

The Charlottetown Guardian

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1936

Fire Prevention Week

In Canada and the United States the week of October 4th to 10th is being observed as Fire Prevention Week.

About 300 people are burned to death and a much larger number are injured by fire in Canada every year.

Fire is no respecter of persons. Every man has a responsibility towards his neighbors and that responsibility should cause every right-thinking person to pause and consider what he owes the community in which he lives.

Cities and towns, like individuals, reap what they sow. To permit the erection of fire-traps, to fail to provide an abundant and reliable water supply and means of using it or to fail to apply the everyday rules of fire prevention, is to constantly face a menace of heavy fires and sweeping conflagrations.

Fire Prevention Week is a particular week set aside to call attention to these and other matters concerning fire hazards.

It is a campaign in which every Canadian citizen is vitally interested. Are we all doing our part?

Soaking The Taxpayers

With an increase of something over thirty million dollars in customs, excise and income tax collections for the first six months of the present fiscal year over the corresponding period last year, it is pertinent again to call attention to the Liberal pre-election platform to balance the federal budget "by retrenchment of public expenditure, by reduction of principal and interest on the public debt, BY A REDUCTION IN TAXATION and by increased revenues through the encouragement of trade."

For the Charlottetown district alone, an increase of no less than \$201,715 in income tax collections during the last six months is announced.

This amounts to an increase of over four hundred thousand a year—enough to finance all the federal unemployment projects and leave plenty over to pay Mr. J. LARABEE'S \$3,500 salary as Acting Fisheries Supervisor, HON. MR. LEVAGE'S emolument for administering loans to needy fishermen, and provide loaves and fishes for a good many other "deserving democrats."

Our local federal and provincial representatives, who were "amazed"—to quote PREMIER CAMPBELL'S expression—at the income and sales taxes levied by the Bennett Government, must now be quite speechless with astonishment at the latest figures announced from Ottawa.

Disunity Of Empire?

"As the reverberations of PREMIER MACKENZIE KING'S Geneva speech travelled over Parliament Hill from building to building and from department to department," writes an Ottawa correspondent, "in some ministerial quarters they awakened transient echoes of faithful applause, but, in the main, they died away to the accompaniment of a vast and significant silence."

The same writer puts it another way when he says that while the speech was regarded as distinctly more polished and less offensive than HON. IAN MACKENZIE'S recent fulminations over "peregrinating Imperialists", it borrowed its motive from the same fundamental attitude.

The text of the Prime Minister's remarks, was Canada's complete autonomy, or, putting the same proposition in reverse English, the growing disunity of the British Empire. With Britain almost the last great custodian, within the League, of democratic ideals and institutions, and with the forces of Fascism and Nazi-ism apparently only waiting the psychological moment to strike for the world supremacy of their doctrines, public opinion, outside official Liberal circles, of course, is that it was no time to advertise the separation of the different units of the British Empire, even if such were the fact, which most Canadians are by no means prepared to admit.

What Mr. King did, was to give the League a lecture on the Statute of Westminster, emphasizing the completeness of autonomy which it conferred on Canada and the consequent corollary that Canada was not bound to enter automatically into any wars undertaken by Britain. The Statute of Westminster, however, was something passed in 1930. It is now ancient history, fully known to the world, and hardly topical as a subject for discourse to a League of Nations assembly in the troubled year of grace 1936.

What public opinion would have liked to have heard the Prime Minister discuss at Geneva was not the extent to which the Statute of Westminster had created a commonwealth of autonomous states, but rather the converse proposition of the united British Empire which still survived that legislative instrument. The autonomous, separatist side of Empire since the new status of 1930 has been fully exploited. The demand now is, in imperialistic circles at least, for some clear statement to correct the distorted picture of Empire relations which this emphasis upon the Statute of Westminster has given the world, by impressing the essential British unity

which still subsists. If Mr. KING had made this statement, he would have been applauded for taking the lead in turning Empire relations in a new and vital direction. And it is felt, also, that he would have been closer to realism. The prevailing belief is that the cause of imperial unity in Canada is fundamentally sound, whatever may seem to be the influence on the surface of some noisy minorities, and it is further believed that in the present world situation, with Britain almost the lone spearhead of democracy at Geneva, Canadian support of the Motherland's policy should be pledged up to a full 100 per cent.

