

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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Biographical Jottings

The human side of our parliamentarians has always interested us. For this reason we have often explored the brevity of the biographical sketches of the legislative members as they appear in the Parliamentary Guide. Presumably the data for these sketches is supplied by the members themselves, in which case, of course, modesty would dictate the elimination of much colorful but irrelevant matter and the furnishing merely of such dates, names and places as would be required for purposes of reference. But so true is it that diligence brings its own reward, that a careful perusal of even these skeleton sketches of our local Solons throws an interesting sidelight on their personalities.

Who outside of his home town, for example, would have guessed that the sedate member for Summerside, Mr. Lucas Allan, is an enthusiastic quoit player? His recorded addiction to curling and golf is less noteworthy; many statesmen have found solace in these pastimes; but Mr. Allen goes up a notch in our estimation as we picture him in the democratic attitude of pitching a quoit. His membership in the Summerside Quoit Club is duly noted in the Parliamentary Guide, and the fact, thus preserved, will go down in the political annals of the country.

One would expect in even a thumb-nail sketch of the career of the Hon. B. W. LePage to find something noteworthy. One does. Mr. LePage, according to the "Guide," is not only a member without portfolio in the Government; he also "was Acting Premier of P. E. I." Future historians may question the when, how, and why of this temporary apothecis; but the fact itself cannot be disputed. It too will go down to posterity, embedded in our political records.

His defeat in a previous federal election is duly noted in the biographical sketch of Hon. Horace Wright, but the fact that Mr. Wright was then an ardent Progressive is unaccountably omitted. So too is his memorable crusade against the introduction of motor cars into the Province.

To Mr. Angus MacPhee, M. L. A., goes the distinction of being the champion "daddy" of the House. Mr. MacPhee is the proud father of thirteen children, a fact of which the "Guide" quite properly takes notice. Others may boast of greater political preferment, or of closer intimacy with Premier Lea; but the doughty member for Second Queen's, like the "honest man" in Burns' immortal poem, is "aboon them a'."

Curiously, Premier Lea's biographical sketch goes back only to his election on June 25, 1927. Of his preceding record as Commissioner of Agriculture in the Bell Government no mention is made. One wonders why. Surely, in Mr. Lea's case, this excessive modesty is out of character.

For extreme brevity, however, one must go to the biographies of Messrs. Cox, Dennis, Gordon and Larabee. The political career of each of these members is summed up in less than three lines, Mr. Dennis' being abbreviated to such an extent that it reads like an astrological formula.

Big Banks in the World

An interesting document compiled every year by the California Bank is a tabulation of the deposit liabilities of one hundred and fifty of the largest American, British, Dominion and Colonial banks. The compilation as at Dec. 31, 1930, has just come to hand, and the Maritime Merchant has been interested to observe the relative standing of our Canadian banks as shown in this statement. It is a matter of some satisfaction to note that the Royal and the Bank of Montreal stand in thirteenth and fourteenth place respectively, coming next after such a famous institution as the Bank of England. Among all the great banks of the English-speaking world there are only four

with headquarters in New York, six in London, one in San Francisco and one in Chicago, that stand ahead of the two Canadian banks we have named. Looking further down the list we find that the Canadian Bank of Commerce, the Bank of Nova Scotia, the Imperial, the Banque Canadienne Nationale the Dominion and the Bank of Toronto also appear among the largest banks of the English-speaking world. The significance of this is better realized when we reflect that in addition to these 150 largest banks, there are in the English-speaking world approximately 26,000 smaller banks, the great majority of which are domiciled in the United States.

To Preserve Armistice Day

Mr. A. W. Neil of British Columbia has introduced in the House of Commons a bill to amend the Armistice Day Act. In introducing the bill, he noted that the present Act, passed in 1921, comprises two sections. It provides that the Armistice Day celebration shall be held on the Monday of the week in which November 11 falls. The second section provides that Thanksgiving Day shall be the same day. His bill repeals both of these sections, substituting for them one section which provides that Armistice Day shall be November 11 in each year, and no other day. The measure makes no reference to Thanksgiving Day, and if the bill becomes law the practice regarding Thanksgiving Day will revert to that which prevailed prior to 1921, when it was fixed by proclamation at any time chosen by the Government.

