Clark Murray, the wife of a professor of McGill University. She was a little woman, but she was just filled with energy and bubbled over with enthusiasm.

As reported in yesterday's Guardian, Lieutenant-Colonel U. G. Dawson, V.D., Bedoune, has been promoted to the rank of Colonel and will command the 18th Infantry Brigade with headquarters at Aldershot, N. S.

Viewing the civil strife and discord in Europe at the present time, it may be said that this motto was never more applicable or necessary of being emphasized throughout the Empire. The patriotism which it inculcates is not a narrow or selfish one, as is maintained by so-

RADIUM PRODUCTION

Scarcely four years after the initial discovery of radium ore at Great Bear Lake, Northwest Territories, Canada has become an important producer of radium, with Eldorado Gold Mines, Limited, maintaining a steady production from its refinery at Port Hope, Ontario, output from which already amounts to a few thousand milligrams.

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NEW HIGHLAND ERA

The old assertion that the Scotch Highlands had a permanent disability in agricultural and industrial competition with the rest of the country owing to their remoteness from power and light transmission no longer holds good, says the Edinburgh Scotsman. It adds: "It may be said that the disability was never an absolute one, as the whole area is blessed with an abundance of water power; but it is one thing to have potential advantages and another to apply them."

EDITORIAL NOTES

A New Brunswick exchange reports having received a neat little booklet entitled "What Mackenzie King did for Canada in Nine Years". The booklet consists of several sheets of blank paper!

Of the thousands of banks closed in the United States last March 3, 563 are still unopened. For the last nine months of 1933 the reopenings totalled 1,046 and the American Banker says 136 were reopened during January of this year. The pace of reopenings is improving, it is stated, and during 1934 it is held that a large proportion of banks still closed will be reopened.

Notes By The Way

It is no happen, says the Providence Journal, that the defaulting nations comprise a very sizable percentage of our best customers as regards manufactured goods, raw materials, agricultural products etc. There is another reason that might cause us to pause before closing the door on them. They are our borrowers—namely, that our present position in the financial and commercial affairs of the world necessarily makes us a creditor nation.

NOISE LESSENS MENTAL AND PHYSICAL ABILITY

Fifty years ago some observant European physicians and scientists, owing to the gradually increasing noise in their community, decided to investigate the effect of noise on themselves and others. They discovered that while trying to do any mental work the noise interfered with concentration; it took their minds away to some extent from their work.

It is the encouraging opinion of Dr. Francis Carter Wood, director of the Crocker Institute for Cancer Research of Columbia University, that the last year witnessed more noteworthy progress toward the prevention and cure of cancer than any similar period since the disease was first made the subject of medical research. Results reported during the year included important discoveries in respect to immunization of the animal of cancer and its cause. It is in respect to the causes and character of cancer that last year saw such notable progress.

Handel Revival

(T.A. in the Montreal Gazette) It is said that the music of George Frederick Handel is about to undergo a renaissance in England. Handel, prophesied one lover of music, is about to rise from the "dormant bed" of "oblivion" and take his rightful place in the musical firmament once more.

There is good reason for this. In the first place Handel composed too much. The complete edition of his works published by the German Handelgesellschaft fills 100 stout volumes. His output is nearly as large as that of Bach and Beethoven put together and both these men were prolific, especially Bach.

Handel had a fatal faculty. A score like "Semele" for example, was written in a few days. In other words, fast as Handel could write down the music. Such a colossal work as the "Messiah" was completed in the incredible time of three weeks. When we think how long Beethoven took to write each of his symphonies and that Wagner took three years to complete "Tristan," we find some idea of the swiftness of Handel's pen.

Why these furze in France? One explanation, perhaps the true one, is that parliamentary government has never commended itself a substantial seat on of the people. There have been French elections with fewer than 50 per cent of the people going to the polls. The old nobility, the landowners and a considerable section of the people of the provinces, have never quite taken to the Republic. They look upon the Government as the preserve of professional politicians, whom they distrust and often despise; with the consequence that a powerful check is lacking in the conduct of administration.

