The Charlottetown Guardian

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Morning Daily (founded 1887) $5.00 per year (in advance) delivered in City $4.00 per year (in advance) mailed to Prince Edward Island $5.00 per year (in advance) Mailed to Canada and United States

SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 1937

The Imperial Conference

Little of a concrete nature has developed from the Imperial Conference now sitting in London, nor is it expected that it will go down in history as one of the more notable gatherings of the kind. The conference is expected to close next week, in which event Hon. C. A. Dunning, Hon. Ian MacKenzie, and Hon. T. A. Crerar, three Cabinet Minister who are in London, are likely to sail for home on June 19, Premier King, unless he changes his mind, will leave on July 3, taking a rest after the conference.

The 1927 Imperial Conference, it is noted in comparison with this one, was productive of the constitutional concessions embodied in the Statute of Westminster. The 1932 Conference here brought about the Ottawa Agreements. Differing from the ordinary one, it was essentially economic, and its far-reaching results are still apparent, especially in Canada's export trade with the United Kingdom.

The present conference is described as purely general and consultative; likely to reach understandings but to come to no very definite agreements and to make no "committments." The autonomous principle, it is said, is being observed to an unusual degree, this applying to Imperial defence and to the trade questions, including an agreement between Great Britain and the United States. The anticipated opposition and obstacles, both in Britain and the Dominions, are forthcoming conspicuously. In a constitutional sense, the Conference agenda had nothing important in it from the start.

What is forecast, says the Ottawa correspondent of the Montreal Star, is that nearly every matter discussed will be left open for subsequent determination but that in regard to defence, co-ordination of activities is about the best to be expected as distinguished from a joint effort under centralized direction.

Rifts Within The Lute

A Nova Scotia Liberal candidate has given a new definition of Liberalism. "Liberalism" he declared, "does not mean merely a political party. It means a school of thought and a collection of well founded principles." And then he asked: "Where can we find them?"

That seems to be the rub. We are reminded of it by the latest declaration of Premier Hepburn of Ontario, who is often referred to as a modern Liberal, and yet who declared before a public gathering in Toronto last week: "I'm a reformer, but not a Mackenzie King Liberal any more and I'll tell the whole world that. And I hope he hears me."

Mr. King, of course, regards himself as a Liberal of the old school, except on the subject of Free Trade, which old-school Liberals regarded as the essence of Liberalism and which Mr. King has ceased even to pay lip-service to. But here is the Liberal leader of Ontario dissociating himself completely from the Mackenzie King brand of Liberalism altogether and going so far as to speak disrespectfully of the "vacillating" government at Ottawa.

A Nova Scotia exchange recalls, in this connection, that there was similar, though less openly expressed, disharmony among Liberal leaders when they met at Ottawa. That fiasco followed the 1935 Dominion election campaign which included a grand radio broadcast when Liberal premiers from all the provinces were brought to the microphone and told what a happy family would gather around the conference table after the election. After several abortive attempts to realize this pipe-dream, Mr. King, at the last session of Parliament, was goaded into commenting acidly on the futility of calling conferences "that talked much and accomplished little."

Meantime, since that famous election broadcast, Premier Taschereau has gone down to defeat in Quebec and Premier Bracken of Manitoba, following the same path, can only carry on through dependence on opposition groups in the Legislature. Premier Pattullo was luckier in British Columbia, but his type of Liberalism is also of a different brand than that prevailing at Ottawa. And now Mr. Hepburn, the darling of them all, puts away the old banner and starts out on a path all his own.

According to the Winnipeg Free Press (Liberal) no tears will be shed over Premier Hepburn's defection in high federal Liberal quarters, "even though it may mean a disorder which will react temporarily against the party when the time comes to vote."

Pension Curiosities

In the United States last week they observed Memorial Day. One American kept it by pointing out in the New York Times that since the Revolution the Government has paid war veterans over $21,000,000,000.

