

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1934.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

A few weeks ago there appeared in The Guardian an optimistic report from a number of leading merchants and financial concerns on the business pickup in the Province since the new year. The splendid Easter trade done in Charlottetown last week is another evidence of this improvement. Not for some years have the stores been so busily crowded at this season, brisker trade being reported in practically every line. Shoppers from many different sections of the Province were in the city, and there was a general feeling of prosperity in the air. Doubtless the improvement in farm prices in recent months has tended greatly to create this feeling. Moreover, there is keen interest in the legislation which has been introduced at Ottawa, and in the enabling legislation which will be brought down in the local Legislature this week, for the establishment of a Marketing Board, aimed especially to benefit our farming and fishing population. In addition, the MacMillan Government is considering the introduction of legislation for easier farm credits. These measures, introduced at the psychological time when trade and industry are on the upgrade, may prove to be the most far-reaching in their importance of any legislation passed in the history of the Province. Opposition members have expressed their concurrence in the principle of the legislation, and the bills are likely to go through without any partisan discussion. It is, at any rate, to be hoped that this will be the case. Members on both sides of the House are sincerely desirous of furthering the interests of our agricultural and fishery industries, and where such interests are concerned there should be united and harmonious action.

HOSPITAL UPKEEP

It is in line with the general tendency of the age to throw more and more the cost of upkeep of public hospitals and sanatoria on the government and municipalities. The argument is plausible, and readily acceptable, viz: that as these institutions are largely for the public good, the community well-being, it is only right and fair that the public or community as a whole should be taxed for maintenance. Why, it is asked, should volunteers be imposed upon, when conscripts can so readily be obtained through the public estimates and consequent taxation? Yet there is another side, and a not unworthy one, to this question, which Lord Moylman, the great English physician, gave at a civic service at Oseley in connection with a hospital scheme. He referred to the generous help of his subscribers, and then continued: "At the end of the scale, you will find perhaps even more generous the contributions of the working people. Ever since I have been associated with the Leeds Infirmary—a much longer time than you might suppose—I have been conscious of the immense help which has been given by the contributions of working men. This morning I turned up the records, which showed that our expenditure has increased in the last 21 years by two and a-half times. To compensate for that, the contributions of working people through workpeople's hospital funds have increased four and a-half times. That is the answer which may be put forward to the comments and criticisms, even the accusations, of those who are hostile to the voluntary hospital system. "If you wish for something quite characteristic of England today, you could hardly choose anything which would afford so significant an example as the voluntary hospital system. "Only once in my life have I ever been ill," commented Lord Moylman, "and as long as I live I shall never forget the feeling that was in every cell of my being at returning health. There is no pleasure in the world that can equal it."

EDITORIAL NOTES

A fine tribute to the wisdom of British statesmen was paid in Toronto last week at a service club luncheon by Mr. Henry I. Harriman, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. In discussing the progress made under the N.R.A. Mr. Harriman said a program of recovery had been operated with no small measure of success in Great Britain long before the experiment was launched by President Roosevelt.

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this Dominion. Within two years five farms had been selected, among them that at Napan, in the neighboring province of Nova Scotia. Other farms then established were at Ottawa, Brandon in Manitoba, Indian Head in the Northwest Territory and Agassiz in British Columbia. Dr. Saunders remained as head of the system until 1911 when he retired on account of age and ill-health. He was succeeded by Dr. Giradale, who had been agriculturist at the Ottawa farm for some years, and in 1920 he was succeeded by Mr. Archibald, who had been Dominion animal husbandman.

The year 1911 marked the beginning of rapid extension of the system and now there are twenty-four branch farms and stations, seven sub-stations and several others devoted to experimental work. As connecting links between the Experimental Farms and the farmers of Canada, there has been established a system of Illustration Stations, numbering 210 at the present time, where outstanding results of experimental work are demonstrated on farms owned and operated by individual farmers, one of which is near Salisbury, in Westmorland County.

N. S. FINANCING

Mr. W. M. Lea, in the course of some of his remarks on the Estimates during the present legislative session, extolled the manner in which Hon. A. L. MacDonald, new Liberal Premier of Nova Scotia, is fulfilling his election promises, and expressed the hope that the MacMillan Government in this Province would "do likewise."

"This is a reminder of the fact that in his first budget, Premier MacDonald whose pre-election goal was retrenchment in expenditure, estimates for a deficit of \$1,207,000. Estimates in the budget for ordinary revenue total \$8,052,000, an increase of about \$625,000 over last year. Moreover, old age pensions, which the Liberals were going to pay out of the saving effected in administrative costs and travelling expenses, are to be paid from borrowed money.