Dishonest Civil Servants

Premier Duplessis, Quebec, is having his own troubles with the Civil Service of that Province, as was to be expected, but he is not unduly perturbed. Honest Government employees have no reason to fear as to the security of their employment; dishonest employees are in the same class as soldiers who betray their orders on the battlefield. This is the dictum which he issued to the thousands of Government employees when he received the newspapermen, and the question of dismissals and resignations arose. In this respect, the Premier reiterated what he had said on the platform during the late election period, and upon taking office. He referred to the fact that there had been a series of appointments, but emphasized that too much attention should not be paid to such matters, since they were only secondary, for the Government had not come into power to provide jobs. "We have been probing into various departments, and unearthed many things," commented the Premier. "We found, for example, that the Liquor Commission gave cases of liquor to friends under the pretence of credit accounts. We are continuing the enquiry into the departments with a view towards economies, for we mean to uproot the parasites—those, for example, who have three salaries—and to keep the honest people," said the Premier. "An idea of the state of affairs which has been existing was given when an employee of the Parliament post office had to be arrested for a criminal offence."

Editorial Notes

Hon. R. C. Matthews is boosting our prosperity and fox business.

It is just six years ago—Oct. 5, 1930—since the terrible R 101 airplane disaster deprived Great Britain of her Air Minister and many distinguished aeronauts.

Hon. J. E. Michaud asserts that if we would eat 10 lb. more fish per annum we would increase the consumption by 100,000,000 lbs. to the fishermen's advantage.

Half a loaf being better than no bread, a three-day-a-week parlour car service between here and Moncton is appreciated, though it does not satisfy our just demand of a sleeper service regularly all the year round.

We don't know exactly or whom Mr. King intends to rely on should Japan suddenly decide to do to Canada what she is now doing to China—certainly he could not expect the Mother Country to help us after his attitude of isolation at Geneva.

Ontario new potatoes by truck or rail, \$1.10 per bag, according to quality, New Brunswicks, \$1.25; Prince Edward Island, \$1.30; Nova Scotia, \$1.40. These prices are being paid by Toronto wholesalers for stock of good quality. Prices to jobbers or deliveries to retailers, hotels, restaurants, etc., 15 to 25 cents higher.

It appears even the Alberta Civil servants are not adverse to scrips. They are paid their salaries in currency, but some of them are taking prosperity certificates in part payment on a voluntary basis. "No compulsion whatever has been used by the Government in this matter," Mr. Manning, acting Premier states, "but a number of the staff have of their own volition offered to take part, and some even the whole, of their salaries in certificates." It is a diplomatic move, anyhow, especially after Premier Aberhart threatened to sweep the service of disloyal employees.

Everyone who is anyone is interested in the present state of world affairs, and everyone who is a patriot is concerned about "Great Britain's Present Imperial Outlook", therefore there should be no lack of attendance at the lecture by Dr. H. L. Stewart in Heartz Memorial Hall tonight. Professor Stewart is a recognized authority on world affairs, having studied them closely for the past quarter of a century. His broadcasts on his particular subject have made his voice and views familiar to many thousands of radio fans.

Nanda Devi, reputed the most inaccessible of all the mighty peaks of the Himalaya and a favoured theme of Hindu poets and philosophers, has at last been conquered. The first attempt upon it was made by Mr. W. G. Graham, so long ago as 1883, but, in spite of many attempts, it was not till 1932 that any explorer succeeded in penetrating the great ring of lesser, though still stupendous, mountains by which it is protected from the outside world. In that year Mr. Sipton and Mr. Tilman succeeded in forcing their way through the Rishiganga Gorge, which in Hindu mythology was the last earthly home of the seven Rishi, and setting foot upon the base of the giant. Word has now come from the Anglo-American expedition which set out in the early summer, led by Professor Graham Brown and including Mr. Tilman, that two of its members succeeded in reaching the summit on August 29. Nanda Devi with its 25,660 ft. is the highest mountain lying entirely within British territory. The ring surrounding it, 70 miles in circumference, contains as many as 12 peaks of over 21,000 ft. and nowhere sinks below 17,000 ft. except for the forbidding gorge of the Rishiganga.

