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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1931

Bad Case Of Funk

The Liberal organ's only excuse for the Government's failure to open the seats in the Cardigan and Charlottetown districts now vacant is that these constituencies already have one member each who will take his seat in the House. To suggest that this representation is not sufficient is, according to the Government organ, an "unkind cut" or the Guardian's part at Dr. W. J. P. MacMillan, the sitting Conservative member for Charlottetown. This far-fetched argument will fool nobody, least of all the redoubtable Doctor, who has received more abuse in the Liberal press than any man in politics. The fact that the sitting member for Charlottetown is a host in himself, that he is equal in debate to half a dozen Government apologists, is no reason why this city should be deprived of its full representation of two members in the Legislature. At present Charlottetown is without an Assemblyman, and 3rd Kings is without a Councillor, simply because the Lea Government is afraid to face the music at the by-elections.

Since our contemporary has mentioned Dr. MacMillan's name, it might go further and advise the Government to consult him in his professional capacity. We have no doubt of what the diagnosis would be.

The Outlook for Agriculture

So many divergent opinions as to the outlook for agriculture have been expressed that it is refreshing to come across an authoritative statement on the subject, and doubly refreshing when this statement is found to furnish substantial ground for optimism. Such, in effect, is the finding of the Saskatchewan Royal Commission on Immigration and Settlement, whose report, just received, includes an informative and encouraging chapter on the agricultural outlook, particularly with respect to Saskatchewan. Dealing first with world conditions, the Commission finds that despite the great increase in production of foodstuffs, so large a proportion of the world's population at present consumes so little food per capita that an increase in this consumption to equal the standards common in North America would create an immediately visible shortage of foodstuffs of an acute nature, even after discounting for the differences in consumption due to climatic effects and racial habits. In other words, it is not over-production but methods of distribution and marketing that are at fault. It is difficult at present to see any great hope of including the vast population of China in an economic system similar to that of North America, except in coast areas affected by economic communion with occidental social systems. In other cases, however, there is every hope of a steady increase in standards of food consumption. The very maintenance of modern civilization depends on its ability to increase steadily its use of commodities.

There are, of course, those who doubt its ability to continue, and forecast its replacement by some other system of society. Attention, for example, is often drawn to the great experiment in collectivist methods now under way in Russia. The Saskatchewan Commission finds that interesting as this experiment may be, it does not in any way affect the arguments laid down in its report. Russia under collectivist methods will produce no more than under non-collectivist methods. The application of a collectivist system of society to Saskatchewan would not cause any increase in wheat production. A combine or a tractor does no more work because it is driven by a communist instead of a wage earner or a farmer. Indeed the theory which lies back of all movements towards collectivism is that at present the individual worker is doing more than his share, and

that in a more perfect form of society he will be relieved by the drafting to work of many now idle hands, and a general application to industry of mechanical power on a larger scale. Were that accomplished in a system of society which prevents anyone from accumulating property as a reward of labour, the result would inevitably be in the direction of an urge to produce no more than is necessary, and to release the surplus labour available in the form of leisure. Even in theory there is no reason to expect the success of collectivisation to flood the world with foodstuffs, even admitting that Russia may, in the immediate future, for purely political reasons, try to do that. It is to be remembered that Russia, at its peak of production, never produced more than about half the food needed to maintain its own population on the standard of living prevalent in the United States, and it is to be expected that the very success of the Soviet authorities in establishing a collectivist system of production would increase, rather than lessen, the tendency to improved consumption of food in Russia.

So far as Saskatchewan is concerned, the Commission, while admitting difficulties which may seem very serious to those who endure them directly, finds the condition of the farmers as a whole to be far from hopeless, even in the face of two very unproductive seasons and acute difficulty in marketing their product at a fair price. It has no faith in the adoption of the much-advocated system of rapid and complete mechanisation of agricultural processes unless other industries are able to absorb the workers who will be thrown out of employment in this way; but it does recommend confidence on the part of the farmer in the ability of society to correct present conditions, and careful avoidance of too sudden changes in his methods. It urges that during a period of difficulty in disposing of his staple products he should build up his own economic independence by adding to his operations the production of as much as possible of his own requirements. It especially points out that the present difficulties of the farmer differ from those of previous occasions, in that he is less alone in his troubles than at any prior time, that his loss of income and consequent distress is shared by many other classes, and that the attention of capitalists, investors, and statesmen is focused on the fact, often forgotten in the past, that the very roots of our modern society are in the rural communities.

Britain's War Debt Payments

The Christian Science Monitor, an American newspaper, agrees with Francis W. Hirst, eminent British economist, that Great Britain is paying far more on war debt account to the United States than she borrowed, and that the agreement between the two countries should be carefully reviewed. This is obvious when it is remembered that the purchasing power of money fourteen years ago, when the debt was contracted, was only about half what it is today.