Some of the things noted by this writer are extraordinary, to say the least.

The War of 1812 ended 122 years ago. Yet at the beginning of the present month Mrs. Caroline King, widow of Private Darious King, of the New York Militia, received her monthly cheque of $50 and Mrs. Esther Ann Hill Morgan, daughter of Private John Hill, of the New York Militia, received her monthly cheque of $20—both pensions going back to the War of 1812.

The Mexican War was fought in 1846-48. At the close of last month 226 widows of soldiers who fought in the Mexican War were still on the pension rolls.

The Civil War was over and done with 72 years ago. Last month Washington mailed out cheques for 78,000 persons on account of the Civil War. In addition there were nearly 5,000 veterans, widows and orphans of the Indian wars drawing pensions, over 2,000 veterans of the Spanish-American War drawing pensions.

Finally, there are Great War pensions. United States World War veterans have thus far collected $3,250,000,000—and are still collecting. This in addition to $3,621,000,000 they received through bonus cheques and for medical and hospital care.

Wars, apparently, or at least United States wars, cost more when they are over than when they are on.

Editorial Notes

Charles Kingsley born this date 1819.

* * *

Flags half-mast today for a statesman who knew his duty and did it.

* * *

Sir Robert Borden killed the Women Movement in Canada by giving them the vote.

* * *

"The Promise Keeper" would be a most appropriate epitaph for Sir Robert L. Borden.

* * *

Is there any sane Democrat still hankering after Communism as they have it in Russia?

* * *

Sir Robert Borden brought blessed relief and much concern to not a few members of Parliament by fathering the Civil Service Act and Commission.

* * *

When one entered Sir Robert Borden's presence he immediately made you feel at your ease—his kindly, sympathetic, inquiring eyes and genial bearing conveyed a welcome and friendliness which was both reassuring and confidence-inspiring.

* * *

Our Ottawa correspondent suggests that the Mackenzie King deal with the Mother Country includes new industries, renewed immigration, and provision for social legislation such as the intended new arrivals now enjoy in the Old Country.

* * *

Newman's prayer for support and peace hereafter is peculiarly applicable to Sir Robert Laird Borden: "May He support us all the day long, till the shades lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done! Then in His mercy may He give us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last, Amen."

* * *

Lord Beaverbrook's advocacy of open sessions of the Imperial Conference except in the matter of defence will find a welcome echo in most of the Dominions. If the Commonwealth of Nations is to be popularized and developed there must be more publicity regarding the attitude adopted by the representatives on the various questions at issue. For instance, everybody here would like to know what Prime Minister King has got to say on the proposed trade concessions to U.S.A.

* * *

Perhaps the greatest moment in Sir Robert Borden's life was when he rose in the House of Commons to introduce his Conscription Bill. The House and country were sharply divided on the question though its dire need was manifest. Sir Wilfrid Laurier had been approached to throw in his lot with a union government but he had proved non-committal, and the House and Country were on the tenterhooks of expectation as to his decision, which was to be declared immediately following Sir Robert's speech. The Prime Minister knew this and spoke with a sincerity and impressiveness that at times rose to eloquence, but all in vain. Sir Wilfrid announced his determination to stick by Quebec and anti-conscription. The present writer was in the House in company with the late Senator William Dennis on that occasion, and after the House rose had the honour and privilege of a brief interview with both statesmen. Neither showed elation at the result of the debate, both were serious and apprehensive.

* * *

Mr. Justice Howson, of the Supreme Court of Alberta had a sensational experience in Court the other day, equalled only in fiction thrillers. An arson case was before the Court in which three accused were convicted. One of them, Blozak, an Edmonton rooming house proprietor, was asked if he wished to say anything before sentence was imposed. Gesticulating violently, he broke into a wild outburst.

"My lord, I am not guilty....You got it in for me because I was Social Credit and you were Liberal," Blozak shouted. (Mr. Justice Howson was leader of the Alberta Liberal party until he resigned his seat in the Alberta Legislature 15 months ago after his elevation to the Supreme Court bench.)