Notes by the Way

After all—why not? Italy and Germany, whether together or separately, are physically capable of taking possession of this part of Africa, provided no one else interferes, and they have so far shown themselves able to bluff everybody else out of interfering with them. There is no objection to their stealing this territory except that it does not belong to them.—San Francisco Chronicle.

While Irwin Lobsinger was putting on a thriller at the Durham fair on Friday afternoon by lying down on his back and letting his big black bear step up on him and seize a chocolate drop from his forehead, he heard the spectators gasp, and looked up in time to see a runaway horse come inside the ropes of his ring, but which, on sighting the bear, turned and fled through the scattering crowd, and which came near hitting Harvey Damm, Walkerton's live grocer, whom it grazed as it leaped over him.—Walkerton Herald Times.

On whatever side ultimate right—or necessary expediency—may be found to lie, it is obvious that acute friction between the Arabs and the British is a danger that may spread. It is not only possible that the whole Arab population of the Middle East may be inflamed. That would be serious enough. It is possible that the whole Mahomedan population of the Empire may grow restive, or worse than restive. The Government has thus a grave weight of responsibility upon it, and the people of these islands will watch with care the conduct of the anxious situation.—London Sunday Dispatch.

The John Bull in the cartoon is not the British people, but the contemporary British Foreign Office. When Marianne is being slapped in the picture, that does not mean that all the French people have just been slapped, but only that certain French politicians or officials have just been outwitted or rebuffed. The Russian people do not look like bears. Uncle Joseph has to represent millions of Americans who know nothing whatever about their country's diplomacy. This may seem all too obvious. Yet I doubt if it occurs to most of the people who stare at cartoons. Nor are they aware of the dangers of this ever-present personification. A State is not a person. If you tickle it, it will not laugh, and if you prick it, it will not bleed. It cannot suffer the same kind of humiliation that a person can. If Britain, for example, should suffer some diplomatic reverse, you do not really do justice to the situation by showing a fat old gentleman being severely booted. No such shocking incident has taken place. Therefore, there is no reason to be so alarmed or angry. The cartoon has monstrously over-stated and distorted facts.—T. B. Priestley in World Review (London).

Debunker claims the owl is a fool. But the owl is wise enough not to give a hoot.—Kitchener Record.

With our vast reservoir of capital—6,000,000,000 of excess bank reserves, making an absolutely unprecedented era of cheap money—there is no reason why a vigorous movement to apply low-price techniques to new fields should not be begun, in, let us hope, a new spirit of adventure and public service. The time for dropping political bickering is here; our genuine American adventure lies just ahead of us; our "war" must be upon low purchasing power and unemployment. In winning it we may fulfill the American dream.—J. George Frederick in the Freeman (New York).

It may be accepted as a fact that many accidents have been caused because the driver dozed at the wheel. Transport drivers, exhausted by long hours of work, have been known to fall asleep on duty. Quite a number of people admit that they have difficulty keeping awake when driving a motorcar. Fresh air, the drone of the engine and the sensation of motion are agents in producing that kind of opiate. Those who are so affected, however, should realize the risk involved. Some drivers on experiencing a feeling of drowsiness on the highway, immediately park the vehicle and treat themselves to a few minutes sleep. At the most, a quarter of an hour's relaxation of that kind is sufficient to restore normality. It is a practice that ought to be resorted to by all who find themselves subject to the drowsiness occasioned by motoring. It is a device that is particularly applicable to the case of truck drivers who must make long trips at night.—Welland Tribune.