Evidently Mr. Lea realizes the necessity for increased expenditure by the "rigid economy" Liberal government of Nova Scotia. So does Premier MacDonald. He frankly admits that a balanced budget, under present conditions, is simply impossible in Nova Scotia, and, like Premier MacMillan, he is looking hopefully toward the Bennett Government at Ottawa for relief in the form of increased subsidy settlement. "There is," the Nova Scotia Premier said in his Budget speech, "a possibility, a probably even, that under the terms of the Duncan Commission report, the long-deferred adjustment of Federal payments to this Province as recommended by that Commission will be taken up this year."

THE TRADE UP TREND

The Dominion's total trade for the period April-February 1933-34 amounted to \$613,570,000, compared with \$615,974,000 for a similar period in 1932-33, representing an increase in 1933-34 compared with 1932-33 of 496,596,000, or 11.8 per cent. For the month of April 1933 compared with the same month in 1932 the decrease amounted to 28.7 per cent; in May to 7.7 per cent; and in June to only 2.7 per cent. In July 1933, however, Canada's total trade compared with similar month of 1932 shows an increase of 11.8 per cent; in August 7.0 per cent; in September 27.7 per cent; in October 8.0 per cent; in November 24.0 per cent; in December 20.7 per cent; while in January 1934 compared with January 1933, the increase was 40.9 per cent; and in February compared with February of last year the increase amounted to 43.0 per cent.

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Notes By The Way

During the last eleven years Canada has progressively reduced her net foreign indebtedness, and, so far from importing huge amounts of foreign capital, has actually exported some \$600,000,000 of capital on balance. Last year—the calendar year 1933—Canada did import capital to the tune of some \$62,000,000. But in eight of the last eleven years we have had a surplus on the other side, available for investment in foreign undertakings or for the repurchase of Canadian securities, such as Dominion bonds held abroad.

Dwellers in large cities may be surprised to learn that in urban sections of the Province splendid highways are not regarded as an unmixed blessing. Town and village merchants have their doubts as to the benefit of well-paved roads that will encourage the traveller to continue on his way; perhaps to the nearest city. It is a question of local business. Undoubtedly the speeding of highway traffic has had its effect on the business of shopping. But the present is a period of transition in most lines of human activity, and time alone can bring a reassessment of the generally improved conditions becoming apparent, both city and country merchants may find something like a return to the previous distribution of shopping patronage.

Let people know that you are going to win a success through and through. Show them that from the top of your head to the soles of your feet, you are victory-organized—in every inch a success. Radiate it in your bearing, in your conversation, in your appearance, do everything from now on bespeak the thing you are trying to do. Expect the success you are after, and you will increase your possibilities of winning a hundredfold. There is everything in confident expectation! Resolve to make yourself felt in your community, in your neighborhood, as never before. Resolve never again to decline any responsibility thrust upon you, or to refuse to do anything that will enlarge your life, broaden your outlook, enrich your experience.

It may sound like a somewhat cynical philosophy, but we believe that it is almost as bad to have too much of a good thing as to have enough of it. And many of us are in as much danger of the former as of the latter. We know some people who have had, so far as we could make things out, quite too much money. We never expect to come to such a state ourselves, or if by some strange chance we should come to it, we probably would like many others to see it. But looking at those others with what we think to be a fairly intelligent view, we are convinced that they might be both happier and better if they didn't have so much. A lot of money does not have a tendency to help in the way of cluttering up and spoiling real living. Leisure is a most excellent and useful thing, but have you never seen people who seemed to have quite too much of it, and succeeded only in putting it to a very poor and stupid use? And many others, often seen people whose leisure could only be taken in brief, hurried snatches and yet, who, apparently for that very reason, got out of it unique delight and pleasure, and put it to the very best and wisest uses?

A "secret" communication from France to Great Britain, sent it is not specified when, has been disclosed. The effect of this would be a renewal of the old entente, though of course, Russia, the third party, is not included in this bargain. This makes a great difference. Still greater is the difference made by the existence of the League of Nations and the Locarno Treaties. Somewhat peculiarly France proposes this entente with its old-fashioned balance of power features, simultaneously protesting her fidelity to the League. It is well known that France uses the League freely to gain her own ends by understandings with the lesser powers that follow in her train and are in the end, a sort of alliance within the League, again balancing powers there.