Blozak continued: "Your Lordship, I knew I was going to be sentenced before I came here. You are taking my body and soul. It is gone already. I wish to be tried by a different judge than you, sir.

"You have no use for me. I told my solicitor. You have taken my soul because I am an innocent man. I have the poison right in front of me.

"There is the poison," he shouted, striking his throat and chest with a dramatic gesture.

Mr. Justice Howson told Blozak he was ignoring his behavior in imposing sentence.

"You were chiefly responsible for this crime," the jurist declared as he imposed sentence of three years. As Mr. Justice Howson retired to his chambers, the prisoner was seen to raise his hand to his mouth again. Then, for the first time, court attendants realized the man really had taken poison. Lance-Corporal E. Davis, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and court attendants forced a substance, believed to be poison, from his mouth. Excitement gripped the crowded court which was ordered cleared. An ambulance was summonded as Blozak, blood streaming from his mouth, cried over and over: "I am innocent. You have killed my body and soul." He died shortly after reaching the hospital.

Notes By The Way

Some well informed people in Britain believe that we have a secret alliance with the French. Others, equally well informed, think that there have been nothing more than talks between the General Staffs of the two countries. If either story is true, it is bad news for Britain, bad news for the Empire. What answer would any of the Empire statesmen now in Britain give were they asked: "would you be prepared to hurl the soldiers of your Dominion into a war in Europe, of concern only to Europe?" The Sunday Express has no doubt whatever that the answer would come firm, unanimous and plain—"No."—Daily Mail, London.

"I do not believe that Englishmen like to be conspicuously dressed," said the War Secretary, explaining why he refuses to restore the Army's scarlet tunic. That is strange talk in this land of pearly kings, Beefeaters, bewigged Judges, ermined Mayors, Brass Hats, Black Rods, and strawberry-leaved Dukes. Apart even from such dazzling personages we are a picturesque lot. See how eagerly the average man gets out of his drab office uniform and into plus-fours, hiker's kit, or a gay blazer as soon as he has a few hours off. And nobody ever heard of a British redcoat or his girl complaining that he was too gaudy.—London Sunday Chronicle.

Mr. Chamberlain will enter office at a time when European rivalry and the clashing aspirations of heavily armed Powers may sweep us to destruction, and at a time too when industrial and social life is in the midst of a difficult and dangerous transition. His need is for patience and a cool head. He has shown that he, personally, has both. In foreign affairs it may be fatal to display that interfering quixotry that was possible with safety when Britain was the most perfectly equipped Power for conflict. The adoption of highfalutin' moral attitudes which anger others and cannot be sustained may be fatal. Such a policy brought Britain's prestige to the dust when Italy was threatened by sanctions and laughed the threat to scorn. It is to be hoped, indeed it is to be assumed, that under Mr. Chamberlain there shall be no repetition of such a deadly braggart attitude.—London Sunday Dispatch.

The Bombardment of Almeria, which reduced much of the city to ruins, was the work of the German pocket battleship Admiral Scheer, a sister ship of the damaged Deutschland. She did nearly all the mischief done by shelling, being a very powerful ship for her size and the nearest to a dreadnought that Germany was allowed to build under the treaty of Versailles. The other warships at the bombardment were destroyers, which really were escorting vessels. Their guns are much smaller and less destructive.—Ex.

It is surprising how far courtesy will take a man in business and in pleasure. Courtesy and consideration would cut down the number of motor acidents in this province literally by thousands and would give Ontario such a good name on the continent that tourists would flock in from the United States in much greater numbers and indirectly increase the prosperity of all our citizens. Make no mistake about it, "Courtesy Pays."—Toronto Star.

The Japanese government has resigned because of its condemnation by the national electorate. A deadlock may develop now because of the army's willingness to work with the political parties. Semi-autocratic rule will be continued during the interim and the militarists will strive to move the nation towards a condition of totalitarianism.—Toronto Star.

