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THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

An Independent Journal, aiming to be JUST, IMPARTIAL, RELIABLE & WISY, seeking at all times to further the best interests of the people and Province and recognized therefore as

THE PEOPLE'S PAPER

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THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

WEDNESDAY MORNING SEPTEMBER 5, 1902.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

E. W. Thompson, an observer and writer of some note, visited this Island during the heated term in August and printed his observations in the Boston Transcript. He saw and remarked upon our red soil, our undulating topography, our scant woodlands, our zigzag fences. "From the high places one can see in all directions broader champagnes and more continuous cultivation than is witnessed elsewhere in North America, except on the rolling prairies." He found the houses "sufficiently large and tidy to emphasize the large barn's indications of pervasive agricultural content. . . Perhaps nowhere else can one see such great expanses of purely pastoral charm. The exceeding beauty of the Island is not marred by its usually poor agriculture. There are some districts almost as many fields of mere harsh weeds as of wholesome hay or grain."

Mr. Thomson found that within the past 30 years 50,000 people had left the Island to make homes elsewhere. The causes assigned to him for this migration were, "No rooted industries. No mineral. Distant markets. The need of reciprocity." He discards these explanations and affirms that "the spirit of content with little enough is the real cause. It prevents exertion to enrich a lovely country which is capable of carrying three times its present population in comfort."

Mr. Thomson does not think our people do well to go away. Land at such prices as prevail, with the existing educational and social privileges and low taxation, "should be far more tempting than those of the cold-wintered North West." He attended the Scottish Gathering at Vernon River. "A philosopher might ask: Why should they loathe to be wealthier? Five thousand, mostly young, were there. They were orderly, nicely dressed, gay and robust. Certainly more than half the men were over five feet ten high, and half of these six feet or over. The young women, handsome and straight, almost invariably were stalwart enough to be fit mates for such men. Where wealth does not accumulate, men don't decay."

And so this alert observer goes on. We are not afflicted with too much Government—"only two municipalities, Charlottetown, the pretty capital, and Summerside. No county councils." He remarked upon prohibition, that it does not prevent a good deal of drinking and some visible intoxication at or near public gatherings. "Little crime is reported and less convicted. Several cases of murder have been spoken of to me as hushed up. What use to hang anybody? And especially anybody extensively connected on the Island? If a man had the misfortune to kill another, wasn't it all between friends? By this easiness feuds may be prevented."

Mr. Thomson's observations, searching as they are, and not always quite accurate, are conceived in a kindly spirit and are worth thinking over. In them we can at least see ourselves as another sees us.

THANKSGIVING DAY.

Thanksgiving Day has become an established national festival in Canada, and this year the Canadian people from ocean to ocean have more than ever before to be thankful for. Hitherto custom has established the observance on Thursday of some week after the harvest. This year it is fixed on Thursday, 18th October. It has been suggested that Monday would be a more suitable day, not for the purpose of rendering thanks, but for the convenience of many who take part. Thanksgiving Day has become, in only less degree than Christmas, a day for family reunions. At the annual Thanksgiving, sons and daughters who have removed return to the old homesteads in considerable numbers to sit down once more at the family table and renew the tender associations of earlier years. It is largely for these family reunions that a change in the day of observance from Thursday to Monday has been now for some years advocated.

By the adoption of Monday for the purpose it is claimed many would be given the opportunity to return to the old home on Saturday and spend both Sunday and Monday there, with less inconvenience and more of comfort and satisfaction than they would have in obtaining a shorter time in the middle of the week. Especially is this true of the thousands of Canadians who at present reside in New England and whose former homes were in the Maritime Provinces, the distance to be travelled being about a day's journey by rail. We think there is a good deal of force in this contention, and that general convenience and satisfaction might result from the change. For a Thanksgiving Day fixed on Monday, more of the absent ones would return and the number of family reunions would be increased. We trust that the Government will take these circumstances into consideration and that in future years, if not this year, a trial may be made of the proposed change. It is not probable that any change will be made this year from the date now announced.

A Pink Book containing the proceedings of the second Conference of the Fruit Growers of Canada, held at Ottawa in March last has been issued by the Government. Its 200 pages contain the debates and resolutions of the Conference. The idea of the Conference came from the Island F. G. A. and our delegates, Rev. A. E. Burke, A. E. Dewar and Prof. Ready took a prominent part in the proceedings.

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The Maritime Board of Trade at its recent meeting in Amherst reaffirmed its resolution of last year that the Tunnel to connect Prince Edward Island with the Mainland must be built, unequivocally declaring it to be the only way of fulfilling the compact of union, and urging its speedy construction in the best interests of the Maritime Provinces. The Board is right. The faith of Canada is pledged to give us constant steam communication. Not only the Island but the Maritime Provinces and Canada itself need the Tunnel. The shippers, merchants, traders, farmers and industrial interests demand it and will continue the demand until the work is constructed.

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BECAUSE FIT-REFORM CREATES, AND MORE. Because Fit-Reform has the brains, as well as the mechanical skill, to perfect its creations. Fit-Reform founded hand tailored garments, completely finished, in Canada. Fit-Reform demonstrated the possibility of this ideal method of tailoring.

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When Vision is Dimmed

When one's vision is dimmed, how large a part of life's pleasures are lost. Reading can then only be indulged in when the light is strong; you go to the theatre and cannot half see what is doing on the stage; you go travelling and can only half appreciate the beauties of the scenery; and in hosts of other ways your weak eyesight is a hindrance to the full enjoyment of life. Had you not better arrest eye troubles on their first appearance, rather than neglect them till these things come to pass. Properly fitted glasses are a sovereign corrective—but only if they are adopted in good time. When the weak eyesight has settled deep down, glasses can alleviate, but they cannot always correct. Visit our Optical Department in Charlottetown on the first sign of weakening eyes.

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Cameron Block.

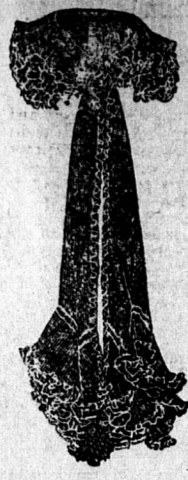
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" "	1.30 p. m.
" "	4.00 p. m.
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