A certain inspector, noted for his fault-finding propensities, was inspecting a newly completed porch on the new Canada highway. He rumbled at everything he saw, and was not high enough to see the shoulders too steep, the ditches not deep enough, and so on. The foreman bore it all patiently; then he straightened up to his full height and looked full at the inspector: "How's the porch for length?" he asked.

Westminster Abbey's solitary ghost has been seen again after an absence of nearly two years. He is the specter of a lean and owlish monk of the time of Henry VIII, who, according to legend, was killed by robbers in the Chapel of the Fyx. He haunts, or is supposed to haunt, the cloisters every evening between five and midnight. Few visitors have made his acquaintance, possibly because no visitors are there at those hours. However, he has now taken a stroll in the afternoon. Two years ago he stopped and had a chat with two trans-Atlantic visitors and told them how he died. This time he did not speak as he passed. He is an intelligent ghost, too. He walks, not on the floor but above it, on the level at which it was in his own time before the years wore it away. Speaking as seriously as such a subject permits—although there is no record known of a monk being killed by robbers in the Abbey, the legend has continued with such persistence and with such an apparent basis of truth, that it is now part of the commonly accepted history of the building.

end of seeing that the machinery that is established, as a result of its passage, will function efficiently and give us at long last that control of our export trade in farm products that is essential to Canadian prosperity.

That Body of Hours

By James W. Boston, M.D.

BALANCING THE FAMILY FOOD BUDGET

Realizing the national importance of nutrition or the proper feeding of the people, the British Medical Association special committee determined the minimum or very lowest weekly expenditure on food-stuffs that must be spent by families of varying size to maintain health and ability to work. This committee was also instructed to construct specimen diets that would fill this need.

This committee found that there were no complete or satisfactory tables or specimen diets available, but decided that while a man who was not working could get along with 3000 calories (heat units) food daily, one who was employed required 3700 calories. The figure for adult women was 2840 calories and for children 1000 for youngsters 1 to 2 years of age, 2000 for ages 3 to 14 (the puberty period); thus showing that it is natural for youngsters at this age to eat about as much as their parents.

The committee found that the majority of the workingmen's families were eating about the right quantities of the various foodstuffs except that where the money was insufficient for food the housewife was giving a little less meat and butter than was really necessary and filling the stomachs on the cheaper starchy foods—potatoes and bread. The common fault if any was not giving the youngsters enough meat or eggs.

Similarly the Bureau of Home Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture maintains that the family should have a food budget and balance the daily food intake properly; this is very necessary where the available funds are low. They suggest that a market list, made up weekly and made up wisely, can be used to make sure of a balanced diet, as well as a balanced budget.

Thus in a very practical way they put the food into five groups. These are milk and milk products; cereals and fruits; bread and cereals; fats and sugars; meats, fish and eggs. "One should spend of every dollar thirty-three cents for milk and cheese; twenty-five for vegetables and fruits; twenty for cereals, bread and beans; twelve for fats, sugar, and molasses; and ten for meat, fish and eggs."

This is an excellent diet arrangement. Perhaps about three to five cents more of each dollar—thirteen cents more on meat, eggs—might well be spent on meat, eggs and fish—animal protein—where the children are in their teens.

The Whale's Nose

(Montreal Herald)

The huge cavities in the skull of the sperm whale, which are tanks for storing the valuable perfume of ambergris, have recently been recognized as the creature's nostrils! This huge nose is six times as big as the whale's brain case, and a whale with a head 12 ft. long and 6 ft. high will have a nose 10 ft. long and five ft. high and will have as much as 400 gallons of oil in its nose!

Through the bones, fat, oil, and connective tissue of this vast organ run the nasal passages, the right and large one capacious enough to admit a man. This can be expanded, and has a much smaller opening leading into the valuable perfume glands. The passage, and it has been ascertained that these passages to the throat can be closed by two enormous plugs, which function exactly like a stopper in a bath or wash-basin.

Stories Of Meteorites

(Ottawa)

It is at least an interesting coincidence that numerous recent reports of strange lights in the heavens and explosions in midair and meteorites crashing into the earth have followed closely upon publication in several magazines of phenomena recorded in history.

There is a great fascination in the subject, but our utter helplessness against these wandering bodies from the outer spaces, and the possibilities of catastrophe which are in the air, make us keep us in the dark of nights. The philosophy of the men in the war trenches is applicable. If a meteorite hits us we shall not worry about anything any more and if it doesn't hit we have no occasion to worry, so why worry anyway?

