

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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Monday, January 23, 1939
Manion On National Defense

There will be no more excuse, after Hon. Dr. Manion's speech in Parliament last week, for even our local contemporary asking where the Conservative leader stands on the question of national defense.

While fully endorsing a proper defense policy, Dr. Manion said he would like to have more information than is contained in the Speech from the Throne with regard to the defense purchasing board which the Government proposes to establish.

The Conservative leader also reminded the Prime Minister that if some of his lieutenants had not been so assiduous in years gone by in preaching the doctrine that the Conservative party was a militaristic party because it believed in a certain amount of defense—about one-half of what is deemed necessary today—they would not now find it so difficult to remove the prejudice which they built up in regard to defense appropriations.

The Trade Treaty

It is difficult to share the enthusiasm of the government, or the hope of knocking down unemployment in Canada by increased trade under the new treaty with the United States when the aggregate result of the old treaty is taken into consideration, the St. Catharines Standard says.

Table with 3 columns: Year, Imp. from U.S., Exp. to U.S.
1935: \$221,416,000 / \$370,104,000
1936: 396,141,000 / 417,546,000
1937: 490,505,000 / 482,402,000
1938 (11 months): 395,561,000 / 330,884,000

The year 1935 was the year preceding the old treaty and Canada then had a favorable balance of trade with the United States of nearly \$58,000,000; in the second year of the treaty this was converted into an unfavorable balance of \$8,103,000 and in the third year the balance against Canada was no less than \$64,877,000.

Under the new treaty several other low cost producing nations will get the same favorable tariff treatment as the United States. And there has been a cut at the preference enjoyed in the United Kingdom market by Canadian products. We have also taken off the three per cent excise tax.

Taken on the whole, it requires an optimist indeed to figure out how the new trade treaty will solve the unemployment problem in Canada. The truth is, it will help to solve part of the same problem in the United States if it runs true to form as the old treaty. You cannot change a favorable balance of trade into a heavily unfavorable one and expect to put men back to work in this country.

Minister's Dismissal Suggested

The Financial Post (Independent) is in full accord with the Winnipeg Free Press (Liberal) in interpreting the report of Hon. H. H. Davis on the Bren contract as corroborating the charges made in Colonel Drew's magazine article.

Justice Davis finds no evidence of "corruption", but no corruption was charged in the article or anywhere else. The Commissioner finds it "inexpedient" to comment upon the actions of Minister of Defense Ian Mackenzie; of General La Fleche, his deputy; of Hugh Plaxton, Toronto M.P., who figured so prominently in the contract negotiations or of Major Hahn, who got the contract in such a mysterious way.

"But," says the Financial Post, "while the Commissioner accepts the legal position raised by counsel representing the Inglis and Plaxton companies as to the limitations of the report he could make and as to his being prevented from making a finding which criticized anyone, he isolates and publishes the evidence that will enable any citizen or member of Parliament to judge for himself whether Mr. Mackenzie and his deputy were or were not derelict in the awarding, without tender, and without careful selection of the contractor, of this, the first important munitions contract in Canada since the rearmament program began."

The judgment the Post believes the public will come to from a reading of Commissioner Davis's summary of the evidence is:

- 1. That the department was incompetent.
2. That the interdepartmental committee set up to protect the public in munitions buying fell down badly and failed to do its full duty.

- 3. That Mr. Mackenzie handed out an important letter of introduction to a man he later claimed not to have met.
4. That his deputy misinterpreted to the interdepartmental committee the facts of the War Office's attitude.
5. That Major Hahn had no record of industrial success to justify him in getting such a contract.
6. That Mr. Mackenzie granted the contract against the Government's expressed policy of competition.

Our Toronto contemporary declares that if Parliament now does its duty—if it draws the conclusions that Commissioner Davis declined to draw—it must condemn the transaction utterly. Also that "Mr. King must rid himself of the minister and the deputy who were guilty of such gross abuse of public trust, as to grant without tenders the most important defense contract yet given, to a firm no better equipped to handle it than was the Inglis firm."

