

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

\$4.50 per year (in advance), mailed in Canada and BRITISH ISLANDS... Morning Daily (founded 1887) \$5.00 per year (in advance) delivered

President—W. Chester F. McLara, Vice-President—J. E. Burnett, Secretary—Lieut. Col. D. A. MacKinnon, D. S. O., Editor and Manager—J. R. Burnett, Associate Editor—D. K. Currie

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 1928

THE MISER AND THE PRODIGAL

MISERLINESS and prodigality are the two extremes of life. Between the two, about half way between is legitimate economy. Neither miserliness nor prodigality is confined to money matters alone. Each has to do with time-saving and time-wasting, and both are equally reprehensible. It is a crime against one's self to recklessly waste either time or money. What do we mean by wasting time? Simply spending time in such a way that we do not get a reasonable return for it. We may spend time in rest which both body and mind require. We may spend it in frivolity, which has neither sense nor enjoyment; this is pure senseless waste. We may spend it in frivolity from which we derive pleasure and amusement, all of which goes to make up the sum of human happiness, and is therefore commendable.

The same principle applies to the spending of money. The wisdom or the folly of it is determined by what we get out of it. If we get healthful pleasure out of the spending of our money, provided always that we keep within reasonably prudent limits, our spending is not wholly culpable, and we are justified.

Observation on the midway at the Exhibition now in progress in the city will give some valuable examples in miserliness and prodigality, and a hint also as to the desirability of prudent economy. The miser looks askance at everything that savors of waste, either in time or money, and to him everything he sees is waste. It is waste of time to come to the Exhibition at all, except for purely business purposes; that is, to make money out of it. He is horror-struck when he sees a man or woman, a boy or girl, try conclusions with a fakir, and calls it gambling. It is quite possible that an element of gambling actuates the person who expects to get a dollar's worth of candy, or toy, or whatever is offered, for a ten cent throw, but it is a safe guess that nine out of every ten who play with the fakirs have no idea of gambling in the real sense of the word. If they win there is some satisfaction; if they lose they think no more about it, and they have had the fun of playing the game. Respectable, well-meaning men and women who have no thought of gambling, derive a great deal of harmless pleasure in vying with their friends in trying to "beat the machine." When they fall they lose but little, and they have had their fun, and it was worth what it cost.

For the man or woman who tries to beat the fakir at his own game, we have little sympathy if they lose. The fakir is not faking for his health. He knows how to play the game and the novice does not, and the former always wins in the end. There is, of course, the usual playing for something or nothing in which no one loses or makes anything worth while, and out of which much recreation is derived.

Neither time nor money is wasted out of which wholesome pleasure and recreation are derived. An Exhibition or any such gathering is enlivened by games of chance, and friendly rivalry, and without the various side-shows that go to make up a modern midway, our Exhibitions would be much less enjoyable than they are.

Let us avoid the extreme of miserliness and prodigality. Get all the legitimate pleasure out of the long stretch of prudent economy between, and so help to make this part of the Exhibition a success which will add to the success of the whole.

THE DRYS AND WETS.

THE Montreal Star, commenting on the Presidential election in the United States, says in part: "It is pretty safe to say that if all our people

the 'drys' voted for Hoover and all the 'wets' for Smith, Hoover would be elected. But, notoriously, they will do no such thing."

Notoriously they will not and there's the rub. If the drys voted as they profess to believe and the wets did likewise, both in the United States and Canada, conditions would probably be different from what they are. In any case both the wets and drys and all who stand between, would have an idea as to where the country stands on the liquor question. The trouble always has been that other considerations than mere Temperance enter into the question. Political influences are at work and induce the wets to become dry and the drys to become wet as the political exigencies may dictate. In this Province the history of the Prohibition movement is too well known to require any elaboration. Political partisanship had very much more to do with the decision arrived at than any mere question of Temperance, and the result is as we have it. The vote in favor of Prohibition shows notoriously very largely a vote for the political party which inscribed Prohibition and Temperance on its banners. If it were possible to obtain an honest opinion on the question it is difficult to say what that decision might be. We believe that the desire of the great majority of our people is to have a temperate population and this regardless of personal desires, but the trouble has been and perhaps always will be, that the carrying of a side issue looms higher in the opinion of too many than the mere question of Temperance. Had Mr. W. E. Bentley realized in advance how many professed Prohibitionists there are who are not anxious to have Prohibition enforced, he would probably have spared himself the trouble of contesting the recent by-election in the interests of Prohibition. But he did not. A large proportion of those who profess to be Prohibitionists are quite willing that Prohibition should be enforced upon others while they themselves are left free to do as they please, so far as drinking is concerned. All are not Prohibitionists who profess adherence to that cause and this is where the whole difficulty lies. In the United States as well as in Canada, as the Star well says, if the wets and the drys vote so and so, but notoriously they will not.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is pleasing to note that the flower girls on the streets yesterday were cheerfully hailed by practically all whom they accosted, the object of the sale was charity and the great majority of people are always ready to help any charitable cause.

