

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink."

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1938

The Liberal Choice

The Queen's County Liberal Convention yesterday confirmed the general impression and anticipation by voting for Mr. Lester Douglas, City, as their candidate in place of the late Mr. Peter Sinclair, M. P. The new candidate is well known throughout the county where he has been in close touch with the farmers as a produce dealer and has been a prominent worker in the Liberal cause for many years. He is familiar with local problems, and is a ready speaker, though not professing to be an orator. At present he is Retail Vendor under the Provincial Government, and his selection as Liberal candidate may, or may not, necessitate his resignation of that much sought after political office. In addition to his other claims to consideration he is a brother-in-law of the late Mr. Peter Sinclair and of Senator John Sinclair, who is reputed to be the Hon. C. A. Dunning's particular political guide philosopher and friend so far as Queen's County affairs and patronage are concerned.

Ottawa Turns Us Down

The serious situation occasioned by shortage of seed oats was referred to in the Legislature yesterday by Mr. Aeneas Gallant, Premier Campbell's colleague representing the First District of Prince. Mr. Gallant missed an opportunity when he did not call attention to the hostile attitude shown at Ottawa by the Federal Minister of Agriculture to the petitions for help in this matter. As reported in yesterday's Guardian, the Dominion Government has rejected requests from Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario for assistance in distributing seed this spring.

Announcement of this rejection was made while Parliament was considering second reading of a Government bill guaranteeing \$14,500,000 for Saskatchewan and \$1,900,000 for Alberta seed distribution loans.

What is the use of orating about the dire need of our farmers if our legislators are not prepared to back up their words with action? Action in this case should be in the form of a unanimous resolution, sharply protesting against the Dominion Government's attitude. It should be introduced and passed by our Legislature immediately, and forwarded to Hon. Mr. Gardiner with all the despatch possible.

Mr. Gallant might well have suggested such a course, in view of the facts he related. No less than 20,000 bushels of seed oats, he says, are needed in his and the Premier's district alone.

And yesterday's Liberal convention! Instead of seizing their opportunity to stress the need of our distressed farmers they passed a resolution whitewashing the Mackenzie King Government and all its actions—including, inferentially, its refusal to assist this province in distributing seed, while spending millions in the West.

Now Premier Campbell has the floor. He speaks this afternoon in the Draft Address debate. Will he too, play politics with this issue or will he rise to the occasion and declare what the people of this Province think of a Government that would act in such a manner?

Helping The Farmers

Last week the farmers of Hunter River and Brookfield had to organize snow-shovelling gangs and clear their roads after vainly petitioning for the services of the Government snow plough. It took them two days and nights to do the job. Then, last Monday, the snow-plough appeared. It went to the bottom of Ten Mile Hill, about half a mile this side of Brookfield, piled up a snow barrier in the middle of the road, and left it there. Monday night a motorist came to grief when he ran into this unexpected obstacle and nearly wrecked his car. Yesterday, the farmers had to go out again on the road, cleaning up the mess left by Mr. McIntyre's winter road makers.

The Transport Bill

The Transport Bill, embodying the regulation to control water rates between the Maritime Provinces and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River ports beyond Father Point, has been given second reading in the House of Commons and referred to the standing committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines. The Hansard report of the discussion reveals that not one of our Liberal Maritime representatives took objection notwithstanding the protest of the Charlottetown Board of Trade which Premier Campbell, at the instance of the Board, has forwarded to Ottawa.

While our Liberal Maritime representatives were evidently asleep at the switch, the British Columbia members were by no means so. They claimed that the bill affects adversely the shipping interests of their Province, except for bulk cargoes which are exempted. Mr. H. C. Green (Vancouver South) said his constituents get some goods from eastern Canada cheaper by water (via the Panama Canal) than by rail; the fact that there is competition for the railways, and that railway rates to the coast have been cut to meet these water rates. Under Part V of the bill, by making agreed charges with the companies at present shipping goods by water, the railways can cut into the water transport business, and perhaps be able to wipe it out altogether. If the water competition is wiped out, the result would almost certainly be an increase in freight rates to the coast. "That," said Mr. Green, "I submit is absolutely unfair, particularly in view of the fact that this same water transport is actually regulated by the bill."

This is precisely the position in which our Maritime shippers will be placed in connection

with shipments to and from Central Canada. Where were our Liberal stalwarts in the House when they did not get up and say so?

Transport Minister Howe advanced the argument that any carrier may protest that the agreed charge is unduly injurious to his business and may even appeal from the board's decision. On this point Mr. Thomas Reid (New Westminister, B. C.) said:

If one looks at the bill it will be noticed that under Part I an appeal can be made from the rulings of the board which is to be set up, which will consist of the present board of railway commissioners and perhaps some others. That is similar to the provision already in the Railway Act. I should like to direct the attention of the minister to the fact that although the Rail way Act has such a provision and such an appeal can be made, that provision has been of little value since its incorporation in the act. There are two way commissions and questions arise regarding judicial authority or matters of law, an appeal can be taken to the supreme court. But if it is a question of fact the appeal must be taken to the privy council, which in effect is the cabinet. This is what has been done for many long years. The reverse any decision given by the board of railway commissioners. It is not a fact-finding body, and in deciding against the railway board, or giving any judgment, a precedent would, they maintain, become established. Hence those of us who have had occasion to go before the privy council after having received an adverse decision from the board are found that no matter how just our cause may be the privy council has refused to reverse the opinion or judgment of the cabinet. This is a question of fact, there is no question of law, the privy council has always taken it upon them that they would establish a precedent if they gave any opinion or judgment contrary to the findings of the board.