In the past we have on occasion criticized the Antiquities authorities for their extreme reticence. Egyptology was such a serious business, it appeared, that its devotees could never bring themselves to admit a discovery until it had been tested and retested. Even then publication of the news was usually due to a leakage, much deprecated by the authorities. For some time past the attitude has changed, at least as concerns certain members of the Department. At the risk of being accused of never being satisfied, we think some protest is now due in the absolutely opposite sense to our last complaint. With unfailing regularity "sensational discoveries" are being announced every ten days or so, not through official sources, be it said, but "from information received" by the local Press. The stories are religiously cabled abroad and scientific circles get all excited about them. Eventually, however, the sensations fade away into nothing at all or nothing of any very great importance. — The Sphinx. Cairo.

An Inglewood mother who gave her miscreant son a good strapping in the office of Police Chief Campbell may have set a fashion that would bear copying elsewhere. There are so many laws forbidding corporal punishment of misbehaving youngsters that a parent is almost afraid to slap a wrist for fear of being haled into court for mayhem. To do the punishing in front of the chief ought to be good guarantee of legality.—Ex.

The only other statesman besides Mr. Ramsay MacDonald on which the very exclusive Order of Merit has been conferred is Mr. Lloyd George. The order confers no precedence, says an exchange. It is designed as a special distinction to eminent men and women—without conferring a Knighthood upon them. The Order is limited to 24, with the addition of foreign honorary members. Membership is designated by the suffix O. M., which is authorized to follow the first class of the Order of the Bath and to precede all classes of the remaining Orders of Knighthood.—Moncton Times.

A weird, an amazing, story comes out of Los Angeles. A Los Angeles society woman, it seems has been granted an annulment of her marriage because her husband—the brute—read her a book! This is an unusual ground for dissolving the marriage tie; but then, it is startling to learn of anyone in Cinemaland reading a book. The offending volume was written by an obscure author named Charles Dickens. It was called by the odd name of "Pickwick Papers," and one chapter was entitled "A Madman's Manuscript." This portion, the lady complained ,was so terrifying and so gruesome as to cause her great mental anguish. — Chicago Daily News.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE EAT TOO FAST

When food enters the stomach the walls of the stomach contract and squeeze this food onward and out of the stomach.

Now the food should not be squeezed out of the stomach hurriedly or in too short a time as the longer the food remains in the stomach the better it is mixed with the digestive juice of the stomach and that much more digestion of the food occurs.

An interesting experiment whereby digestion of food in the stomach was actually photographed in the form of moving pictures is recorded in the British Medical Journal by Dr. Russell Reynolds.

The moving pictures showed that the stomach is divided into three parts as far as digestion is concerned. When food enters the first part nothing happens for a few minutes until there would seem to be some pressure from the amount or weight of food. When this pressure gets to a certain height the walls relax enough to let the food go into the second part. When this second part gets enough food or weight in it, the muscle walls of the stomach begin to squeeze or contract against the food, and the food is forced into the third part—the part nearest the opening into the small intestine into which the food enters when its digestion in the stomach is complete.

An interesting point was noted in that when the stomach muscles squeezed the second part of the stomach sending a large amount of the food downward into the third part, some of the food got squeezed back into the first part again.

When the stomach was high up in the abdomen some of the food was actually squeezed into the small intestine within twenty minutes after it entered the stomach. This is a condition often found in the nervous type of individual and Dr. Reynolds says, "this accounts for the digestive trouble caused by taking meals hurriedly: the muscular coat of the stomach, having no time to adapt itself to the bulk, responded by forcing the food out of the stomach before it was sufficiently mixed with stomach digestive juice. This means that food should be eaten slowly, to give the stomach the proper amount of time to handle or digest it properly.