Editorial Notes

Was it to punish Mr. Gordon, the second of the Draft Address, for spilling the beans about the Government's sand asphalt "policy" that the Patriot ignored him in its editorial references to the debate and bestowed the accolade upon Mr. Cox?

The flirtation which Mr. Lloyd George is supposed to be carrying on with the Labor Government may be not wholly unconnected with the rumor that the Liberal war chest, of which he was in sole control, has been exhausted. So, as a contemporary exchange remarks, if Socialism weds Lloyd George it will not be for his money.

"Bennett Responsible for the Future of the Imperial Economic Conference."—Patriot sub-heading, Saturday, March 28. This is a significant tribute to the statesmanship of the Canadian Prime Minister, who succeeded in having the Economic Conference adjourned to Ottawa this summer. If the results anticipated from this conference are even partially achieved, we trust that our contemporary will not forget to whom the credit is due.

According to Premier Lea, there are lots of people in jail who are not really criminals and who should be given another chance. So he proposes to pass a statute authorizing the release of these individuals on their "good behaviour." The application of this charitable principle just before an election, by the leader of a Government which came into power on a policy of the most rigid law enforcement, is open, to say the least, to some suspicion.

The March number of the Empire Review contains an article entitled "The Beaver: Emblem (Unofficial) of Canada." In recent years the maple leaf has tended to supplant the beaver as the popular Canadian emblem. Even the Canadian Pacific Railway, according to the Toronto Globe, has dropped the hard-working rodent from its official crest. The beaver was banished from its proud place on the stern of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine ships when the sailors dubbed that system "the rat line."

Notes by the Way

Last year Canada exported ten million dollars' worth of goods to South Africa, and twelve million dollars' worth the year before. In 1929 we sent three and a half million dollars worth of automobiles and auto parts, one and a quarter millions of farm machinery, one and a half million dollars' value in rubber tires, two and a quarter in wheat, and half a million in flour. In return, imports from South Africa have gone up from a mere quarter million dollars in 1928 to nearly three millions last year. Each Dominion offers a market, and an expanding market, if properly handled, for the other's trade. Here is the opportunity for a practical step to promote Imperial trade, with the occasion of the Ottawa Conference at hand. Canadian business men, as well as our Government authorities, should be ready to grasp the opportunity.

States that revive capital punishment in hope of preventing crimes of violence will probably be disappointed, says the Washington Post. Statistics do not show that the death penalty deters homicides. The number of persons guilty of homicide who are executed is infinitesimal, even in those States with the most rigorous laws. The chances of escaping the electric chair are so good that criminals do not stop to calculate the risk. Lewis A. Lewis, warden of Sing Sing Prison, says that capital punishment in the United States has been practically abolished through indifferent enforcement.

Here we are up to our ears, as are most of the rest of the countries of the world, in trying to straighten out the ghastly mess left by the last war, says the Baltimore Sun, and in the midst of this terrific struggle some of our most eminent leaders are earnestly debating, for the benefit of a Congressional committee, how the industrial system can best be managed to back up the shock troops during the next war. And, so far as can be learned, they are doing it without any suggestion of hope that such a mobilization of industrial resources will not be called for. They merely plan to have the next holocaust better managed, and to apply their minds to that end while the ravages of the last are still apparent everywhere.

Public Interest in Parliamentary proceedings, says the Sydney Post, will be held in abeyance till the cascade of frothy rhetoric in the debate on the Address has spent itself. Nine people out of ten were fed up on the debate before it was two days old.

One of the criticisms uttered by Lord Beaverbrook against Mr. Baldwin in the St. George's by-election campaign was that the Conservative leader had not been able to hold on to his personal fortune, which is now about a twentieth of what it was when he entered public life. The taunt discredited no one but the individual who was capable of such un-speakable caddishness as to give it expression. Everyone knows that Mr. Baldwin is not so wealthy as he used to be, and also that the circumstance redounds to his credit. During the war, which he calculated would cost Britain a fifth of her entire wealth, he paid anonymously into the treasury a fifth of his own estate. Since then the decline of British industry, in which his whole family fortune is embarked, has reduced his holdings to a mere fraction of the market value they had ten or twelve years ago. It is difficult to understand the mental calibre and moral temperament of the person who can construe these facts to Mr. Baldwin's discredit, and to throw them at him during an election. But such are the calibre and temperament of the first Lord Beaverbrook. The British people will get little light or leading from such a source.

