

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink"

MONDAY, MAY 9, 1938

Political Independence

An Ottawa journalist in a recent address contrasted the apparent lack of independence of Canadian politicians with the situation in the United States, where House and Senate have recently rejected much of President Roosevelt's pet legislation. The factor there, however, says an exchange, is the fixed terms of American Congressmen—two years for all the Representatives, and one-third of all Senators elected every six years. It is the antithesis of British responsible government where members' terms endure only so long as their government maintains its majority. American Congressmen can safely defeat a major measure of their executive—so far as their existing tenure goes. Moreover, when an American Congressman goes back to face the home folks at election time, he finds himself confronted by a carefully compiled, tabulated, mimeographed and widely circulated record of every vote he has cast in the House or Senate.

Under any form of government, the difficulty of achieving parliamentary independence is undoubtedly greater where there is an overwhelming government majority. The delicately balanced British system works best when the government has merely a safe working majority and a strong opposition. That tends to government respectfulness toward its private members and caution toward any temptation to oppress the opposition. Where there is no official opposition (as in this Province) the situation from the standpoint of British democracy is well-nigh hopeless. The government, being in control of party patronage, holds the whip over all its supporters. Those who jump most nimbly through the hoops are rewarded with the most political tid-bits.

This does not, of course, prevent occasional eruptions, as was evident at our last legislative session, but it tends to stultify independence of parliament. A striking example of this truth comes to mind. Readers will recall that last session all our Liberal members were silent on the subject of the Government's prohibition administration. Notorious incidents occurred during the year, of agents hired at the taxpayer's expense of such character that their evidence had to be thrown out by the trial magistrate; of others stating on oath that they saw more drunkenness in Charlottetown in one day than they would see in Montreal in a week; of one detective brought here from Montreal and shipped home, dead, without an inquest, after he had drunk an unspecified amount of "red-eye" rum; of women being treated by these government agents in violation of the law; of the agents themselves going on protracted sprees and even driving cars in a more or less intoxicated condition—boozing around town and country on money supplied them by the Attorney-General out of the treasury of this Province. Here was subject matter, surely, for legislative inquiry, at least to the extent of ascertaining how much public money was spent, and how it was expended. Not one question on the Order Paper, or one word from any of our representatives. Not even when freer sale of beer and wine was advocated as a revenue measure by two members (one of them a member of the Government) was there any comment from those who in other years were most ardent in proclaiming their Prohibition sentiments. There seems no doubt that this issue was deliberately sidetracked, after being thoroughly rehearsed in caucus. This was a situation which could not possibly have occurred had their been one member independent of the Liberal party machine in the House. He would have insisted on voicing the public demand for information, and holding up the estimates for the Attorney-General's department until such information was forthcoming.

Premier Hepburn's Brief It is not necessary to agree with all of Premier Hepburn's presentation before the Rowell Commission to concede that he made an excellent job of exploding the arguments of western free-traders. The western provinces, the Ontario Premier showed, are as much dependent on tariff protection as other sections of Canada. As "an amazing example of inconsistency" he cited the following incidents: "The great dairy pools of the Prairie Provinces, in 1930, sent representatives to the Tariff Board to plead for 'an upward revision of duty on butter'; and the duty on butter was made practically prohibitory, away from New Zealand. The amount of importation from New Zealand is under Government regulation. Having secured that protection, the Prairie Provinces sent representatives, in 1937, to the Regina Conference for the specific purpose of claiming disability and demanding compensation under tariff policy." He also cited the case of eggs. "Western Canada raises almost 40 per cent of the poultry of the Dominion and last year, according to our estimates, sold 22,010,000 dozen eggs and 16,800,000 pounds of chicken, valued at about \$10,000,000 in Eastern Canada. Mr. Chairman, under the circumstances, I almost regret to tell you (but note quite) that in 1930, the poultry pools of the Prairie Provinces also appeared before the Tariff Board asking for 'upward revision of the tariff on eggs.' Certainly the West has given, in its tariff attitude, a remarkable exhibition of

