

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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Morning Maxm

Labor is another commodity that suffers as a result of overproduction.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1933.

COGENT ARGUMENTS

The comprehensive review of the transportation disadvantages affecting Prince Edward Island and the Maritime Provinces generally, submitted by Mr. J. O. Hyndman at a council meeting of the Charlottetown Board of Trade, appeared in yesterday's Guardian and merits careful reading and consideration. Undoubtedly, as Mr. Hyndman says, the present freight rates situation constitutes discrimination against these Provinces. He instances the fact that the freight on a car of oats today from an Island point to Sydney is equal to 50 per cent of the value of the shipment. Grain, he points out, gets a low freight rate from Western Canada and our major products in the Maritimes are entitled to equal consideration.

A strong point is also made of the fact that while we have contributed in taxes to the extravagant railway expenditures in other parts of Canada, we have reaped none of the benefits which should follow the equitable distribution of such expenditure. On the contrary, we have suffered because of the concentration of wealth and the great development in transportation has attracted industry and commerce to the more favored centres. "Thus," as Mr. Hyndman expresses it, "what was intended as a partnership to be developed on a basis equitable to all, has turned out to be a discrimination in favor of Central Canada, largely at the expense of the Maritimes, with the further result that we have lost not only population, but representation in the Federal Parliament."

Reference to all the points raised by Mr. Hyndman would exceed the limits of space available here. We can only repeat that his memorandum is a forceful and thought-provoking document, and will undoubtedly strengthen the hands of our parliamentary representatives in their endeavor to obtain more equitable treatment for the Maritimes in the matter of railway transportation.

RUSSIA'S FINANCES

The Prime Minister has effectively disposed of the so-called Soviet barter proposal, in which Canada was expected to guarantee Russian bonds to a maximum amount of \$6,000,000 solely in the interest of a Western Canadian syndicate. Parliament Liberal newspaper which gave support to these propagandists are now discreetly silent. Subsequent to Premier Bennett's statement in Parliament the following significant article appeared in the Financial Post. It is entitled "Is Russia Facing a Crisis?" and serves to emphasize the wisdom of the course pursued by the Bennett Government:

"Clear, dispassionate information from Russia in recent weeks indicates that a financial crisis may be rapidly approaching in that much-discussed country. A few weeks ago in Toronto W. H. Chamberlain, official observer for the past ten years for the Manchester Guardian and the Christian Science Monitor, stated that one of the real dangers in Russia today was that it might not be able to continue its purchases from abroad. Exports and goods available for export have dwindled very rapidly in the past two years he pointed out, and although the demand for imports was great—particularly for consumptive goods under the new policy of the second five-year plan—the wherewithal for payment was becoming increasingly scarce.

"This very important point—in which Canada is particularly interested at the present time—is further elaborated in some illuminating correspondence in the New York Annals; which points out that the chief source of Russia's imports in

recent years has been Germany, whose bankers and manufacturers have been willing to extend credits. These credits have been falling due recently and lacking sufficient of its own goods, Russia has been attempting to meet its bills with gold and silver. During the last two years, this correspondent states that Germany has received from Russia close to \$100,000,000 in gold and about \$3,000,000 in silver and some platinum. Delivery of gold, however, has been far in excess of Russian production and silver payments have been largely in the form of pre-war silver coins, accepted by Germany as crude bullion. Then, too, at the end of 1932 there is supposed to be about \$100,000,000 of German credits to Russia falling due within the next two years.

"Other authoritative reports lend weight to the belief than an acute crisis is currently at hand—a crisis attributable to four factors, namely: a crop shortage amounting to roughly 30 per cent; an acute shortage of consumptive goods of all kinds; inflation of currency; and the forced pace at which collectivization in agriculture has been achieved which has now brought 80 per cent of all farmers into the collective system, whereas the "plan" called for but 20 per cent.

"There is no question that Russia is desirous of buying from Canada—even though it may be as a last resort as other sources of supply dry up. There is equally no doubt that Canada could find a ready market for her hides and cows and other commodities in Russia if Russia could pay for these commodities. But about all that Russia has to sell is such raw material as she can sacrifice—lumber, petroleum, anthracite coal, manganese ore and three minor commodities, namely, furs, caviare and platinum—none of which, with the single exception of petroleum are needed in Canada in any quantity if at all. Her ability to pay cash or to finance a deal without the use of barter is practically non-existent, and the reported possibility of an economic crisis during the present years adds additional risk to an already doubtful trading position."