Preferring to the defeat in the British House of Commons of the Liberal reform bill, it is explained that Sir John Simon voted against the bill as also did 10 other Liberal members while 6 were paired and 23 were unpaired and absent when the division took place. This is a mathematical explanation but the vital question is why 11 Liberals voted against the Government, while 6 others only abstained from doing likewise because they were paired, and 23 others absented themselves from so crucial a division. It is pretty obvious that these 40 Liberals—more than two-thirds of the entire group led by Lloyd George,—refused to countenance the pact he had made with the Prime Minister, and were deliberate parties to the defeat of the Government over a bill which their own leader is believed to have drafted. The conclusion is inevitable that the British Liberal party is hopelessly divided, and that a majority of its Parliamentary members will shortly part company with Lloyd George.



By James W. Barton, M.D. OLD SKIN AILMENTS

I have spoken before about the skin specialist who was asked why he has chosen that particular branch of medicine. His reply was "Well, my patients with chronic skin ailments never die, and they never get any better, so I have no worry and I'm always busy."

And as you know there are some ailments that seem to resist all forms of treatment—mercury, sulphur, sink in fact everything. Some chronic skin ailments seem to clear up when potatoes, bread and sugar are cut down in the diet. Tomatoes seem to aggravate some cases of eczema.

That some skin ailments tend to disappear or nearly so by the use of epsom salts or other purgatives that remove water from the system has also been noticed.

It has now recently been discovered that patients with skin conditions that seemed practically incurable were found to have chronic inflammatory conditions of the liver and gall bladder, and that when these were cleared up, the skin condition disappeared also.

The evidence, as Dr. F. Smithies, Chicago points out, would seem to show that these chronic inflammations of the liver and gall bladder prevent the normal manufacture of the bile which is a natural cleanser of the blood, and a natural purgative, thus removing wastes from the large intestine.

And still further, the inflammation of the liver prevents the liver from removing certain poisons as the blood passes through it, and these poisons are left free to go everywhere in the body including the skin. The thought then is that in many chronic skin ailments, that defy all forms of treatment to the skin itself, may be due to some liver and gall bladder condition.

Therefore testing out the ability of the liver as to whether it is doing its work properly is done by means of dyes and the use of the X ray.

Cutting down the fats and starches in the diet, draining the liver and gall bladder by means of epsom salts through the duodenal tube put down the stomach, and small daily doses of epsom salts, all help to clear up these old chronic skin ailments.



THE SKIPPERS OF YESTERYEAR

Where are the Skippers of yesterday? That sturdy breed of the days of sail, Who drove their craft, devoid of fear Of the ghostly berg or the screaming gale— Who brought her in under jury rig With boats stove in and tangled gear. With flooded holds and pumps a-rig. Those driving skippers of yesterday!

From the bitter Horn to the Barrier reef With decks a-wash and all sails set; And never a rag was furled or reefed. Though the crew might mutter, and mates might fret; Driving her on with expert eye For the tensile strain on spar and gear. To be first with their cargoes to London Docks, Those driving skippers of yesterday.

Sometimes o' nights, in the moon's bright track, When the soft trades whisper to oily swell, Men tell how the clippers came racing back O'er the unmarked roads they loved so well: All sail drawing—in racing flight With towering spars and graceful shear: And pacing the poops with pipes a-light, Those driving skippers of yesterday!

Yearly they vanish beyond our ken For the port of missing ships they clear To sleep with their old commands again, Those driving skippers of yesterday! —C. Roy Genge, Southern Alberta Sanatorium, Calgary. (Note: Mr. Genge is a son of Rev. Dr. G. E. Genge, Marshfield, this Province.)

The Public Forum

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. This Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

RURAL REPRESENTATION

Sir:—One oftentimes hears the remark that "Agriculture is not represented in our legislatures and parliaments by farmers to the extent it should be," and therefore our problems will not receive the attention they deserve until such time as the farmer really represents the rural districts.

This fact is quite true, that in proportion to population, farming is very poorly represented in our legislative halls. I wish to go one farther and state that a great deal depends upon the farmer representative sent to parliament even though he be in a majority in the House.