choosing the side its bread is buttered on." Fortunately, perhaps, for the Campbell Government, Premier Hepburn did not analyze the arguments presented to the Commission on behalf of this Province for alleged disadvantages under the National Policy. He did, however, refer to Professor Norman Rogers (now Labour Minister Rogers). Mr. Rogers prepared a brief some years ago for the Province of Nova Scotia, according to which that province was carrying a tariff burden of \$12.28 per capita, and as a result its population of 459,574 in 1901 had grown to only 512,804 in 1931. "Apparently," said Mr. Hepburn, "the economists of the Prairie Provinces worked over the figures of Mr. Rogers, only to reject them; acceptable to the East, they actually disproved the case of the West, since Mr. Rogers had set the tariff burden of Alberta at \$26.93 per capita, and the Alberta population grew from 73,022 in 1901 to 731,605 in 1931."

It is interesting to note that the Toronto Globe and Mail, which supported Premier Hepburn in his last political campaign, complains that his brief before the Rowell Commission, "even stripped of its personal animosity toward Mr. King and the Ottawa Government, must be called an instrument of destruction from the standpoint of national unity." The extensive portion devoted to combating the western provinces' arguments, it says, were "altogether misplaced."

The Record

The focal Liberal organ, seeking alibis for the failure of its own governments, federal and provincial, to remedy unemployment conditions asks what Mr. Bennett ever did when in power, except to boost the tariffs.

The first thing that comes to mind, of course, is the achievement of the Bennett Government in negotiating the Empire trade agreements. Where, we wonder, would Canada be today if it was not for those agreements, passed at the 1933 session of Parliament in the face of the bitterest opposition from Mr. Mackenzie King and his followers?

But that is not all. During the sessions 1934 and 1935 the Bennett Government introduced and had passed in Parliament an extensive program of legislation that carried Canada far along the road of social and economic reform. Among the vital features of the program were the following enactments:

- An Act to establish an Economic Council. The Farmers' Creditors' Arrangement Act. An Act to establish a system of unemployment and social insurance and to provide for a national employment service. An Act to provide for a weekly day of rest in industry. An Act aimed at the establishment of minimum wages. An Act for the limitation of hours of work in industry. More effective legislation to deal with combines. More effective legislation to deal with the organization and conduct of companies. Amendments to the Criminal Code, among other things making criminal offences in Canada certain trade practices disclosed through the Price-Spread inquiry. An Act to establish a Dominion Trade and Industry Commission. Acts dealing with the marketing of natural products. Some of this legislation was challenged on constitutional grounds, but all of it was unquestionably inspired by the Bennett Government's desire to give this Dominion an advanced reform program to meet the conditions then existing. What has the King Government to show, except three years of inaction and failure?

Protection Of Trade Marks

All manufacturers owning trade marks which are descriptive, geographical, the name of a patent expired product, or the name of a person, firm or corporation, should be considering whether their trade marks are valid or not in view of the recent decision of the Privy Council in the case of The Canadian Shredded Wheat Company, Ltd., vs. Kellogg, wherein the question of descriptive trade marks was discussed. This decision is of importance to all trade mark owners who desire to protect their marks, because in this case a trade mark, which had been used for almost forty years in Canada, was held to be invalid. The Court points out in the decision what is necessary in order to prove that such marks have acquired distinctiveness so as to entitle them to protection. It may be that in view of this decision an amendment to the law is necessary for the protection of such trade marks.

Editorial Notes

Sir James Barrie born 1860. A cordial welcome will be extended to the delegates of the Maritime branch of the Women's Missionary Society of the United Church, who meet here in annual convention, May 10-12.

Forest fires, according to the Department of Mines and Forests, in the last ten years have caused a direct loss of more than \$48,000,000 which does not include the indirect loss in soil fertility, scenic value and the lowering of water levels, soil erosion, and the damaging of water floods in streams, all of which are the inevitable results of extreme denudation.