The Christian Science Monitor recalls the fact that any abatement, or even the entire remission of the debt, would not advantage Britain directly but her debtor allies only, who are required to pay her dollar for dollar what she pays the United States, and no more.

"Undoubtedly," it says, "profit would come to Great Britain or the material reduction of the interest upon it. But it would not come directly to the British taxpayers. It would come in the form of enhanced prosperity for those countries from which the British Treasury is now exacting payment in precisely the amount that it has to pay to Washington. These countries are all customers of Great Britain. Their buying capacity would be enhanced by the reduction of their indebtedness. Their industry would be stimulated. In these ways Great Britain would profit, and it may be incidentally remarked that the United States, as a great exporting nation, would profit in almost like measure."

Notes by the Way

Some years ago an Englishman came to Canada resolved to become a farmer. He had been a locomotive engineer living at Crewe and drawing 30 shillings a week. He had four children and a wife which he left at home. He got a job as a hired man on an Elgin County farm, and in a year he sent for his family. First on a rented farm he made good, then he bought a hundred acres and came, in an era of low prices, to a moderate prosperity. Where did he get the money for travelling expenses when he made the adventure of emigrating? Consider a Canadian making \$7.50 a week and supporting a family. How long would it be before he could save steerage passage and railway fare for six people from Canada to England? Even if his wages were \$15 a week the question still stands; and the answer is the same; never! "Ah, but our standard of living is higher," says someone. Doesn't that mean that in prosperous times we buy a lot of truck we don't need, and that in days of depression we are "broke"? If we are not "broke" we are afraid that we may be; the effect on general business is the same.

While Mr. Philip Snowden was making his astonishing speech in the British House of Commons on Wednesday, Sir James Dunn, British-Canadian capitalist, was giving the Montreal Gazette an interview in which he pointed out the way of defeat for the Ramsay MacDonald Government. He indicated that if the British Chancellor of the Exchequer curtailed the "dole" the left-wing Laborites would turn against the administration, a general election would follow and the Conservatives would be returned to power. In forecasting sweeping sacrifices on the part of all classes of the community, including the beneficiaries of unemployment insurance, Mr. Snowden fulfilled the first condition of Sir James' prophecy. It now remains to be seen whether or not the more radical section of the Labor Party will vote against its own leaders and upset the apple cart. We may be on the eve of far-reaching political developments in the Mother Country, developments which will open the way for closer Imperial trade relations and co-ordinated Empire development.

The New York Times says editorially that if Mr. Hoover obtains from Congress an extra \$74,000,000 for additions to the navy it will be for the single purpose of obtaining "parity" with the British. The Times says: "No obligation rests upon the country to do this. It is simply an option that we have. It is no doubt true, from the technical point of view, that if we do not avail ourselves of it now and start building the new ships there will hardly be time to carry out the entire naval programme and to attain naval parity with England by 1935, when the new naval conference is to be held." There can be no doubt that both President Hoover and Prime Minister MacDonald were disappointed in the achievements of the London Naval Conference. They wanted both limitation and reduction of naval strength, but were unable to secure the latter. The United States came out of the conference with a plan to increase instead of reduce its navy, but as the Times says, there is no need to carry out that plan. The country is not threatened; and, by continued co-operation with Great Britain a further scaling down of armaments can probably be obtained four years hence.

A committee of lawyers in the city of New York the other day reported that there were 96 statutes which should obviously be repealed because they were either obsolete, nullified, unenforceable, foolish or no longer in accord with prevalent thought." It pointed out that recently New Jersey repealed 1,248 laws for similar reasons.

The present problems that depress and distress us are really the growing pains of very rapid progress in a still young and vigorous world, not symptoms of senility and decay. Our productive powers have grown faster than our facilities of distribution and consumption; we have not yet learned how to make our monetary mechanism smoothly serve our needs; our political machinery is medieval; and we have not begun to bring the business and financial interests of all parts of the world into the necessary co-ordination. But all these things will come as rapidly in the next generation as our technical inventions did in the past.

Laughter shows us the end and object of evolution; tears are only the evidence of our mistakes on that long and delightful journey.—Clarence Day, Jr.



By James W. Barton, M.D. THE LIVER AFFECTS THE SKIN

I frequently speak of old skin ailments—eczema and other irritations—and of how useless any medicine seems to be in many of these cases. Where a condition is due to the skin itself being irritated by acids, alkalis, or metallic substances, then drugs can be of help. In fact drugs can be of help even where the trouble is due to some trouble in the body itself, as these drugs stimulate the skin and the blood to healthy action.