Editorial Notes

Crimean War ended this date 1856.

The Family Compact is still an important factor in our political life.

Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen intimates he intends making a public statement soon on his position regarding the Conservative Party leadership.

Of New Brunswick's population of 408,219, there are 136,999 persons of French racial origin, Mr. Wilfrid Lacroix (Lib., Quebec-Montmercy) was informed in the House of Commons in answers to questions tabled.

It is an absurdity for the Government to waste time debating an address in reply to the Governor's speech when the members dare not indulge in any trenchant criticism either of the subject matter or what has been ignored.

A splendid opportunity for Liberal members to display their concern for the independence of parliament would be in discussing the reference in the Speech to the National Park. Everybody's right to have access to the Law Courts is at stake, and justice is the very foundation not only of the British parliamentary system but of civilization itself. Otherwise we might as well be in Russia or Germany.

The Saskatchewan Legislature has just concluded its fourth session of its eighth legislature, the chief feature of which has been a Redistribution Act reducing the membership from 55 to 52. Ridings disappearing under the new alignment are Bronthead, Nottukeu, Shaunavon, Francis, Moose Jaw County, Thunder Creek, Kerrobert and Pheasant Hills. The new ridings are Redberry, Canora, Saltcoats, Cumberland and Torch River, all the latter representing restoration of old electoral district names.

Sir Samuel Lowry Porter, who headed the "budget leak" tribunal of two years ago has been appointed a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, succeeding the new Lord Chancellor, Lord Maugham. He will become a Privy Councillor and as a member of the Judicial Committee from time to time will hear appeals from the Dominions. Mr. Justice Porter is 61 years old. He is a bachelor and lives for the law and for the law alone. His strong report on the "budget leak" scandal resulted in the resignation of J. H. Thomas as Secretary of State for the Colonies and the retirement from the House of Commons of Sir Alfred Butt. It also resulted in discontinuance of the practice of speculative insuring against budget risks.

It was the Ides of March in Charlottetown—that season when stocktaking and book balancing have concluded, and the business man relaxes in the sure and certain conviction that his banker has still to be reckoned with. The telephone rang; her boss: "Long distance calling, sir," she said. "Toronto on the wire." "Let's see," murmured the B.M. from the depths of his comfortable office chair. "That's about 2,000 miles from here." "Just about that, sir," agreed the secretary. "Then hang up," ordered the employer, wearily. "I'm too tired to talk that far!"

The trouble in the Liberal camp is due largely to the fact that the powers-that-be at Ottawa have been advised that it would be ultra vires pulvisory retiral legislation for judges of the Supreme Court—a Court that was in existence before Confederation. In order to create a vacancy on our Supreme Court bench, some enterprising Attorney conceived the idea of scrapping the King's County Court judgeship, and applying the salary in part payment of a fourth Supreme Court judgeship, for which there is as much need as a fifth wheel to a coach. This move trenches on the preserves of Mr. Speaker Hessian of King's County, and he declines to take the attack lying down.

In England they are discussing one of the educational phases of radio in reverse. They say that British school children have developed a pernicious habit of doing their homework to the accompaniment of programs over the air, with devastating effects on their report-card marks. In one school in the Midlands it was established that 90 per cent of the homework assigned was prepared with the "wireless," as they call it over there, going full blast. The headmaster thereupon instituted tests on himself and found that the average program lowered his concentration to about 40 per cent of normal. Over here the trend children are also listening to the radio while they do it, then the amount assigned is in effect cut 60 per cent more by the poor quality of the results attained.

NOTES BY THE WAY A Meagre Defense Plan

(Globe and Mail) Canada's Minister of Defense is no alarmist. What he said in the House of Commons when presenting his estimate was a calm appraisal of a situation which must be recognized. Both he and the Government would indeed be open to rebuke if they neglected to ever as "reasonable and rational" to protect people and country. But we doubt that the defense program can be termed reasonable and rational, considering the danger. It is an extremely modest minimum. Two new destroyers, seventy-five airplanes and some additional Pacific fortifications will not add much to the meagre equipment provided for a country of this magnitude. Undoubtedly it is a compromise with last year's appropriation of \$36,000,000, but the point is whether we can afford to take a chance on lack of preparedness. Australia, with smaller population and less wealth, has just announced a three-year program to cost \$215,000,000. The United Kingdom finds it prudent to intensify its heavy defense preparations. If the world war is not yet postponed long enough we may see now heart murmurs are important for defense, but the public thing possible is to speed preparation against the day of disaster.