Editorial Notes

William Pitt died this date, 1806.

With Hitler it is not a democratic case of "I hire him, you fire him." Being a dictator he does both.

Most roads are open, but the river and harbour ice is not yet too safe for vehicular traffic. There has been no intense frost so far.

Now we are told the new Picton Ferry service will not go into operation until May 1, 1940. Why such inordinate delay?

It is changed days, when a minister of the United Church can occupy the rostrum of a Jewish place of worship, as was the case in Montreal last week, and speak of the splendid work that the Temple was doing in promoting good relations between Jews, Protestants and Catholics in that city.

Egg prices took a big drop last week because of increased receipts, in part due to the mild weather which has caused a record rate of laying by hens. The cackling biddies should be told to lay off laying a bit, in the interest of the poultrymen, though not of the consumers. But hens, like the weather, may disregard restrictive planning, and play heck with grading and grade prices.

A Charlottetown Little Theatre Caste will represent New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island at the Dominion Festival competition in London. Congratulations are in order to the director, Mr. John A. Lawson, and everyone concerned. It is a great tribute to be told by an Adjudicator like Mr. George Skellan that their play, "It's Autumn Now", was rated "almost 100 per cent as it should have been."

The Canadian Produce Association in deciding to hold their annual convention in Montreal, issued the following statement: "The Canadian produce industry due to recent developments in international affairs, is faced with many different problems. It is generally recognized by members of the produce trade that a reasonably satisfactory solution to these problems is only possible if concerted action on an agreed national policy can be effected. During the past year every producer and dealer has been penalized due to apathy and indifference. The opportunity is being presented at our convention to accept our responsibility to the industry."

It appears that Governor-General and Lady Tweedsmuir will leave early in March for a month-long trip in Western Canada while Rideau Hall is made ready for the King and Queen who arrive May 17. New furnishing will be added to their Excellencies' official residence which will be the home of the Royal visitors while they are in Ottawa. Lord and Lady Tweedsmuir remain at Rideau Hall during the four-day Royal visit. Alterations in furnishings also will be made at the Citadel, summer residence of the Governor-General in Quebec, which will be their Majesties' headquarters there. Lady Tweedsmuir visited there during the week-end to plan the new arrangements.

Ordinarily it takes very good and substantial legal cause to have a body exhumed, but in Paris a Lottery ticket can do the trick equally well. When Mr. Alex. Dupont died last summer he was buried in one of the white duck suits he wore in Colonial service. At the time his widow was not worried about the national lottery ticket he had bought. It was only when the ticket won the 1,000,000-franc prize in the September drawing that she began looking for it. When she could not find it she concluded it must have been placed in the white duck suit. After repeated appeals to the authorities she obtained permission to open the grave. The ticket was found in the suit and the widow cashed it at lottery headquarters.

Hogs don't know any better than to eat too much, but if Ontario and Western farmers don't curb the porkers' appetites, the equilibrium of the nation's bacon export market will be upset, Dominion Department of Agriculture officials warn. Feed is cheap there this year so hogs are getting more square meals than is advisable for their figures. The argument that the portlier pig the more money the farmer receives is illogical, the Government experts point out, for if the hogs are too fat and too heavy they won't meet requirements for select bacon hogs. Export market grading has rigid standards of weight, size and quality, Canada's export trade stands or falls on uniformity, and if select bacon hogs don't conform to specifications the price will drop and the whole trade will suffer. Some grains are plentiful and cheap on the prairie provinces, so hog raisers in the west are tossing grain into the pigpen troughs this year. Quebec and Ontario are following suit. There are fewer pigs going to market, and since there is more feed than usual anyway, they are getting double portions. Lately hogs have been turning up for market tipping the scale at 230 pounds or more when they should weigh a modest 200 pounds. The Department of Agriculture urges a slimmer diet be inaugurated immediately to guard against overweight and "overfinishing", or too heavy a layer of fat.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Contending that a sandpit in the harbor at Provincetown, Mass., is not "the mythical rock" at Plymouth is the "holy ground" on which the Pilgrim Pilgrims first trod, Judge Codders propose to dig up Provincetown sandpits. At least some of the plous pioneers went ashore there for forty days. Efforts will be made to locate the markers on the graves of Bradford and four of her fellow-passengers on the Mayflower who died during the reputed forty-day stay of the ship at Provincetown before they sailed to make their permanent settlement at Plymouth. Thus bursts into controversial flame a revival of New England's oldest and at times, bitterest feud. As a matter of fact, no one has been able to produce an atom of historical proof that the Pilgrims landed on a rock when they went ashore at Plymouth. This Plymouth Rock is merely a pretty tradition. —Harrison in Windsor Star.