However where a skin ailment persists for weeks and months sometimes getting a little better for a while, and then becoming severe again, there is one organ that can be suspected of causing the trouble and that is the liver.

Because the liver has three important jobs to do, and any interference with any one of these jobs can cause trouble in the blood itself, and hence trouble in every part to which the blood is carried, the skin of course included. These little jobs are the making of bile, the storing of sugar in the liver, and the cleaning out of the poisons in the blood. Thus when there is any inflammation of the liver and gall bladder due to slowness, sluggishness, gall stone formation and so forth, then the liver cannot do these three jobs completely.

A little daily exercise such as bending the body from side to side and forward and backward, with knees straight so squeezes the liver and gall bladder that the bile flows down into intestines stimulates them into action, and kills off harmful organisms there. Where the individual is unable to exercise the old treatment of calomel and epsom salts is helpful, particularly small doses of epsom salts.

In regard to the storage of sugar, it has been found that cutting down temporarily on the sugar intake has been helpful. Sugar is our cheapest good food but in these old skin conditions it may be necessary to lessen the daily intake.

In regard to food, lessening the amount of fats—cream, milk, butter—will lessen the work on the liver, and enable it to purify the blood more completely as it passes through.

So if you have an old skin irritation that doesn't respond to treatment think of the liver as a possible cause; and give it a chance to catch up on its work by following the above simple suggestions.

LINKS OF EMPIRE

Sir:—I shall be extremely grateful to you if you can find space in your columns for a brief appeal for the "Links of Empire."

The Links were started in 1926 under the auspices of the British Empire Union and the Presidency of Lady Apsley. Their great aim and object is to promote a spirit of friendship, goodwill and sympathy between all the citizens of the British Empire by a system of carefully selected correspondence.

All ages and both sexes are eligible and each link is given a corresponding Link of the same age, sex and interests as far as is possible. There is no compulsory subscription although voluntary gifts are gratefully acknowledged.

The growth of the Links since their inception has been wonderful. Thousands of happy friendships have sprung up all over the World and there are few places now within our wide spreading Empire where there are no Links to be found.

The Blue Bird carrying its message of friendship (which is our Badge) is flying in all directions and wherever it settles it brings fresh hope and good cheer either at Home or Overseas. If there are any who wish to find friends or to be put into touch with the Old Country or other parts of the Dominions will they write to me and I will do my best to satisfy their wants.

I am, sir, etc. C. L. BOWLING, Hon. Sec. L. O. E. Glynn House, Sussex Road, Southsea, England.

Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

About a year ago I contributed to The Guardian, under the heading "The Spirit of Christmas," a short sketch of my impressions regarding the manner in which the people of Massachusetts observed the Yuletide Festival, in their homes, their churches, their shopping activities, and the really magnificent electrical and other displays about the residences of the citizens of Boston and smaller towns in the latter's vicinity. Not only the decorations, etc., but the music—vocal and instrumental—of Christmas themes, "Ode to Yule" English Carols, etc., that was heard over the radio from before Christmas Day to New Year's.

I was again privileged to spend the season just past in the same localities, and to again witness the greatly enhanced demonstrations by residents in the decorations of their homes, the window displays by the business houses, and the evident civic pride the people took in boosting their home-town attractions, and celebrating the great event of all time. I mentioned last year one of the church services, the address by the Governor to the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the good-fellowship manifested by people on the streets and in the shops. I felt that they even excelled themselves this season in that direction also in their care for the poor, distressed, and unfortunate, as well as in the magnificent electrical decorations in and about the homes, lawns and house fronts of the more well-to-do portions of the population.

Last year (Feb'y. 1930) I told of the gigantic electrical display in the town of Saugus by a wealthy resident of that place, and of the Desert Scene at Cliftondale where the Magi were to be seen alighting from their camels and approaching the Inn at Bethlehem, where were to be seen the Madonna and Holy Child.

The season just passed evidenced many new features in the electrical displays and scenery, which without doubt, excelled those of the previous year. At Saugus the "Magic Garden" was surrounded by a wall of lattice work, upon which were climbing vines upon which were innumerable electric bulbs representing various kinds of flowers, and at stated intervals this lattice wall was supported by Greek pillars illuminated from inside with red light. In the centre of the "garden" was the "Magic Pool" and its frozen waters were illuminated from beneath by many electric bulbs, giving the appearance of a lake of illuminated waters. This, together with the Comet, the revolving Star, the English Maypole and innumerable other attractions, combined to produce an ensemble of unparalleled beauty not easily forgotten.

The panorama shown a year before at Cliftondale was, without doubt, surpassed in the season just ended. Instead of the Desert Scene in which figured the Magi, were to be seen the hills outside of Bethlehem, with the "Shepherds watching their flocks by night," the appearance of the Angel announcing the Birth of the Saviour on the journey of the shepherds and their arrival at the Manger of the Inn.