Mr. W. A. Walsh, Conservative M. P. for Westmont, is entitled to the thanks of the people of this Province for his able advocacy of our claims for better railway facilities, in statements made before the standing parliamentary committee on Railways and Canals at Ottawa, reported in today's Guardian. Mr. Walsh not only stressed our requirements for better service, but paid a splendid tribute to the advantages of the Island as a tourist resort. The president and vice-president of the Canadian National Railways, along with other officials, were present at the committee sitting, and it was an opportune occasion on which to bring up the matter of Island transportation claims.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The individual who originated the idea of hanging out covered paper hats at banquets deserves a special niche in the hall of infamy.—Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

The noiseless typewriter was a boon to business offices, remarks Oscar, but the improvement will not seem complete until somebody achieves the noiseless stenographer.—Saturday Night.

Ontario has voted \$40,000 to fight infantile paralysis in human beings and \$25,000 to battle Bannock disease in cattle. The moral is self-pointed.—Peterborough Examiner.

Shattering another illusion is the statement that in all Dublin there are today less than ten harlots.—Brookville Recorder and Times.

The trouble is on the farmer. Just as he thought he had come clear from the shadow of one epidemic, he has been plunged into new anxieties from the same cause within a few weeks of the opening of the summer show season. But agriculture as a whole supports the slaughter policy and aids the Ministry in its heavy task. The virus of the last epidemic came from the Continent, and was the most virulent and rapid-spreading known strain of the disease. The virus in the recent outbreak is under examination now, and the possibility that it is the same strain increases the necessity for the present drastic measures. Foot and mouth is a mysterious disease. There are several types and many strains, and their results vary from days to weeks of their character. A polyvalent, or immuniser, for them all is not known, though it is constantly a subject of research.—London Daily Mail.

Most farmers' daughters between the ages of 16 and 30 in the States of Washington and Oregon spend more time in their mothers' homes do. So the Department of Agriculture informs us, reporting on the 1936-38 survey of clothing expenditures just tabulated by its Bureau of Home Economics. It took the bureau two years, apparently, to obtain this important information. To save the government the time and trouble of further research in other States, we hereby announce without fear of successful contradiction that most daughters between 16 and 30, on the farms and in the cities of every State in the Union, spend more for clothes than their mothers do.—New York World-Telegram.

Sir Henry Newbolt was a patriot, and he was no more jingo. He loved England with the love of a cultured and well-travelled man, not a narrow affection, the sort of which breeds jingoism. "They little know of England, who only England know." Like Massfield he had a passionate love of the soil and natural beauty of his native land. This trait so often found in English poets has in it a certain mystical quality and it cannot be explained simply by the acknowledged "prettiness" of the English countryside. It goes deeper than that. Sir Henry Newbolt's death will be deeply regretted in Canada, especially in Winnipeg. He was the first speaker at the National Conference on Education and Citizenship, which was held here in 1919. In his address on that occasion he set a standard which has been an inspiration to the conference ever since. Again, in 1923, he visited this city and made another memorable speech.—Winnipeg Tribune.

George Bernard Shaw, who for several months past has been predicting his own early demise and uttering characteristic Shawisms about it, turns more serious when he discusses how he will leave the money he has accumulated. He proposes to provide annuities for certain unspecified persons and that this will postpone the final disposal of his estate. "These persons are 'extinct,'" then he said, he hopes to do something for the English language, for English speech and manners and for the sciences in general. In one way or another, he has already done much for the English language in his plays. And he has done much for philosophy by his lectures. The unpredictable Shaw might well be excused if he let it go at that.—Vancouver Sun.

The first requisite of a good conversationalist is not ability to talk, but ability to listen. And very few of us know how to listen. We are always talking, positive, not merely closing the mouth, letting another talk, and waiting until you can break in again. If you think it an ordinary trait, try paying attention to the subject of another person who addresses you. Decide firmly to make no reply until 30 seconds after the last period. Listen to the tones of voice, watch the speaker's eyes, observe how he puts his sentences together, his choice of words, the lacy of his ideas, his sincerity or lack of it, his shrewdness or naivete. For it is as closely as you intend to write it down. You will realize you are having a new experience. And from the face of the person opposite you, you will realize you are having a new experience, too.—Loren Carroll in Esquire.