A MARE'S NEST

Our local contemporary rushes to anticipate, from a statement attributed to Hon. E. N. Rhodes, Minister of Finance, that the revenue of this Province under the Domiciled Companies Act is in danger. No such assumption is warranted by the statement quoted from Mr. Rhodes. The Finance Minister was plainly referring to companies evading the federal income tax by incorporating under provincial statutes. Our contemporary should know that the companies registered here under the Domiciled Companies Act are not incorporated in Prince Edward Island but by the Dominion Government. They have a right to domicile, where they please, and they are in no sense evading federal income tax by domiciling in Prince Edward Island.

As to the query whether Premier Stewart "took any steps at the recent Dominion-Provincial conference to prevent the Province losing" the revenue derived under the Domiciled Companies Act, the answer is easy. The question was never raised at the conference! Does the Liberal organ suggest that Premier Stewart should himself have introduced it and invited discussion on the legality of a statute which no member of the conference had disputed? Our contemporary would never have raised such a ridiculous question if it had paused to inform itself of the facts.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Mr. McCrea, Minister of Mines of Ontario in a recent address before the Border Chamber of Commerce strongly declared against the acceptance of currency inflation and other superficially attractive nostrums for solving present day economic difficulties. Such proposals, he said, would only do more harm than good in the bringing about of national recovery. And he added: "If we keep our heads, and are not caught unawar by the storm, we will weather it as storms before have been weathered." By way of emphasizing his optimism, the Minister of Mines recalled that many years ago the Duke of Wellington, dying, gave thanks to Heaven that he was being removed from a world whose problems were incapable of solution. He remembered, also, that Disraeli and other notables of the past has taken the gloomy view in their day, reaching the conclusion that things could not possibly be worse and that there was no way out. The pessimism of these leaders had not been justified. The world had found a way out and had gone on to achievements greater by far than anything known before.

Nothing really important will be settled by the Irish elections. There has been no sign that the deep and dangerous cleavage in the Free State has been bridged or is likely to disappear in the near future. International turmoil and bitterness are likely to be the lot of the Irish for another generation.

Mr. Bennett's address in Toronto according to London despatches has created a splendid impression in Great Britain. His declaration that Canada will not resort to inflation, the London Daily Express points out "should silence the croakers who have been conducting a prolonged campaign of economic disparagement against the Dominion. Canada has her problems and her difficulties, but is facing them resolutely and successfully. No country in the world has a more glorious future than this Dominion continent, won for us by the genius of our forefathers."

Fully aware, as they are, that the American Republic is losing heavily by its insistence on debt collection, leading American financiers are said to insist upon sweeping concessions to Great Britain and the other war debtors as the most direct, available means of re-stimulating international trade and restoring prosperity on both sides of the Atlantic. This view coincides with the emphatic opinion expressed by Mr. J. L. Garvin in the London Observer that certain payments on the huge international obligations arising out of the war can never again be resumed by Britain, France and Germany; that, through no fault of the debtors, the war debts are as dead as mutton; that payments cannot be made next June, or ever again; that common sense should take the place of chaos; and that it is better for the nations to co-operate for recovery than to compete in recriminations.

A resolution passed by the Congress of the United States twenty years ago in favor of constituting the combined navies of the world an international force for the preservation of universal peace is recalled in the New York Times by Mr. David Davies. The project was strongly supported by Theodore Roosevelt. Mr. Davies thinks that had Roosevelt's advice been listened to there probably would have been no great war, and that had the Congressional resolution been acted upon the economic condition of the United States and of the world might have been very different today.

The loose assumption that Europe is asking America to pay the whole cost of "a European war" also ignores completely the fact that Britain alone has already repaid nearly \$2,000,000,000 or roughly, the full present value of the goods she borrowed at wartime prices. This is not, of course, including interest, but there is more than a little doubt of the decency of charging interest on the men they "lent" to match America's army of dollars.