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.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

Sir:—Your issue of the first inst. contains a report of the discussion on "Youth Work Problem" by Mr. Chambers in which Premier Campbell and others took part. Mr. Chambers is reported as having said "Whatever policy is adopted will not interfere with the present schemes in operation by the Provincial and Civic authorities." The Premier remarks very aptly indicate the situation. He states among other things "The condition of the older men now out of work was in every way as bad as that of the younger men."

The problems of youth are closely associated to those of older people. The amount of money being expended appears to be out of proportion to the measure of relief furnished. The nature of the work appears to be partially the cause, for relief obtained from sums expended ends when the work stops. Those employed when the work is over, go back to their homes if they are fortunate enough to have earned sufficient to pay the arrears of last winter's rent to face another winter of dole if more work is not provided, or if last winter's rent is still due to face an ejection proceeding and no place to go though still willing to work. Instead of using all the money available on a class of work which ends the relief when the work ends: let some be used so as to still afford relief when the work is done. For instance, land could be secured, if not in the City then outside and later made part of the City and a score or more small cottages built thereon thus affording a variety of employment to Youth and older men under the supervision of a competent instructor who could teach them with the aid of what skilled workers might be found among the unemployed to do the various kinds of work from the excavation to the finishing thus giving young men labor and training, and when the work was done the relief afforded would still go on in the way of neat homes for such as have had to move from house to house until they can find none owing to their inability to pay rent through lack of steady employment; and when employment can be procured as we hope it soon may, a return in the way of rent or a purchase by instalments could be arranged and in the meantime the shelter afforded would be a continuous relief after the money was paid and the work ceased instead of being entirely buried in a pond or some such place.

Such a work would not interfere with the present building scheme in any way. The present building scheme is on'y of value to the poor man if engaged on it at all, or even to men of moderate means while the work lasts, after that only such as have substantial incomes or good salaries can afford to live in them. I am, Sir, etc. Citizen

Electric Light Problem. Sir:—In seeking to secure lower electric rates the City Council has been acting in the interests of the public and their efforts, I believe, have the endorsement of the citizens. Furthermore the Council has shown that it is keeping step with a movement that is not only nationwide but world-wide. A few weeks ago a World Power Congress assembled at Washington when Electrical experts, Engineers and others gathered from 52 nations to consider methods by which electricity could be brought into more universal use, how it could be produced and distributed at the minimum of cost and how the cause of civilization could be advanced and life made

When damage is done to the cells about the spinal cord, all the muscles supplied by these cells, not receiving any nerve impulses, are of course paralyzed. When the disease has completely passed away some of the damaged nerve cells recover, impulses pass along to the muscles, and the patient is able to move them.

When the cells have been permanently damaged—killed—they cannot be replaced and the muscles they supply remain paralyzed. Various methods of preventing permanent damage to the nerve cells are in use such as injecting vaccines and serums, but the results have not been as successful as expected.

Just as in the flu epidemic of 1918 it was found that injecting some of the blood of a patient who had just recovered into a patient in the early stages with a high temperature of 103½ to 104 immediately brought down the temperature, so it has been found that in some cases—unfortunately not in all—there is a lessening of the severity of the symptoms when the same method is used in infantile paralysis.

Can anything be done to prevent the deformities that arise from the paralysis of the muscles? It has been found that some of the positions the youngster assumes in bed in order to be comfortable, may often place the limb so as to cause a bad deformity; if kept thus for any time the deformity becomes permanent.

It would have been just as easy, by means of splints, to have given him the comfort he desired and at the same time to have maintained the limb in a good and useful position.

While surgical operation may give good results in these deformities, it would be much better to prevent them.

The Poets' Corner. WIND. The wind wove music round the house all night, Its threaded patterns intricate and light— Cobweb melodies, fragile, soon dispersed.

An orchestra of wind—the oboe's call, High, clear fluting, a swell and fall Of organ tone, and now and then a burst Resonant as deep drums.

When earth lies calm, A garden of content, nothing within the realm Ruffled nor disturbed, thoughts keep near.