The \$16,000,000 hole in the heart of Montreal said to be worrying the men concerned with the tercentenary celebration, because it "won't look well to visitors." The Montreal Bank of Commerce ceased to be a marvel to tourists, who laugh understandingly when informed by citizens that it is a useless job, a big sum of tax money annually to maintain. —Montreal Gazette.

A little over a week ago The News-Times of South Bend, Ind., suspended publication after an existence of 35 years. South Bend is a city of 106,000 population, almost entirely of the same race. The experience in South Bend, as noted in The Kitchener Record, follows similar occurrences during the past year in Akron and Toledo, O., both of which are today newspaper cities. As a matter of fact there are now about 1,200 cities in the United States with single newspaper ownership. The course of events in Canada has not been much different. With in the past twenty years Ontario alone Hamilton, London, Windsor, Stratford, Chatham, St. Catharines, Brantford, Guelph, Owen Sound, Kitchener, Belleville and Kitchener have had their newspapers merged several years earlier. The same reason applies everywhere. —In the United States the decline of newspapers in Canada. Increases in production costs, improved news gathering facilities, wage increases and depreciation in newspaper value have all made it impossible for more than one newspaper to exist anywhere outside a metropolitan centre. As a result of these mergers the public is getting better newspapers today, generally speaking, than they ever had before. The exceptions are selfish or unfair propaganda sheets which fail to discharge their duty to their communities. They have no right to use the exceptional power they possess for selfish or unfair propaganda. They may and should express opinions, but they must be fair to every one. St. Catharines Standard.

German brutality to the Jews in one sense unique; the German authorities both take pride in torturing the helpless race and to do money out of it. This combination of persecution and business is a notable contribution to the technique of Government in the modern world. The week illustrated the merely brutal element in this policy. By a decree issued by Herr Himmler, Jews are forbidden to absorb both property and police president of Berlin, forbids Jews to enter certain areas and leaves them only the meannest and most unattractive parts of the city. The dream of reviving the Ghetto is realized. The money-making function of anti-Semitism is shown by the fact that the German Jews, on the order of the authorities, to sell their businesses, estates and properties, and deposit the proceeds in a foreign exchange bank. The cumulative result of the decree is to increase the pressure of Jews to escape from Germany by any means possible; this is Herr Hitler's latest contribution to the harmony of Europe. Herr Streicher now asserts that the Jewish problem cannot be settled merely by absorbing them in Germany. Catholics fear that the confiscatory policy applied to the Jews will later be turned against the church. —The Spectator London.