All the money in the world would not have won without men. Human lives were the great cost of the war. And it might be worth while to remember at this time that American casualties were only 350,000 as against 9,000,000 for France, 3,000,000 for Britain and 2,000,000 for Italy. Of these millions, a large share were losses sustained by the allies in holding the "American sector" during the first year of the United States in the war and could send only dollars to the front.

Canadian lumbermen are looking towards China as a rich market. Last year the Chinese took 200,000,000 feet of lumber from the western



By James W. Barton, M.D. THE SCHOOL VOCATIONAL OFFICER

We are all just going through this world once and I often wonder how many of us are doing the things of life—work and recreation—that we want to do. In some of our cities the schools have a department called vocational guidance where boys and girls are advised on what is likely to be the best or most suitable form of work or profession in which to engage. Some cities think of this vocational work as an unnecessary "frill" and will not spend the necessary money for this work.

Of course youngsters may have dreams or visions of what they want to be—engineers, armen, motor cops, physicians, lawyers, preachers, ball players and so forth—and it might be a wise thing and mean a happy life for them to be enabled to realize their ambitions. However the vocational officer asks questions, tests out their abilities along the lines in which they think they could excel and be happy, learns their general capabilities, and advises them as to what line of work or profession is best suited to their talents or ability.

With a real object in view the boy or girl then goes on to a preparatory school—the ordinary preparatory school leading to the university, or to another preparatory school preparing for engineering, art, chemistry, physics; or to a preparatory commercial school to prepare for business.

What has this to do with health and that body of yours? Many of the so-called ailments of adult life—indigestion, exhaustion, sleeplessness, nervousness, worry, which is chronic fear—may be traced to the individual working from morning until night at something which he dislikes or for which he is unfitted.

Thus his life work which should bring joy and peace of mind is actually crushing his very life out. We cant all make a change in our work even if we wished to do so. We must continue to support our loved ones and ourselves. All we can do is to seek to get from and to give to the work something in our spare time.

However it will mean much to the health and happiness of our youngsters if they can discuss their future plans with a qualified vocational officer.

Factitious Famine

(Saturday Review) "Today the Russian population is experiencing a famine without failure of crops." This damning judgment on Bolshevik policy comes from no political opponent, but from a report just issued by a strictly impartial inquirer, to wit, the Birmingham Bureau of Research on Russian Economic Conditions. Here we have the inevitable result of an attempt on socialist lines to make production fit artificial prices instead of allowing it to be stimulated by the prospect of fair reward to the producer.

It is a result foreseen by all sane persons judging from universal experience. Not even the harshest tyranny can compel corn to grow where it is unprofitable to grow corn. The prices fixed by the masters of Russia have sunk to as low as ten per cent of the market value of corn when freely sold. Therefore corn is no longer grown. Vast stretches of fertile Russian land are over-run with weeds. Flour often costs one hundred times more than in pre-war days. Shortage of all agricultural produce is acute. Communism or, what is the same thing here, Socialism, equals famine.

The Smiths were sitting on the balcony of the hotel, and could hear what the young couple were saying in the garden below.

Mrs. Smith clutched her husband's arm excitedly. "I think he is going to propose," she said. "We oughtn't to listen—whistle to warn him."

"Why should I?" asked Mr. Smith truculently. "Nobody whistled to warn me!" coast of North America. British Columbia, Washington and Oregon shared in the trade, which was about 65 per cent of the total soft-wood imports of China. Canada has had a substantial trade balance of some \$37,000,000 with China during the six years closing with 1930. The Chinese have intimated a willingness to trade with Canada, and the Pacific Coast lumbermen are hoping they can increase their shipments to the Orient.

That Body of Hours

PUBLIC FORUM

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

THE JUDGE TURNS TAIL

Charlottetown, P.E.I. February 6, 1933.

Sir,—In this morning's issue of your paper you say that I abused the hospitality of the Rotarians by using that organization as a platform to urge the abandonment of our provincial status.

By what right do you undertake to speak for the Rotarians? I challenge you to name one Rotarian who says that I abused the hospitality of the Rotarians on the occasion you mention. I look upon it as highly presumptuous for you to speak for that highly respectable body, of which you are not a member.

As to the abandonment of provincial status, I have always as my words to the Rotarians show, been in favor of a separate Provincial Government for the Island. I did however, point out conditions prevailing and influences working in the Province, that would, if unchecked, force us into a Maritime Union. I also stated there was no good reason or justification for such an undesirable outcome.