Years ago, when we were advised by Fletcher to take twenty-two chews on every bite of food so as to mix it well with the mouth digestive juice, the benefits obtained were likely due to the fact that the food was not eaten too hurriedly.

The Poets' Corner

REBIRTH

Now the long sleepy comfortable time,
The lovely nerveless wintertime is over,
And peace is over. Now the sullen roots
Of ancient trees grow big with acrid sap
And crush it fiercely upward. Now their boughs,
Still and content these many, many months,
Sense the on-creeping enemy — remember
The fear and agony of other springs,
And shut themselves against it with a will.
"Ah, not again!" they murmur, "not again!
We cannot face that agony again!
Let us sleep comfortably thus forever,"
And cling to sleep. Still, still the bitter juice
Inexorably presses, thrusting past
Their tightly kept defences like a flood
Of fire and twisting pain; and brittle twigs,
That have been numb and seeming-dead so long,
Writhe with the torment of returning life,
And would the frosts had killed them.

—Theodore St. John, in the Montreal Star.

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Behind The Headlines At Ottawa

By Dean Wilson

Within recent days a story has spread along Parliament Hill that there is a movement on foot to bring about an important constitutional change in the Dominion.

This development which is of major national significance is based on the theory that the Federal Government plans to empower the new Royal Commission which is scheduled to start an investigation shortly into the financial and political relationship between the Dominion and the Provincial Governments, to permit this Commission to delve deeper into certain problems than all the initial reports from the Capital had indicated. It appears now that an effort will be made to try and effect some important changes in the British North America Act whereby it would be possible for the Dominion Government to act immediately in such a manner as to satisfy certain discontented elements in Canada, and this new Royal Commission is expected to lay the foundation for such enactments in the very near future.

It is understood that the Federal Government desires to effect certain social legislation which would allow unemployment and sickness insurance for the average Canadian citizen, regulations on old age pensions and numerous other favorable enactments for the workers of Canada. This idea infers that there is a great deal of truth in the story carried in this column last week in which it was reported that several major British industries may be planted in Canadian centers, accompanied by a selected form of immigration of certain British skilled workers of these industries, and the social legislation is a part and parcel of the whole scheme because expert observers in Ottawa claim that Canada will have to grant these privileges to these new arrivals since they enjoy these benefits now in the Old Country.

There are also indications that the new Royal Commission which will try to find a cure for the many financial ills of the Provincial Government may work out a scheme whereby these Provincial Governments may be relieved of the big financial responsibilities and costs of certain services on condition that they surrender their constitutional jurisdiction over these said services since there is no doubt in Ottawa that some Provincial Governments cannot carry on indefinitely upon the basis of their present taxation resources.

* * * *

According to extremely reliable sources, it seems that the entire radio situation in Canada may be involved in some momentous changes shortly since experts in the Capital believe that the Board of Governors of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation have been far busier than they would have seemed to be from their official reports to the Canadian listening public.

Every active member of this national organization from Chairman L. W. Brockington to the minor technical staff are moving about in Ottawa and in other cities of the Dominion with unusual speed and secrecy, and it appears a certainty that some important announcement may come forth very soon.

One result of this activity may be the creation of a number of new and powerful stations in certain parts of the Dominion in order to provide a much better entertainment facility for rural sections which have often missed good radio programmes and which fact resulted in many complaints to the head office of the Corporation at Ottawa. Another point that may be brought out is the aim of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to compete with the high voltage stations on the United States, and thus, it is openly predicted that the new plans call for the allowance of increased power to certain existing stations. Finally, is is stated that the Corporation may enter into competition with the highly advertised commercial programmes of the United States by providing a much more expensive radio entertainment for the Canadian listeners.

Of course, it is extremely difficult to obtain exact details of this new policy, but it is generally agreed by the experts in Ottawa that Canada is sure to get a "New Deal" this autumn, and these radio changes are not to be on a small scale.

