

The Charlottetown Guardian

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What Says Prince Edward Island?

There is apparently, says the Toronto Mail and Empire, quite a body of opinion that extravagance and over-government are one and the same thing. Just at present this popular misconception is centered around the B. N. A. Act. It is claimed that the nine Provincial Legislatures and the Federal constitute an extravagance and incur duplication and increase of expenditure and debt. No one has successfully proved this, as yet. There is a good deal of room for the suggestion that such criticisms are nothing more than the inevitable outcropping of bad times. Economies can be effected by co-operation between the Dominion and the provinces.

Between 1840 and 1867 when there was one common legislature in the Canadas, it was conclusively shown that harmony and authority in such a body was a hopeless and impossible ideal. That experience, apparently forgotten by most present-day critics, showed that such a legislative body simply divides on racial, religious and geographical grounds. Every student of history knows the consistent deadlock that occurred and the frequent changes in Ministries—making continuity and stability of government virtually impossible. Whatever deficiencies there may have been in the Confederation scheme, it must be conceded that the Fathers of Confederation had sufficient wisdom to see from that very practical example that the lofty theory of a common legislative body for the Dominion of Canada, revived by present-day critics, is untenable. The advancement of such an idea is a possible threat to Confederation itself.

Granted that there are fields of duplication between the Provincial and Dominion authorities, these can be removed by amendments acceptable to the parties to Confederation, ratified, as in the past, by the Imperial Parliament.

By recourse to a dispassionate Imperial Legislature we have been able to obtain (and can do so again whenever occasion arises) whatever correction is necessary in the distribution of legislative powers. To hand over that authority to the Dominion Parliament would deprive the provinces of their status as self-governing British entities and constitute a negation of the whole Confederation principle.

Enlighten Builders & Contractors

MR. CLOUGH WILLIAMS-ELLIS, M.C., J.P., F.R.I., B.A., the distinguished London architect and author contributes a challenging letter to the London Spectator on National Idealism and Religion. He asks, "Has the Church the courage to teach us to love and understand the material beauty of life—the overwhelming beauty which lies around," and regrettably answers in the negative, the average clergyman being too much concerned about the social and, especially, financial aspect of things. He says he has been much more successful in getting schoolmasters and teachers interested in the subject, and now in many schools in England, at morning or afternoon prayers, one for enlightenment in the appreciation of beauty has been adopted. He gives it as follows:

"Lighten our darkness, we beseech Thee, that we behave ourselves seemly in our works and defile not the land that is for the delight of all men. Show to the fool his folly that he may no more build wantonly after the vain imagination of his dark and lonely heart, doing both ill for himself and great mischief to his fellows. Show him a little wisdom, that he may first ponder well and take counsel with the understanding, remembering them of old who wrought faithfully.

Let him honour his town and his country, let him regard his neighbour and his neighbour's view and build not vainly, but in honesty, a house meet to his proper needs and meet to the place where he stands. We pray that he that buildeth or that maketh a road or that planteth or that felleth a tree or doth aught else to change the face of this our country, may have a right guidance in all things, lest haply the beauty and the glory of the land be utterly destroyed, so that our children's children shall know it not, yet shall rise up and curse us for unfaithful stewards who, getting and spending, laid waste their heritage. Grant us the love of beauty without which it cannot come; the desire for wisdom, without which our labours and our love are vain.—Amen."

We commend this prayer for general use in churches as well as schools, especially at this time when we are supposed to be on the threshold of a Federal and Provincial campaign for the erection of three new houses where one sufficed before.

The Spelling Bee

How many of our readers will recall the old fashioned Spelling Bee? The Spelling Bee has been revived in Montreal schools and Prof. STEPHEN LEACOCK, of McGill University writes to express his commendation. He says:

"It used to play a great part in the lives of the plain people of Canada and the United States. Before radio was and before moving pictures were, in the days of the 'Little Old Red Schoolhouse,' the Spelling Bee had its honored place. It represented that combination of amusement and intellectuality dear to a progressive people. The people on this continent could always read and were proud of it! They carried their tattered Spelling Books to the Frontier cabins. The book moved west first, and the teacher afterwards. 'True progress,' as my epigrammatic friend, Sir ANDREW MACPHAIL, would say, 'is best achieved by putting the cart before the horse.'"

"All our great men on this continent, our ABRAHAM LINCOLNS and our JOHN A. MACDONALDS, achieved their first triumphs in a Spelling Bee. As a matter of fact, I was pretty good at it myself, my supreme feat of spelling 'harass,' 'arras,' and 'embarrass' at School (Section No. 3, Township of Georgina, A.D. 1878) put a laurel wreath on my head which I am still prepared to defend."