In case of Union, there would always be a branch of the Supreme Court here, to try here all civil and criminal cases. No witness would have to go to Sackville if the Appeal Court should be located there, only in case of an appeal there, the typewritten evidence taken at the trial here would be forwarded.

I am, Sir, etc., W. S. STEWART.

(If the Judge be unaware of having abused the hospitality of the Rotarians, he, with the possible exception of his fellow propagandist, is the only one so ignorant. The remainder of His Worship's letter, if it means anything, indicates how unreliable his public statements are. In his Rotary address he not only advocated Maritime Union but went out of his way to cite the alleged advantages we would enjoy under such union.—Ed. G.)

The Poet's Corner

MEMORY

Along the kerb where young young Spread late-hung leaves in layers green, And light their candles, dies the noise, And the rain softly falls.

No step, no sound, an empty road, Where sentinels of silent spring Flank either side its solitude, And the rain softly falls.

Each tree so far apart, a torch Of green reproof against the grey, Glistens the asphalt of the path, And the rain softly falls.

Calmer than any field at dawn A patch of emerald-fading sky Borders upon a saffron creek, And the rain softly falls.

One star afloat upon the creek, A tuft of grass athwart a wall Drinks up the bounty offered it, And the rain softly falls.

Is this to love, to watch that light Lit in a house so much the same As all its neighbours? Duck creeps up, And the rain softly falls.

One street away a laggard tram Lurches unevenly along, Its echo dies, footsteps draw near, And the rain softly falls.

Quick tread, unknown, unheeded come, Unheeding gone, in haste to go, Never again to meet, it fades, And the rain softly falls.

Pass stranger, with incurious eye Fixed to the earth: though beauty's here She needs no witness. The leaves drip, And the rain softly falls.

—Monk Gibbon in The Spectator.

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Shaving of Senators At Washington. (New York Times) Members of the United States Senate during the fiscal year ending June 30 consumed, at the expense of taxpayers, 500 aspirin tablets, one bottle of bromo-seltzer, one package of soda-mint tablets, three pounds of bicarbonate of soda, two bottles of mouth wash, three pints of medicated alcohol, and five gallons of witch hazel, the annual report of the Secretary of the Senate reveals. The report, which is a limited edition—one for each Senator and none for the public—was off the press only today, and was a topic of considerable sarcastic discussion, not for publication, among such Senators as see a touch of humor in a barber bill of \$8,000, and a mineral water bill of \$8,850 (including ice), run up at the taxpayers' expense by a Senate which is on record as favoring the utmost economy in the Federal establishment. Some other items in the report were salaries of Senators, \$1,149,000; other salaries, \$1,893,000; reporting proceedings of the Senate, \$60,340; kitchens and restaurants, \$64,237; California redwood for manufacture into boxes, \$599; postage, \$600, and stationery, \$44,147.09. The appropriation was \$4,116,455, of which \$128,277 was still on hand at the end of the fiscal year. A careful study of the report indicates that Washington water does not agree with Senate members. They like mineral waters, and all the standard kinds are included in the bill for the year. Just how many bottles were consumed is not given, but the total, at 25 cents a bottle, indicates that the number was in excess of 25,000. Wholesale prices prevailed, of course. The mineral water bills totalled about \$6,350, and ice used to cool it cost about \$2,500 more. The smallest item involving mineral water was \$29.46; the largest an even \$750. The bill for the barber shop, where Senators are shaved and singed at government expense, lends itself to the most abstruse speculation as to profit and loss and distribution of barber attention. An analysis of the item for barbers' salaries alone would indicate that the government is losing money. If each of the ninety-six Senators were shaved every day except Sunday and paid at the market price of 25 cents a shave it would cost in the aggregate \$24 a day or \$144 a week, exclusive of tips. The haircut bill, allowing a haircut a week per member, would run to \$48 in one week. During a thirty-week session the total market cost of haircuts and shaves would be \$5,760. As a matter of fact, the salaries of barbers, who are listed as skilled laborers, actually amounted in the fiscal year to \$8,400. It was assumed in authoritative quarters that shaves, tonics, mass-

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