The idea of a large federation of Arab States, in which Palestine on the withdrawal of the Mandatory Power, might ultimately be included, has gained a notable advocate in the person of Viscount Samuel. The House of Lords, debating this unhappy problem, heard the late Colonial Secretary, Lord Hinchinbrooke, denouncing the Mufti as an inveterate enemy of Britain intent on dynastic conquest of power, and the former Jewish Governor of Palestine, Sir Herbert Samuel, as a Zionist intransigent. Lord Samuel suggested that Jewish immigration into Palestine should be so regulated that the Jewish population of this country should not exceed 40 per cent in ten years' time. This is a reasonable means of allaying the fears of subservience under an unchecked flood of Semitic refugees; and the possibility of developing Transjordan so as to enable the Jews to earn their living in the Jewish colonies, as Lord Samuel urged, careful admission of the Arab Nationalist movement is a genuine cause meriting respect, and that hard bargaining by Jewry might easily imperil the security of all that immigration has achieved in Palestine. The question remains now the idea of an independent Zionist State is to be reconciled with the inclusion of Palestine, unpartitioned, in an Arab Confederacy. Lord Samuel says: "Let the British Mandate continue." For the moment that is the obvious way of deferring difficult decisions, but it is not a final solution. —The New Statesman and Nation London.

Comrade Trotsky's opinion that the New Deal has been a help to the coming of the world revolution—which he has been predicting for so long should be read in the light of the complete failure of his prophetic powers in his own case. Formerly in command of millions of men, with seemingly illimitable power in the future, he now lives an exile from many countries, in one which affords him shelter for reasons of its own. —N. Y. Herald-Tribune.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Borison, M.D.

THE MEDICAL CARE OF ELDERLY PEOPLE

About the year 1800 the average span of human life was about 31 years. In 1800, 300 years later, it had risen to 35 years, and by 1840 in the United States, it had risen to 40 years of age. That is, in 300 years it had risen only 4 years and in only 40 years it had risen five years. In 1900 it was about 49 years and in 1930 about 60 years, and to-day it is 63 years. This means that the span of human life has been raised 15 years in a space of less than 40 years.

The cause of this great lengthening of life span in recent years is due mostly to the saving of lives at birth and during the first year after birth. The children who are called pediatricians. Many lives are also saved by the successful fight against infectious diseases such as typhoid, diphtheria, malaria, plague, tuberculosis and others.

Naturally if children's lives are saved, their parents will reach old age. And because many more now reach old age, another class of specialists, geriatricians, is now helping these old people to be comfortable, free of pain, and able to occupy their hours in useful employment or enjoyment.

As it is during the fifth decade of life that the signs of old age or advancing years first begin to show, some very sound suggestions are given by Dr. W. C. Evans, Dallas, Texas, in Medical World. "Elderly people must be kept out of bed and stirring as long as possible. They should be up for a considerable time and his muscles lose whatever tone they might have, tend to dry and harden, and they may be actually painful to rest. Longer hours of rest are necessary or at least shorter hours of activity, broken by one or more hours of rest in the middle of the day or early afternoon. Two hours sleep at this time is a most helpful measure in many cases.

We doctors must be tolerant with elderly people. Listen to their stories, make note of all symptoms, be thorough in physical and laboratory examinations. Then we may, if no organic trouble is present, be able to work out a routine of living, eating, exercising and resting. We may see the restoration of a failing man or woman to many more years of usefulness and activity. If we do not, many more years to their lives may add much more life to their years."

Up To Parliament

(Saturday Night) The spectacle of a Royal Commission administering a Royal Commission in the face of the entire system of employing Royal Commissions to do things ought to be done by Parliament or its committees is so unusual, and so surprising, that it is no wonder that hardly any of the comments on Mr. Justice Davis's Bren Gun Report have grasped its significance. The real essence of the Report is in three sentences: "It will be for those charged with the responsibility... to examine and study (the facts reported) and to take such action... as may be necessary to pass upon the substance, as distinct from the form, of the contract"; and "That is a question upon which the Government and Parliament must pass judgment." In plain words, the business of governing this country, and the business of administering this country, and the business of devising methods and regulations for doing so, belong to Parliament, and Parliament has no right to foist it off on members of the Supreme Court.