Some Other Island

"The Eskimos of Prince Edward Island made him join them in their customs, and it was necessary for him to take, in name only, one of the native's many wives to appease the Eskimos. He joined in other customs and stayed there, for some time."—Report of lecture by DAVID IRWIN, arctic explorer, in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Saranac Lake, N. Y., Feb. 4.

The excerpt above quoted has nothing to do with the Eskimo poems which appeared recently in The GUARDIAN. The context indicates that the lecturer was speaking about his experience on Prince of Wales Island, a small island in the Hudson Bay country—not Prince Edward Island!

After all the money spent in advertising the Maritime Provinces in the Eastern United States, one would expect the newspapers, at any rate, to know the difference between the Garden of the Gulf and the habitat of the Eskimo.

Editorial Notes

The worst of February behind us—perhaps—King made Canada's name notorious at the League, GILROY at the Olympics.

Yesterday's Valentines were conspicuous by their absence or absurdity. What appeals to the modern lover is not a delicately scented missive, but a powerfully cylindrical card.

A Speaker, to whom is entrusted the privileges and prerogatives of the House, who begins with the gross breach of the most fundamental of them, to say the least of it, is worth watching during the remainder of his term of office.

It is noteworthy in this year of storms, floods, and other disasters that we are having a repetition of the kind of weather prevailing exactly 200 years ago. Owing to continuous rain-storms and high tides Westminster Hall, where King GEORGE V recently lay in state, was flooded on February 16, 1736.

Credit unions as established through Eastern Nova Scotia seem to be proving very successful, says the Eastern Chronicle. Several, if not all, have declared a dividend of 5 per cent on the investments, and they have proven very helpful factors in relief of those who unfortunately ran into difficulties.

Prime Minister KING is determined to have grossly partisan Liberals in control of the House of Commons. His appointee as deputy, Mr. F. G. SANDERSON, was Liberal whip in the Ontario Provincial Legislature in 1926, and Liberal organizer in 1929. What confidence can the opposition have in presiding officers of that calibre?

This is something of interest to auctioneers as well as inspectors and trustees in bankruptcy. Mr. Justice BOYER of the Superior Court, Montreal, has ruled that an "insider's" bid cannot be allowed after taking communication of all bids already in. The judgment, which definitely lays down a comparatively new principle, observes that awarding a bid to an insider is an "unfair practice," and in bankruptcy cases also rules that where an insider buys assets, ratification of the court is absolutely essential.

How about this for dictatorial autocracy? Prime Minister KING proposes to recognize only two parties in the House of Commons, Conservatives and Liberals, by name and to call all members not belonging to these groups "Independents." A Communist, Social Creditor, C. C. F., Labour, Reconstructionist by any other name would naturally spell oppositionist. Why then embrace them in the term "Independent" which hitherto has been taken to imply a supporter of the party in power without the benefit of Government whip or patronage?

It hitherto has escaped general notice that the proclamation of King EDWARD VIII at Ottawa introduced this new title: "Supreme Lord in and over the Dominion of Canada." Thus the provision of the Statute of Westminster (1931) that the King becomes the Sovereign not only of all his dominions, but of each one separately, comes into operation for the first time. By that statute the dominions may approach their King direct without any statesmen in Britain knowing the reason for such an approach. Is that why Prime Minister KING wants to cut the cable of our constitutional security as Provincials?

"The striking regularity of the King's attendance at public worship," says the London Spectator, "could be ascribed to the influence of neither tradition nor of convention. He went far beyond what might have been asked or expected of him on those grounds. . . . It would be the best of all memorials to the King, and one which the lowliest of his subjects can raise as easily as the highest, if as individual citizens we resolved in this hour of farewell that we would for the nation's sake school ourselves to the exercise in our several spheres of those virtues which he for a quarter of a century exercised for the nation's sake in his."

Sir SAMUEL HOARE has written to his constituents in Chelsea an explanation of his joint peace proposals with Laval, which he still maintains would have proved an "immense blessing to the world." Looking to the future he is haunted by two unescapable questions: firstly, what effect is the rupture of the Stresbo front that maintained an entente between the old allies of Great Britain, France and Italy going to have upon the New Germany, militarily stronger than ever before, industrially mobilized for war and politically governed by a dictatorship that, though HITLER may be peacefully disposed, none the less makes swift and vast up-to-date rearmament the central, almost exclusive aim of the government and people? Secondly, what effect is the continuance of European conflict going to have upon Japan, a country that in the East is as resolutely bent on achieving its objective as Germany is in the West?