But with the wind weaving music all night long, Minds reach the universal and are drawn To harmonies that count nor day nor year.

Florence Deacon Black in Canadian Poetry Magazine.

ent instructor who could teach them with the aid of what skilled workers might be found among the unemployed to do the various kinds of work from the excavation to the finishing thus giving young men labor and training, and when the work was done the relief afforded would still go on in the way of neat homes for such as have had to move from house to house until they can find none owing to their inability to pay rent through lack of steady employment; and when employment can be procured as we hope it soon may, a return in the way of rent or a purchase by instalments could be arranged and in the meantime the shelter afforded would be a continuous relief after the money was paid and the work ceased instead of being entirely buried in a pond or some such place.

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brighter for all by its abundant use. After the Congress was over most of the delegates visited Toronto to look over Ontario's Hydro-Electric service. They were entertained by the Ontario Government and from the press report I read that "Attorney-General Roebuck impressed the visitors with the information that the average cost of electricity to Ontarians is 1.5 cents per kilowatt. The average cost in even the larger cities of the United States is between 5 and 5.5 cents per kilowatt."

Many of our citizens are complaining about the service charges which are a heavy tax on small and large consumers alike. In Peterboro, Ontario these service charges are cancelled as a recent despatch from that City reads. "In the new domestic lighting rates the service charge is eliminated as a separate item on the bill. The first consumption rate has been raised from two and a half cents a kilowatt hour to three cents, and the balance rate is reduced from one and one-quarter cents a kilowatt hour to 1.2 cents and the first minimum has been increased from fifty to fifty-five kilowatt hours."

This is one instance but others could be cited if necessary. Locally what seems to be a clear case of discrimination is the charge made to summer residents at the shore. Keppoch for instance is at the end of a rural line along which there are many consumers. Some years ago the line was extended along the shore—a short and a cheap extension—but to this day the residents are called upon to pay a minimum charge of five dollars each per month. Does not this look like an unjustifiable charge after the service has been in operation for years and the extension is really a part of a rural line.

Our Council are undoubtedly on the right track in demanding a public hearing on rates and charges. Our City has never yet been properly and fully lighted. The recent increase in street lamps has helped but there is still room for greater improvement and at a reduced cost. The entry of the Royal Securities Corporation, Limited and the Montreal Engineering Company into the local light and power situation is not a pleasant feature but we must await results. These power interests have deliberately entered the local field with a full knowledge of all the circumstances and with the deliberate intention of preventing, if possible, the City from having a Municipal

plant. These power interests are opposed to public ownership. Why? In a few years, if the City does not act now a nation-wide howl will be made of repudiation, destroying private investment and securities and such like. Still by their own entry here at the present time our local investors are prejudiced. Accordingly, I repeat, the City Council will be well advised not to relax its efforts one iota. Now is the time for action.

When the announcement was made public that the Royal Securities Corporation had purchased the securities of the Maritime Electric Company and had thus obtained control of the latter's properties, rights, privileges and franchises it was stated that more than \$2,000,000 was involved in the transaction. There is evidently propaganda in giving this amount so as to enable the new owners to ask for an interest return on a fictitious over-valuation. The last appraisal value of the local plant made for the late Public Service Commission was \$660,000. This figure was considered too high and so the present Council demanded a new valuation by an expert from Halifax.

The report of this expert is anxiously awaited as the question of purchase rates and charges may be largely governed thereby. The new owners may rest assured that they will not enter a peaceful field nor be able to develop an increased use of electricity unless some adequate measures are taken to allay the present discontent. They will no doubt have to apply to the Legislature for approval of their purchase and it is reasonable to suppose that our Legislature will give its aid in having justice done.

I am Sir, etc. JOHN F. WHEAR

AGING EYES NEED HELPING LENSES. Persons are unduly alarmed when they are unable to read as they once could. That is a handicap which can readily be overcome. Aging eyes need helping lenses. As this condition progresses stronger and stronger corrections are required. Do not neglect the condition which makes reading difficult.

G. F. Hutcheson

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