The way to decrease the number of the unemployed is to originate and to carry on enterprises which are best suited to conserve and advance national prosperity. This is the end which Mr. Rogers seems to have in mind. Public works, he says, not with those who do not have it, but rather work which will exploit the natural resources of the country, which will aid the expansion and enrichment of our young country, which will increase Dominion revenues. For example, tourism which brings in \$300,000,000 a year, and which can produce more with improved organization. It is with pleasure that we note that the Hon. Mr. Rogers desires to encourage the best of his ability, and to undertake such undertakings, thanks to which adults and above all, young people will be thoroughly at home in the posts which will be entrusted to them. It is with pleasure that we note that the Hon. Mr. Rogers should be able to count on the full and free collaboration of the different provinces in this particular and highly important field.—Montreal La Presse.

Elre is more essentially an agricultural country than England and Wales. During the past few years the industry has progressed there,

That Body of Hours By James W. Barton, M.D. A SIMPLE BUT SATISFYING TEST OF THE STRENGTH OF THE HEART

Although there is now more heart disease than at any previous time in history nevertheless with our more exact methods of measuring the amount of work the heart can now perform safely, many individuals are enabled to live even to old age by keeping within "safe" limits.

The use of the electrocardiograph which records the power of the heart beats and regularly of the heart's action, the fluoroscope which enables the physician to see the heart as it works, and the measuring of how much extra oxygen the individual needs to do a certain amount of work, and how long he will need extra oxygen after he has finished the work, now come to the aid of the physician.

While the electrocardiograph machine and the fluoroscope are not found in the majority of physician's offices, the functional test can give valuable information without even the oxygen measuring apparatus. The patient simply rests for a few minutes after reaching the physician's office and is then ready to exact his full rate is taken while still resting, and then he does a certain measured amount of work such as walking up a number of steps at a certain rate of speed, or long or skips a certain number of times at a certain number of steps a minute, or touches or tries to touch his toes with knees straight a certain number of times within a certain time limit.

The physician knows the increased number of beats the heart will have to make in a normal individual in order to do this work and exactly how long it will take after the work is done before the heart returns to its normal rate—the rate before the exercise is taken. Thus a heart beating 72 to the minute before a given amount of work is done—say 60 steps skipping at the rate of 120 to the minute—may go up to 96 due to this exercise and return to normal in 1 to 2 minutes. This would be considered normal. If individual is an athlete or takes considerable exercise, the heart rate may go up to 104 and be back to normal in less than one minute.

The point then is that the amount of work the heart can do without causing breathlessness or continuing to cause breathlessness before a given amount of work is done—say 60 steps skipping at the rate of 120 to the minute—may go up to 96 due to this exercise and return to normal in 1 to 2 minutes. This would be considered normal. If individual is an athlete or takes considerable exercise, the heart rate may go up to 104 and be back to normal in less than one minute.

The Poet's Corner. Go, lovely Rose, Tell her that wastes her time and me, That now she knows, When I resemble her to thee, How sweet and fair she seems to be.

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Georgetown—Charlottetown Bus Service. STARTING MONDAY, MAY 10. Leave Georgetown — 8:00 A.M. Leave Charlottetown — 8:30 A.M. Leave Lorne Valley Church — 9:00 A.M. Leave St. Theresa's — 9:30 A.M. Leave Peakes — 10:00 A.M. Leave Fort Augustus — 10:30 A.M. Leave Charlottetown — 11:00 A.M. Leave Charlottetown — 11:30 P.M. Leave Peakes — 12:00 P.M. Leave Charlottetown — 12:30 P.M. Leave Georgetown — 1:00 P.M.

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