All too often a farmer goes to represent his constituency in the legislature, he is overshadowed by lawyers and other men gifted in platform oratory and always ready to express their opinions, and too often, also, the farmer stays in the background because he is given no real chance to express his opinions, and do the work which he should.

A change must come over the country before we can expect much of a right-about-face in the matter of carrying on its affairs. Our farmers must stand together and must to a certain extent insist upon independence within the party and to get that they must exercise that independence all through. I am not favoring the third party plan, for we all know that politics would make improvements and this can be accomplished much easier in the two party system than in a multitude of systems. Then there are in every constituency farmers quite capable of representing that constituency and it is not necessary to go to towns or cities to find the best candidates. What is wanted is a capable young farmer or older man who has the courage of his convictions and who is ready to go to parliament and speak and act for the rights of his constituents.

There is no getting around the fact and politicians recognize it as well as any one else, that agriculture has not been getting its just dues at the hands of legislators for many years and it is about time that the rural districts were represented by men, who would do considerably more than fill a chair in the House and vote when a direction of the house occurs, and by men directly representative of the people who elect them. The matter is in the hands of the electors themselves and they should, after they have elected their representative, make it a point to familiarize themselves with what he is doing as their representative.

About the poorest class of representative a constituency can have is a farmer who is afraid to stand up for his rights and the rights of his constituency and keeps quiet during the whole term or one who yields to the palaver of polished politicians, listens to the old bunk that the farmer is the back-bone of the country and an all round good fellow, and let it go at that.

The country needs wide awake farmers in our parliaments and legislatures as well as wide awake representatives of all other industries and callings. Let the farmers of each rural riding see to it that they have ideal farmer candidates at our next election.

I am sir, etc. C. E. MACKENZIE

Dairying in Quebec

(Montreal Gazette) Farming is now on the upward curve in the province of Quebec, and the Tashereau Government is doing its best to aid the industry, according to Hon. Adelard Godbout, Minister of Agriculture. The Minister's confidence, no doubt, is justified, for he is in position to see the developments. In one important line of farming, his statement is in keeping with a summary of the dairy situation made by Dr. J. H. Grisdale, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion, presented in the forty-eighth report of the Province of Quebec, 1929, just issued by order of the Legislature. As the report for 1931, when it is issued, will be the fiftieth it should show a marked improvement, judging by Hon. Mr. Godbout's assurance that the beginning of an upward swing is under way. Dr. Grisdale reported that possibly in no other part of the Dominion is the great basic industry of dairying of more vital interest to the farmers and to the people as a whole than in Quebec. In the year under review, Canada produced something over fourteen billion pounds of milk and

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The value of the product, sold under various forms, was \$280,000,000. The province of Quebec was responsible for and received benefit to the extent of nearly one-third, or between four and five billion pounds of milk and in the neighborhood of \$90,000,000. The Federal Department of Agriculture, said Dr. Grisdale, has always co-operated with the Quebec Department of Agriculture in advancing this great industry. One of the most effective steps, he said, has been the introduction of grading methods. Under this policy, all butter and cheese for export must be graded, and incidentally, practically all the factory butter and cheese consumed in Canada is also graded. The effect has been so beneficial and the value of the product has been so materially improved that, in the words of Dr. Grisdale, "we can scarcely recognize our own product on the home market." In fact, Canadian cheese has been placed at the very top of the world product of the kind and has won a reputation second to none in our great export market, the United Kingdom. Canadian cheese, in the past few years, has beaten the New Zealand article in price, securing over a cent a pound more. The cheese from Quebec has improved at an even more rapid rate than that from Ontario. Some of the very best grades come from this province, even the distant region of Lake St. John producing cheese quite the equal of anything produced in the Dominion, "and that, of course, means the world," says Dr. Grisdale. The Deputy Minister proceeds to state that some buyers are prone to minimize the value of the Quebec article, which is a matter that should receive the very energetic attention of the provincial authorities. Dr. Grisdale concludes that the only way to maintain our dairying industry is not only to improve the quality, but to increase the quantity and get the products on to the market continuously. Quebec, particularly, should go in more and more for winter dairying, or, better still, year-round dairying. Quality, quantity, continuity, should be the watchword. Cheese supremacy has been attained and butter should be brought to a higher mark.

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