The benefits of a well-ordered midway as a help to Exhibitions was clearly evident in the large attendance on the opening night. Excellent speeches were delivered, but the three thousand people in attendance did not all go to hear the speeches. The great majority of them wanted amusement, and they had it on the midway, and there is more to come.

The Hon. R. B. Bennett is maintaining his popularity wherever he goes. His recent tour through New Brunswick, his native Province, was a marked success and he has added new laurels wherever he has spoken. The Liberal press, there as here, is trying to minimize the effect of his sane Canadianism, but real Canadianism under his exposition is steadily gaining strength and the prospects are that the slogan "Canada for the Canadians" will shortly become a real gospel in Canada. "The greatest good for the greatest number" of Canadians in contradistinction with Mackenzie King's doctrine of the greatest good to the greatest number of people of other nations is taking a firm hold upon

Notes by the Way

JUST think of it, the Provincial Department of Highways of Ontario estimates that more than 10,000,000 American tourists will visit Ontario this year, and spend approximately \$60,000,000 in the Province. An influx of 2,500,000 visitors from other countries is expected, bringing the total estimated revenue from tourist traffic up to \$100,000,000. From indications already received, the number of tourists this year will be 40 per cent. greater than in 1927. Early this year the Detroit Automobile Club asked the Provincial Department for 10,000 road maps of Ontario. On Saturday the Government received another request for 10,000 more.

A visitor here from Saint John yesterday stated that never in its history had there been so many tourists in New Brunswick. The roads were filled with American cars and the cities and towns were reaping large harvests from tourist traffic. He counted on one road on his way to Tormentine a string of 31 American cars going in the opposite direction, and the number going in the same direction appeared equally great. If we could get such enormous traffic here, the gas would soon pay for the roads.

Mr. Chauncey M. Depew, when asked on one occasion if the Eighteenth Amendment would be repealed, is reported to have answered "No," and gave the reason in the word, "woman." But are women in the United States so much in accord for prohibition as the late Mr. Depew's quoted "reason" was intended to suggest? There is ground for some doubt about this if a debate on prohibition published in the July Current History is fairly representative of an important proportion of feminine sentiment in the Republic.

Mrs. Henry W. Peabody, general chairman of the Women's National Committee for Law Enforcement, submits the case against repeal or modification of the law. The structure of her brief rests mainly on a belief in the social and moral effects of the Eighteenth Amendment, and she claims that considerable credit for economic prosperity should be granted to prohibition. Mrs. Peabody admits that the law has had "tragic results," and that in Washington and in "vast states" there has been no real intention to enforce the law when and where it interferes with politics, patronage, and pleasant friendships.

Regarding her claim to a certain national economic betterment through prohibition, it is significant that Dr. John B. Deaver, of Philadelphia, whose high standing in his profession places his observations above suspicion of propaganda, has just declared that any increase in the economic status of the working classes as a result of prohibition has been achieved possibly at too high a price in crime, degeneracy and fatalities from alcoholism. To Dr. Deaver's mind the Eighteenth Amendment, and particularly the Volstead Act, represent a crime that has been perpetrated upon the citizenry. He says its results are grave and far-reaching. It has produced a spirit of disregard for law that affects young and old in all walks of life.

Not only that: "It has brought with it a shrieking train of crime and degeneracy not only among the habitual criminal classes but in higher strata of society of former law-abiding citizens. The effects of this demoralization will no doubt be felt in future generations, also, unless the Eighteenth Amendment and the Volstead Act are repealed or so modified as to make the acts enforceable without infringing on the rights of the citizens of this country."