In 1908 a huge meteorite fell in an unsettled area of Siberia, crushing flat more than seven hundred square miles of forest, leaving craters a mile wide and in one case 575 feet deep. Scientists believe that many centuries ago the south-eastern Atlantic seaboard in what is now the United States was struck by a comet and a tremendous area devastated. Signs of the craters still remain. Widely-scattered scars on the earth's surface are thought to show where meteorites struck and entered, and in all parts of the world there have been picked up small meteorites of iron or stone—some scientists say he has collected 1,500 of them in ten years. Study of them adds to our knowledge of the physical world, the chance of being hit by one of them is extremely remote.

One wonders, however, whether it may be as a result of these articles that from Alberta, from Spain, from England, from the United States and elsewhere there have come so frequently of late stories reporting meteorites and various degrees of terror. It is perhaps, a case

Who Was The Author Of Canadian Boat Song?

(By J. V. McAree in the Mail and Empire)

There has recently been proceeding in the correspondence columns of the London Times a debate as to the authorship of the Canadian Boat Song. It was prompted by a writer in South Africa who was curious to have the point settled. With great good sense the editor of the Times, who is not such an oracle nowadays as he was a hundred years ago, did not attempt to give a decision but turned the matter over to his readers. Some admirable letters were published, among them the inevitable letter which confused the Canadian Boat Song of mysterious origin with the Canadian Boat Song by Thomas Moore, which begins:

"Faintly as tolls the evening chime Our voices keep tune and our oars keep time."

We say "faintly" because this is a mere revival of a debate. According to our colleague, Mr. John S. MacLean, it returns with the regularity of Halley's comet every 35 years. He personally recalls having contributed to three such discussions before the present one, and that at the end it always ends the same. Nobody can swear to the authorship. One can only point to the balance of probability which rests where it has always rested.

In Ambrosial Nights

Some facts are in doubt, but so far as can be discovered in the song first appeared in print in Blackwood's magazine, September, 1829. It was there in a department called Notes Ambrosianae, which we might fairly translate as "drinking rights" to which Christopher North and Lockhart were notable contributors. Lockhart said it had been sent by a "friend now in Upper Canada." In the same issue of the magazine was an article on Upper Canada by John Galt, and it seemed to have been taken for granted that Galt was the author of the verses. He was one of the directors of the Canada Company which was so active in Western Ontario and is remembered chiefly as the founder of Guelph, though he wrote "The Annals of the Parish," a popular book of his time. Twenty years later the verses, slightly changed, appeared in another magazine and were said to have been found among the papers of the late Earl of Eglinton. One might infer that the earl was the author or merely that from which the verses were copied by their beauty he had copied them.

A Charming Verse

After an interval of forty years they turned up again not quite in the original form. The original author, Sir John Skelton who said they were a translation from the Gaelic. Stevenson thought they were by Eglinton and gave them more publicity by a misquotation. Not further to beat about the bush we publish the most quoted of the five, which, with a refrain, compose the poem "From the lone shelling of the misty island Mountains divide us and the waste of seas."

Yet still the blood is strong, the heart is Highland, And we in dreams behold the Hebrides."

Stevenson used the word "dim" for lone. Christopher North, probably by virtue of his connection with Blackwood's, was also said to have written the verses. It was the theory of Mr. G. M. Fraser of Aberdeen.

Eglinton's Claim

The view most generally held was that, except for the title, the verses by Sir David Hunter Blair, who wrote:

"Up to 1800 everyone was in the dark; but after that date the truth gradually emerged that the poem was written by Hugh, twelfth earl of Eglinton (the Scotch Earl of Burns) who died in 1819 ten years before it appeared in Blackwood. Lord Eglinton was a musician as well as a poet, and composed some charming airs for old Scotch songs. It was during a visit to Ontario that he met some of the emigrants from the Scotch islands, and he wrote the verses which have since become famous." But Sir David produces no evidence, if indeed evidence is procurable. On the other hand, it has been asserted that the earl never wrote any poetry at all. This is in evidence in the letters and marches of which he is the author, but invariably the words are ascribed to other writers, and in the case of the Canadian Boat Song, here called the Song of the Eskies, is a note saying the words are taken from Burns.

The supposition that John Galt was the author is attacked in a letter from Mr. W. Muir who writes: "I am kind to John Galt, my mother knew him well and spoke to him often. He was kind to us by marriage. I am quite sure that John Galt could not have written the Canadian Boat Song for he was a pure Lowland Scot without any liking for Highlanders or Highland things. Indeed he disliked them and could not possibly feel the sentiments that the song expresses."