Authorities in Ottawa are worrying over a new subject, and it is the fact that retail sales and consumption of goods domestically have fallen down in face of marked increases in production and exports. This means that if there should be a sudden decrease in export trade of the Dominion, it would lead to serious results, unless a better balance between production and domestic or home consumption is effected.

The officials of the Department of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa and the experts of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics have been following closely for some time the general movement of the retail trade in the country, and they have compared the figures. Their results and conclusions are extremely vital and interesting to every Canadian because they aim to destroy pessimism and false overconfidence for a better balanced picture.

They report that retail trade and domestic consumption is not keeping up with the increased population, that production is in excess of demand in the Dominion, that retail prices are rising in face of all these facts, and that conditions will continue to improve and appear healthy everywhere provided that the export trade will take up all excess of production.

The estimated value of Canadian production during the past twelve months was $2,841,000,000, while the exports reached the figure of slightly more than $1,000,000,000. In other words, the export trade accounted for more than 35 per cent of the production, and if for one reason or another, there should be a sudden or unforeseen stop in this trade on the international scene in the favour of the Dominion, it may cause a very dangerous situation, unless domestic consumption, as indicated by retail sales, catches up with the increased and steadily rising production.

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Jury's Difficult Job

(Globe and Mail)

Dr. Frederick A. Cook, who manages to emerge from obscurity into the spotlight from time to time, again has "made the front page" by bringing a libel action against the publishers of a famous encyclopedia, who not only cast doubt on his claim to have discovered the North Pole, but assert that such claim is "universally rejected."

It was in July, 1907, that Dr. Cook sailed from the United States in a friend's yacht on a hunting and exploring expedition in North Greenland.

More than two years later, on Sept. 1, 1909, a telegram from the Shetland Islands announced to a startled world that the doctor, accompanied only by Eskimos, reached the North Pole on April 21, 1908.

On Sept. 4, 1909, Dr. Cook landed at Copenhagen, Denmark, where he was feted and lionized and presented with a specially minted medal. Copenhagen University made him a doctor of science. Already he was a doctor of medicine.

He returned to New York late in September, received the freedom of the city, and was banqueted by the Arctic Club. After which he lectured widely.

George Kennan, a well-known Siberian explorer of the time, was the first who felt moved to act the part of fly-in-the-ointment. He asserted that, with the equipment and food supplies admitted by Dr. Cook, the accomplishment claimed by the latter was impossible. Other experts agreed.

Then came the famous Lieutenant Peary ,who, knowing nothing of Cook, asserted that he (Peary) had discovered the Pole. Controversy followed, Knud Rasmussen and others siding with Cook, but most authorities accepting Peary's more than insinuations that the doctor was a fraud.

Subsequently, the National Geographic Society examined Peary's records and gave a unanimous verdict in his favor. Danish scientists, on the other hand, reluctantly—in view of their original enthusiasm for Cook—admitted that the doctor's proofs were not sufficient.

Whether or not Dr. Cook was the first to reach the Pole has never been established beyond question, and it is difficult to see how a United States Judge and jury will be able to settle the dispute at this late date. Given time, no doubt Cook could produce Eskimos who would be ready to declare they say him discover it; but the publishers doubtless could find more to swear that they didn't see any such feat.

It will be a troublesome matter to settle. For the jury to agree that Cook's claim is "universally rejected" would be for it to assert greater knowledge than it is likely to possess; while to say that the publishers' statement is unlikely to damage Cook's reputation is tantamount to discrediting the value and influence of the encyclopedia

SOME MONEY IN TENNIS

PLYMOUTH, England — Lester Stoefen, United States lawn tennis player with the touring Perry-Vines troupe, said he had made $100,00 "quite easily" as a professional in two years. He is 26 years old.

CHANNEL TOO COLD

DUNKIRK—First swimmer this year to tackle the English Channel Fritz Werner of Danzig was dragged out after 6 1-2 hours. Returning here—starting point—he said the water was too cold.

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