An increase of 34 per cent in general cargo at that port. Exports of general cargo to date total 146,887 tons as compared with 109,013 tons for the corresponding period last season, an increase of 38,906 tons. The President regarded as "a very healthy sign"; and, as already noticed in these columns, there are similar signs at Halifax and every other port in Canada, on the Pacific as well as on the Atlantic.

That Body of Ours

By James W. Burns, M.D.

Str.—Though a community agree with your recent correspondent as to the needed help from the Carnegie Library it has little effect unless brought into emphatic expression. The lone man calling in the wilderness rarely moves the men of office into action, but the union of many, pressing forward with convincing argument and the force of determination cast in the conviction into compliance. It is time for those interested in the Library and its educational advantages to get busy.

Why should this Library be shut out from the benefits of the grant? With our large building and facilities it reaches the greater number of the reading patrons. It is not sectional but fully provincial in the scope of operation. Country and City alike enjoy its benefits. Both have contributed to its cost both of building and equipment. The City has run enough been the largest contributor, but it has also as a thickly populated centre the larger percentage of users. The Provincial Government is also a contributor, and from taxes collected from city and county. The City has run the country reader is allowed a longer time for reading than the city patron. There is nothing in existence to distinguish it in any sense as parochial or sectional.

I have heard as a reason that the Carnegie grant imposes a condition that the Library must be open and available in the evenings. If this is so it presents a formidable difficulty. The clerkship involved in keeping accurate record books loaned and returned is of an exacting nature. With the larger patronage, a likely evening increase in addition to the greater number of books available, less help or less expert management could not be thought of.

A suggestion has been made that the Library be closed in the morning absolutely and opening at one o'clock and through the evenings. In a sense it might be a makeshift accommodating to the difficulty, the principal drawback being the tying up of employees, particularly when in summer they should be enjoying the all day sunshine of life, where the readers should also be.

The morning closing should work little or no hardship. Anyone needing a book to take home would not be seriously handicapped by making it in the afternoon instead of the morning. And those who use the Library as a reading room would be as comfortable there in the afternoon and evening as they would be in the morning.

There is only one way to bring this matter into consideration and that is for those interested to get at it and keep at it until they penetrate the ears and hearts of those in authority.

I am Str., etc.

L. F. TANTON.

was not, like Wagner, writing a "music of the future," nor like Brahms a professional composer selling his compositions in the market like authors sell their books. He wrote his music for performance. Certainly he had some ideas which might be called the creations of an opportunist.

When a man is dealing with a host of creditors, training an operatic company, taming temperamental singers and bargaining with leading managers, he is not likely to turn out the perfect specimens of craftsmanship that a recluse such as Bach would. Other composers' inspiration ran dry for lack of ideas, Handel's ran dry for lack of time.

What the average lover of fine music needs is a carefully edited edition of Handel's works. Such an edition would consist of the choicest examples of his genius; instrumental pieces, songs from the operas, the best arias and choruses from his lesser-known oratorios. There are plenty of selections from all departments of his work in print today but there does not seem to be a systematic and properly edited general selection. Perhaps the Handel renaissance referred to above, will give occasion for such a publication.

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PUBLIC FORUM

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THE PROVINCIAL LIBRARY

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The Poet's Corner FEBRUARY DRUMS This silver quietude of snow—And yet a low insistent sound Comes faintly through to ears that strain. Toward muted music underground. The mood of drums that roll Beneath a frosty silence; The martial rhythms summoning Invincible green regiments. —Adeleide Love in "Voices"

Seaplanes Join In Salmon Egg "Hunt"

(Fisheries News Bulletin)

Hunting salmon eggs by seaplanes may seem an extraordinary undertaking but it is done sometimes by officers of the Dominion Department of Fisheries in British Columbia, and for the best of reasons. Perhaps the uninitiated may think the case stranger still when it is added that the officers don't do anything with the eggs when they do find them.