With regard to the attitude of the women towards proposals for modification or repeal, Miss M. Louise Gross declares in Current History that whilst the women of America earnestly want temperance, they do not want prohibition. Why? Because, after eight years' trial it "has been proved a mistake and a costly experiment to the nation." The

majority of the women, we are told, favored national prohibition at the outset, thinking that it might improve temperance, but each year since it has become law it is being more and more realized that it is not the cure for the ills of the nation, and conditions, as Miss Gross observes them, are gradually getting worse. She gives as one of the "real reasons," why the women of America are beginning to feel apprehensive about prohibition is its effect upon the young people, who are now "indulging in drinking hard liquor such as was never known in the days before prohibition."

Young people, she writes, "exchange recipes for home brew, they carry hip-flasks and have drink parties at their school and college dances and socials. They think it smart to drink. The conclusion Miss Gross has come to is this: "In the debauchery of youth, in the speak-easies, in the increased drinking to excess in the homes, in the bribery and corruption of public officials, and in the increase of crime amongst youths, the women of the country see only the colossal failure of national prohibition, and in our opinion the return to sanity, temperance and self-respect lies in the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment."

The discussion which Current History reports shows that the aims and hopes of thinking women in America are all directed towards temperance, but there is growing evidence of a fundamental difference of opinion as to the most practical way to temperance. They are studying possible ways of changing the situation, studying the laws pertaining to the question, and studying various remedies offered as a relief from a drastic "cure" which has proved worse than the disease itself.

Modern Etiquette

By Roberta Lee

Q. When eating at a hotel is it ever permissible for one to point to a certain dish which is desired?

A. No, the well-bred person will indicate to the waiter by his glance and description.

Q. What is the only courteous way of giving a gift to a servant?

A. A quiet, tactful way, free from patronage, and showing only gratitude and good-will for the service rendered.

Q. What is the proper salutation in a business letter?

A. "Dear Sir," or "Gentlemen."

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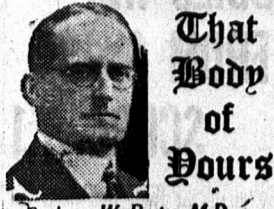
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Dr. James W. Bacon, M.D.

SOME INTERESTING LIFE FIGURES

Now that the United States, and Canada to some extent also, are limiting the number of immigrants, it is going to be interesting to watch the rate of increase of the population of these two countries.

That the average number of children per family is now much smaller than in previous years is of course well known. Two hundred years ago the average family had eight children, one hundred years ago about six, and to-day about four.

Dr. Louis I. Dublin tells us that if the average family were just three that the population would gradually decrease.

In other words as long as the average family has four children there will be a gradual increase in the population even without immigrants from other countries.

However another statement made by Dr. Dublin is worthy of our thought. He says that while the average family, two hundred years ago, was eight, the death rate must have been over two times the present death rate.

Now while this is of course very comforting, there is just another aspect that should be considered. There are more deaths among very young children and very old people than among young people, or people of middle age.

As far as children are concerned, as you know, not only are more babies saved at birth than in previous times but more are saved also during the first year. This is always a very dangerous time owing to the stomach and intestinal ailments that attack these youngsters.

The food has to be carefully regulated or they pass away. However it is the age between forty and sixty now that is the dangerous age.

Why? Because folks not only get into careless habits of life, but they may be suffering with serious conditions of heart, kidneys, and bloodvessels and not know about it until damage is done.

Dr. Dublin suggests that if this class would have the family doctor give them a thorough examination, once a year, that there would be a great saving of life at this age, which is really the most important age to the individual himself and also from the standpoint of his worth to the community.

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DAILY LESSONS IN ENGLISH By W. L. Gordon. OBTAIN MISPRONOUNCED: em-lyro. Pronounce em-br-o, e as in "men," i as in "it," o as in "no," accent first syllable. OBTAIN MISPELLED: calendar (almange), calendar (machine). SYNONYMS: idle, indolent, lazy, slothful, unemployed, unoccupied. WORDS OFTEN MISUSED: Do WORD STUDY: "Use a word three times and it is yours." Let us increase our vocabulary by mastering one word each day.

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