And very tight too, and we earnestly hope that Parliament will pay some attention to it. The practice of evading every difficult or ticklish problem by remitting it to a Commission has made the Ottawa Parliament the laughing-stock of the electors, and done much towards creating the present discontent with the parliamentary system. It is "good politics" and that is all that can be said for it, and the country is sick to death of politicians who do nothing but practise good politics. All that the Government has got out of Mr. Justice Davis is a verdict that no corruption was established on the part of anybody which is excellent except that nobody had charged that there was any corruption. As to the wisdom of the policies, and suitability of the methods, employed in arranging for the manufacture of munitions for this country and for Great Britain, the Government is told in effect to so wash its own dirty linen, and provided with a considerable quantity of soap to do it with, in the shape of the evidence heard by the Commission but not commented on by him.

For those who read between the lines, an exceedingly useful Report, but perhaps a bit subtle.

King George The Sixth

CHAPTER SEVEN

"Experience is by industry achieved And perfected by the swift course of time." —Shakespeare. To-day it is a custom in the Royal British Navy to draft all cadets who have completed their shore courses into the various units of this arm of the service in order that they may gain actual experience on the sea and in this manner these youngsters are given an opportunity to work their way up towards the position of midshipmen. However, when Prince Albert, who is now King George the Sixth, graduated from Dartmouth Naval Training School, which was in December 1912, it was the practice of the Admiralty to send these cadets on a special ship before they were gazetted midshipmen. Less than a month after he had left Dartmouth, Prince Albert was assigned to the cadet training ship of that year, Cumberland, which was a county cruiser or 9000 tons under the command of Captain Aubrey Smith, who later became Sir Aubrey Smith, and a well-known Admiral of the Fleet. One of the instructors on this ship was Captain H. Spencer-Cooper, who had also taught the Prince at Dartmouth.

This routine was entirely different from that which had been planned and followed in the case of his brother, the present Duke of Windsor, who as soon as he passed out of Dartmouth was gazetted as a midshipman on the Hiniquan, which knows that it was intended that Prince Albert should work out the regular courses like all the other sixty cadets in his class. There are many stories which illustrate the thorough democratic character and wisdom of the Prince in his endeavours to carry out his assignments on the training ship, but it may be summarized by stating that he was one of the most popular cadets on board the Cumberland because he not only worked harder than the average student in his efforts to assimilate as much knowledge as possible under the circumstances but he never missed an opportunity to partake in every other activity on an equal footing with the others.

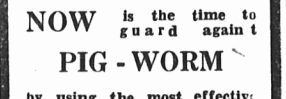
The voyage of the training ship sailed on January 18th, 1913 and during the long cruise the vessel touched many ports, wherever the ship appeared there were large crowds to welcome the personnel on account of the fact that the Prince was aboard. The Cumberland visited Tenerife, St. Lucia, Trinidad, Barbados, Martinique, Dominica, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Havana, Bermuda, Newfoundland and several Canadian ports. Prince Albert was the first son of the King to visit the Dominion of Canada and he received a remarkable welcome, although he himself preferred always to be welcomed and recognized first as a Naval cadet and as a King's son afterwards, which occasionally embarrassed many Canadian officials, particularly when he endeavoured to obtain dance partners outside of the ranks of those chosen for him at official functions.

On the return of the Cumberland to Great Britain, Prince Albert was gazetted as a midshipman on the flagship of the first squadron, Collingwood, which was in command of Captain James Ley, who later became the Admiral of the Royal Fleet.

(Continued next week) (Reproduction Prohibited, 1939, Educational Features Syndicate).

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CONSERVATIVE CONVENTION
Charlottetown & Royalties
A Conservative Convention to nominate two candidates to contest the 5th district of Queens, in the next provincial election, will be held in the Board Room of the City Hall on Monday, January the 30th, at 8:00 p. m. Each poll is entitled to send 5 delegates.

The Poet's Corner
THE DARK HILLS
Dark hills at evening in the west Where sunset hovers like a sound Of golden horns that sang to rest. Old bones of warriors under ground. Far now from all the banners waved. Where flash the eagles of the sun. You fade—as if the last of days. Were fading and all wars were done. —Edwin Arlington Robinson

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