There perhaps the matter will have to rest. It seems unlikely that after all these years new evidence can be adduced, and we can only say with certainty that the general belief of those who have looked into the matter favors the claim of the Earl of Eglinton. It has happened much the same way with the famous saying of the man who builds a better mousetrap than his neighbors, and to whose door the world has been a track. Did Emerson write it? Or was it Elbert Hubbard? Who was it said: "I expect to pass through this world but not in it. Any good that I do for it I do for myself. Let me not defer or neglect it for I shall not pass this way again?" There are many claimants.

of mass thinking, aided and abetted by enterprising—perhaps ingenious—reporters.

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 SUNNY SOUTH

III.

Sir:—Since last writing the change in temperature is marked in St. Petersburg. The weather is now ideal and resembles F. E. Island in the month of July, and tourists are taking advantage of it in the time at their disposal by excursions and games in the shuffle-board and lawn-bowling courts as well as bathing at the splendid beaches that nearly surround the city. Williams Park is still the great centre of attraction for the heart of the city. Here, thousands congregate daily to listen to the music by Moses Band—ones of the finest in the country. What a colorful scene, to look at the multi-colored dresses of the women and the many types of people from all parts of the continent! Little women and large men, and the reverse—large women and little men! Good-looking and homely, the lame and the halt, and sometimes the blind, and many in wheel chairs. And there are some who appear to take no interest in the music or the people about them. I witnessed one day two large women who picked out two good seats, and as soon as seated took out their crocheting and getting to work, never, apparently, heard the band, or noticed the people, but sat and crocheted, or knitted for all the time the concert was on!

"He that hath no music in his soul And is not moved by discourse of sweet sounds Is fit for treason," etc., etc.

But let that pass. The benches at the park last Monday (19th March) were filled to overflowing in anticipation of hearing the "three-quarter Century Club" in their annual frolic, but the weather man was against it, and before the performance, the clouds gathered, the rain drops fell, and the rain came down in torrents, so the affair had to be postponed. And "there was hurrying to and fro" and every taxicab in the city was commandeered. But the following Thursday, the weather was all that could be wished for, and nearly 7,000 people assembled.

That your readers may understand the meaning, organization and objects of this club, I will explain that it is made up of girls and boys not under seventy-five years of age from all parts of the continent, including Canada, to keep up their youthful outlook—remembering the past and being in touch with the present. The club holds its meetings weekly and the members compare notes as to matters in each one's particular home. A small entrance fee is collected from each member, and discussions for mutual benefit, as well as a programme of entertainment is provided at each meeting. Should there be a surplus of cash, it may be used for charitable or relief purposes. It is claimed that this is the only organization of its kind in America. Once a year they hold their annual frolic. As before stated this took place on the Thursday following postponement, when a most enjoyable programme was given—participated in by several of the old girls and boys. A rousing sing-song came first with the audience of about 7,000 joining. It must not be forgotten that the proceedings were opened with prayer by a very aged clergyman. There is no doubt that although it was a merry party there was a highly moral tone pervading the whole proceedings. Old time songs and choruses, negro spirituals were given by a fine choir of fourteen young ladies from 75 to 90 years of age, a well sung solo by a girl of 80, an old-time fiddler performance a recitation of "Casey at the Bat" by a boy of 78, speeches by several other boys, and old-time jig dancing and Virginia Reels. As many boys as girls took part in the choir singing.

To wind up, the "Queen" of the Club was crowned in the person of Mrs. Sarah M. Moody, age 98, a winner visitor from Shelby, Michigan. This sketch would not be fair nor complete, should I omit to mention the indefatigable secretary of the Club—a real live wire and organizer—Mrs. E. B. Rittenhouse. Mrs. Rittenhouse is not eligible for membership as to age—that is a matter I must not dilate upon—but she certainly deserves the highest praise for the manner the affair was carried out.

I have devoted nearly the whole of this article to the Three-quarter Century Club as it is, up to this date, the most outstanding affair of the past week in St. Petersburg.

I am Sir, etc.

B. B.

March 27, 1934.

Another Cause Of Faulty Vision

Imperfect eyes cause imperfect vision. Imperfect vision causes eye strain. Eye strain causes—well, authorities recognize as so caused a long list of what are called "reflexes" and all practitioners know that the success of a great many individuals would be furthered if they secured the aids to their vision that are now available.

G. F. Hutcheson

OPTOMETRIST

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OPTOMETRIST

—Victor Hugo.

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