But a few words of explanation will clear things up. Actually the planes are used in inspecting salmon spawning areas, not in "hunting" salmon and their eggs in the usual sense of the word "hunting."

Inspecting the spawning grounds in the salmon streams of British Columbia is an important part of the work which must be done every year by officers of the Dominion Department which administers the fisheries of the province. By means of these inspections information is gathered as to whether the parent fish have been reaching the spawning areas in adequate numbers, whether the grounds have been well seeded with eggs, whether any additional conservation steps are necessary, to maintain the stocks of salmon for the future. Some of the areas, of course, are quite easily reached by the fisheries inspectors, but there are others which are remote or difficult of access and it is in some of these latter regions that the seaplanes have been brought into use, on a few occasions.

Results have justified the use of the planes, too. Time has been saved and a good deal of arduous labor. For instance, a short time ago one officer accomplished in two days, by the aid of a plane, an inspection job which otherwise would have taken from six to eight times as long and would have been attended by a good deal of difficulty because of the nature of the ground to be traversed in reaching the area to be examined.

Seaplanes by the way, have been used by the department in fisheries patrol service in British Columbia for several years past, with satisfactory results. Both in the patrol service and in spawning ground inspection, however, they are used only to meet special conditions.

Peace Prospects

(Montreal Star)

The very unbalanced state of power in Europe makes for peace. Wherever there is an army ready to march, there is none to meet it. The French could put on a military parade to Berlin, but like a certain mighty King of France who had ten thousand men, having marched them to the top of the hill they could only march down again. Italy could take a holiday jaunt to Vienna, but she could not stay there. And when she had left, the semi-peaceful might would have one more powerful reason for seeking a rapprochement with Germany. It is, indeed, a nice question whether top-sided disarmament does not preserve the peace better than equalized armaments.

Equalized armaments might bring war on the Manchurian border. Military inferiority on either side would at least postpone it. But the trouble there is that the Russians are too strong to retreat, even if not strong enough to advance; and yet Japan might easily think that her armaments are now at a peak of efficiency and that she cannot much longer carry their weight.

What would the United States do if Russia were being beaten? There is much American criticism of Great Britain because she does not serve notice in advance that she would support France in 1914, and so discourage the Kaiser from rickling war. The Americans will now realize that democracies cannot serve such notices. If she would say today that the American Navy would support Russia in such a war, the war would not come. She may do just that when and if this war does come. But could any American Government say so today?

Picking McGill's President

(Winnipeg Free Press)

A select committee from the personnel of the Board of Government of McGill University has been appointed by the Board to nominate a successor to the Principality of McGill. The Montreal Star proceeds to give advice as to the qualifications which the holder of that position should possess, remarking that as any time the position of principal of a university is one of great responsibility and importance "and this is particularly the case with McGill."

The first qualification, according to the Star is that the Principal of McGill must be a man of strong character whose personality will make itself felt both within the limits of the campus and beyond. "Of course, he must be a scholar of repute." He must also have the power of forceful expression. He should hold religious views respectable to the supporters of the University.

And finally, "it is desirable as a matter of preference and other things being equal, that the new Principal should be a Canadian." Up to that point our nominee, care-

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fully following the requirements as laid down by the Star, was the Archangel Michael, but perhaps he couldn't be claimed as a native son and it would be awkward if an agitation arose to deport him. However, the committee on selection now knows what to look for. Perhaps the design for principle will have to have a tuck taken here and a gore there, but having found the paragon among presidents, the headship of McGill awaits him, which, as the Star and Montreal in general admit, is worth considerable amassing of virtues gifts, and training.

Passing through the market, a very stout woman ran by with a varied assortment of parcels in her arms and looking hot and bothered. Behind her trotted a very sleek-looking greyhound. Suddenly a voice from a fruit stall shouted: "Go on, Ma, yer winnin'!"

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