LUKE 2:7-14—And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for him in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not! for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the Heavenly host, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good-will toward men.

The effect of these scenes upon the onlookers was something indescribable and never to be forgotten, especially when viewed by night. New Year's night was our great opportunity to witness these marvellously realistic exhibitions.—B.

The Poet's Corner

REST O Earth lie heavily on her tired eyes; Seal her sweet eyes weary of watching, Earth; Lie close around her; leave no room for mirth With its harsh laughter, nor for sound of sighs. She hath no questions, she hath no replies, Hushed in and curtained with a blessed death! Of all that irked her from the hour of birth; With stillness that is almost Paradise.

The Philosophy of Dreams

To the average person a dream is just a phantom of the night. It likely has no more significance than the curl of smoke uprising from a cigarette. The genial "AE," as George Russell chooses to be known, has had sufficient contact with the workaday world to be able to speak interestingly, and with good grace, upon that inner realm of mental activity to which we are all introduced when sleep falls upon the eye-lids; we might say the brain; we cannot say the consciousness, for this would be to beg the question which has puzzled philosophers not a few. What is a dream anyhow? In what way does a dream differ from the mental communiques of our waking hours? These are large questions. Aristotle, Cicero, Lucretius, Leibniz and Shakespeare have discoursed upon this subject, and the theme has been followed up by such savants as Dr. Carpenter, Dr. Laycock, Dr. Macnish, Sir William Hamilton, Sir Henry Holland, Professor Murry, Herbert Spencer, Andrew Lang, and a host of others, including, of course members of the Society for Psychological Research. The general verdict rendered is that that sleep and dreams may justly be classed with the great mysteries of our nature, that in studying them we pass from one mystery to another, and that all investigations of the labyrinthine chambers of imagery so explored thus far have not fathomed the dream world region any more than is done by the glimmer of a lantern flickering along the walls of some vast cathedral. And this dictum goes far towards supporting the pronouncement of "AE" when he says: "I have come to the conclusion that perhaps the most transparent avenue to the secret depths of our own being lies through the exploration and analysis of dreams."

Over against the word "transparent" most folk may feel inclined to set the query mark. For, speaking broadly, dreams are unco shadowy things. They flit witch-like at the edge of consciousness. Mr. Jeffries once said there are insect murmurings in nature that fill at the edge of sound. But did not "AE," some years ago, write the delightful little book called "The Candle of Vision," in the pages of which he put in a strong plea for the validity of dreamland sights, as against the theory that vivid dreams are the fleshy results of plum pudding and hashish, or the retaliatory turn of complexes and baffled desires? Therein is the "Irish" of it, and the poetry of it, and the rare suggestion that dreams leave foot-prints upon our memories such as the Great Auk once left a claw-mark upon the sandy mud patch which hardened afterwards into an evidential slab. "I attribute to that unwavering meditation and fiery concentration of will, a glowing luminousness in my brain, as if I had unsealed in my body a fountain of interior light." The poet goes on to tell that, "At times there broke in on me an almost intolerable lustre of light, pure and shining faces, dazzling processions of figures, most ancient places and peoples, and landscapes lovely as the lost Eden." All of which aptly suggests that there are more things in our dream-world than our philosophy wots of. Consider De Quincey's sight-seeing tour in the dreamland which he avers lasted for millenniums and included "scas of faces" and acquaintances with mummies, with marvels of old Egypt, with sedate gods and slithering crocodiles, and aching ages of duress and enchantment in the region of papyrus reed and Nilotis mud. Did the tonic "spot" of opium impart such fillip to the inner fibres of the imagination as to produce these wondrous visions? Let the learned folk fight out this problem. What has been proven, and comes within an understanding reach, is the fact that during a dream of a few minutes' lapse it is possible to cross the Atlantic both ways and see a good deal of the "Continent" into the bargain. And there is much more

Darkness more clear than noonday holdeth her, Silence more musical than any song; Even her very heart has ceased to stir; Until the morning of Eternity Her rest shall not begin nor end, but be; And when she wakes she will not think it long. —Christina Rossetti.

That Body of Ours

That Body of Ours is the liver. It is the largest internal organ of the body, and it performs many important functions. It is the seat of the gall-bladder, and it produces bile, which is necessary for the digestion of food. It also stores sugar and filters out poisons from the blood.

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.

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FEED THE BIRDS CONTEST
The Guardian offers prizes of \$2.50, \$2.00 and \$1.00 to each of the three Counties to children Feeding, Counting, and Writing the Best Story about the Birds sitting their farms.
This contest closes March 31.
For further particulars read regularly "Agriculture's" Notes in The Guardian.

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