John Mackenzie has no illusions either as to the sober truths he expressed or as to the provoking. For the first time a minister ventured the suggestion that the Pacific is from the navy of a "friendly nation." In other words, "the United States." We have to rely on Great Britain in the Atlantic, and Britain does not yet feel adequately safeguarded herself. No commitments exist to this effect; it is a chance we must take in our weakening this country by regarding raids on Canada as "a probability." The world armaments race is being considered seriously for the protection of the civilian population along the lines adopted in Britain.

This is Canada's position with the world armaments race, and when we witness the apparently inevitable divisions of modern nations into like friends of freedom and the friends of force. The strengthening of our forces because we are part of the British Empire and have the strong arm of Uncle Sam behind us is unworthy of attention. In the division of nations referred to by the Minister, there could be no doubt of unity between the United States and the United States. Affiliation in a common cause for the defense of democracy would be inevitable, but how could we hold the arms of our friends without having made a strong effort to help ourselves?



BIRTHRIGHT

Lord Ramesses of Egypt sighed Because a summer evening passed; And little Ariadne cried: "Dust, and young Verona died. When beauty's hour was overcast. There's was the bitterness we know keep So short a state, and kisses go To lovers unfathomably deep. Whil' Ramesses and Romeo And little Ariadne sleep. —John Drinkwater.

BAR NO PICKURES

HALIFAX—Nova Scotia's board of censors examined approximately 5,500,000 feet—or 1,040 miles—of film in 1936-37, and not a single picture was condemned, according to statistics given by Chairman C. H. Bennett of the board.

ed with coats-of-arms and flags on the occasions called for draping of the old building. Perhaps some clock collector may come along and make a bid for the use regard and piece because of its associations.—Ottawa Journal.

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That Body of Hours

By James W. Barlow, M.D. HEART MURMURS

As medical students we were taught the location of heart murmurs and whether they were heard best at lower or upper part of heart. We were also taught to find out just what part of the heart cycle of beats and rests between beats the murmur seemed to be loudest. Thus a murmur strongest before the first beat meant that a certain valve was affected. One occurring with the first beat showed another, and a murmur strongest with the second beat meant still another valve was affected. The murmur, its location, and the period in the cycle of beats was the "important" part of the knowledge to be gained.

Now heart murmurs are important and their location and time of occurrence, as damage to some valves is more dangerous than to others. But, to-day, physicians have learned that there are other points about the heart more important than murmurs. Dr. E. C. Reitenstein, Syracuse University, in International Clinics, says "There may be murmurs without heart disease due to anemia, goitre, or exercise and again serious heart disease may be present without murmurs when the blood vessels supplying the heart muscle become blocked, and when the large blood vessel (aorta) from the heart, loses some of its elastic tissue.

Thus that alarming ailment angina pectoris—breast pang—the vise-like pain over the heart extending over the chest into left shoulder, may have no heart murmur whatever.

Even when heart murmurs are present and are not due to stomach or lung conditions, but are actually due to leaking valves, it does not mean that the individual is likely to drop dead from heart disease. Sir James Mackenzie when just an industrial physician discovered that many of the workmen with heart murmurs who had to climb a steep hill to his office were not any more breathless when they arrived than were other workmen who had no murmurs or heart disease. Their hearts were just as strong, as well as their lungs, because Nature had provided compensation added or necessary "strength" to enable the heart to do its work properly. Thousands of soldiers with heart murmurs were able to "carry on" during the Great War.

The lesson then is that murmurs not due to heart disease may occur and even when due to heart disease are not of themselves dangerous. The "vitality" will vary many years if he lives within his strength and does not overeat.

HOMEMADE FUNNEL

HALIFAX—Halifax harbor has its marine monotony; too, but it's not a serpent. It's a tiny tug, the Ronald F., which pierces its way with a funnel made from three red and yellow gasoline drums.

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PUBLIC FORUM

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

LEADERSHIP COURSE

Sir,—As one of those privileged to attend the recent Leadership Course given at St. Francis Xavier University, I would like, in this way, to express my appreciation to the Government of Prince Edward Island, and to the Department of Agriculture who made this experience possible. I am very sincere when I say that being a student of the St. F. X. Extension School has been one of my greatest experiences. Through study and the study of others we have obtained a clear picture of world conditions. The world today is faced with economic security and we are, to a large measure, responsible, because we all contributed to the present situation. And we all must contribute to the task of freeing ourselves. The Extension Department, St. F. X. University is promoting a program that has already proved to be most effective. Truly, the work they are doing is amazing. The Extension workers are going out amongst the great mass of the people of eastern Nova Scotia. They are helping these people to understand the world in which they live and to learn the meaning of cooperation, intellectually and spiritually. May the people of Prince Edward Island be willing to accept the cooperative movement as a means of bettering their living conditions, and may the students of the Extension School be willing to work with them to gain economic security. Again, may I thank Hon. W. H. Dennis, Minister of Agriculture, and Mr. W. R. Shaw, Deputy Minister for their great interest in the course. I am, Sir, etc. EXTENSION STUDENT. Bonshaw, P. E. I.

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