Notes By The Way

Only a mongrel dog, yet he is credited with saving the life of a 17-year-old girl who lay exhausted on the snow in zero weather just outside of Fort Erie. Biller was expressed that the girl would have frozen to death, had the animal not barked persistently and led his master to investigate. Thanks to this wonderful instinct, the girl was reported to be recovering. Arguments go on and on about the value or faults of dogdom, but the above is just another of the many examples convincing us that a dog still is, and always will be, one of man's best friends.—Windsor Star.

Oil sanctions may be abandoned, and major Powers may try to sell being driven to Government house in Rasada's, Toronto, when a precious boy suddenly jumped into a running board of the royal car to have a closer look. An outraged Canadian official attempted to shove the lad off the car, which was moving slowly, but the prince inquired, ordered the car stopped, and let the youngster dismount in perfect safety. On another occasion, the prince's car was stopped on a chair loaned by a neighbor, and waited, flag in hand, for the prince's car to come along. The prince, ever on the alert, caught sight of the weel lad waving his flag and gave him a special salute.—Midland Free Press.

The Christian Science Monitor tells us that America's system of checking hats has not been generally adopted in European countries. Over there you simply hand your upper to "buttons" and he rarely makes a mistake. But "buttons" does not depend entirely on his memory, as an American tourist discovered. When he retrieved his hat in a Budapest hotel he discovered a slip of paper in the band on which it was identified as belonging to "Gloomy Gus." Further examination revealed that others' hats were marked with such terms as "Horse Face," "Shirt," "Kind Face." With the word "buttons" is more flattering. He gives them more fancy titles such as "Dimples," "Redhead," and "Charming."—Windsor Star.

The China of 1932 was a very different China from that of today. Just as Mussolini claims to have revived the national fervor and spirit of the Italians so Marshal Chiang Kai Shek, by the New Life movement and the suppression of Communism and opium, has done much the same for the Chinese. The agreement between Nanking and Canton goes a long way towards uniting China.—Singapore Free Press.

The next time you pass a school, pause a moment to think what that school means to humanity. Recall the long, dark centuries when the masses were kept in ignorance; when greed and oppression ruled the world with an iron hand. From the very beginning of man's struggle for knowledge, self-respect, and the recognition of his inalienable rights, the school has been his greatest ally. We refer to the school as "common" because it belongs to all; it is ourselves working together in the education of our children. But it is a most uncommon institution. It is relatively new. It is democracy's greatest gift to civilization.—Kingsville Reporter.

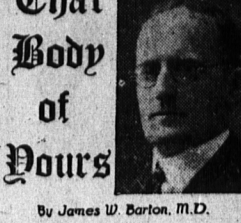
Many bills have been vetoed by American presidents and some of them, like the oldiers' bonus bill, have been passed over such vetoes; but it is interesting to note that, though the monarchs of Britain have held the right of veto, it has not been exercised since 1706. The last time it ever was used was when Queen Anne vetoed a measure for the establishment of a Scottish militia bill. Maybe the fact that they have neither used nor abused their veto right is one reason why the British throne stands secure today.—Niagara Falls Review.

Less than a hundred years ago smoking by men was considered much more vile and detestable habit than smoking by women is even considered today. To differentiate between the sexes in this matter seems not only ungallant, but also unjust. You can hardly maintain that a habit which is innocent in men is vicious in women. If there is any morality in question, smoking must be as immoral, or as moral, in one sex as in the other.—Cape Argus.

Oglethorpe University, Georgia, has established a section in its beautiful Peace Memorial to the memory of King George V. It consists of a special library for books on British subjects which will be available to Oglethorpe students. This is a pleasing gesture of international amity which should bear good fruit in the future, for there is no sounder bulwark of peace than British-American amity. As an exchange, it is an American adaptation of the thought behind the Rhodes scholarships.—Moncton Times.

As early as the end of the sixteenth century the walnut was common in the fields by the English highways and in orchards near London. It is not, of course, a native of these islands, having most probably been brought from the Caucasus by way of Italy, where it must have grown at an early date, since Varro, writing nearly a cen-

That Body of Yours



By James W. Barton, M.D.

ACIDOSIS CAUSES MENTAL DEPRESSION

Most of us will remember that about the only treatment given us as youngsters was something to cleanse the bowel—castor oil or senna tea—and baking soda to "sweeten" the stomach and intestine. It would seem that this giving baking soda or other alkali does more than sweeten the stomach and intestine; it actually sweetens our disposition. The alkali helps to make the blood and tissues less acid.

Thus Dr. F. Hoff, Munich, records instances in which the sour disposition of an individual whose blood and tissues were too nearly approaching the acid condition has been changed to sweetness by the use of alkalis. The acid condition is usually accompanied by a "depressed" feeling. Moreover, patients with diabetic acidosis (as it is called) are often ill tempered and depressed. Just before they lose consciousness they are anxious, afraid, and may have hallucinations.

It pointed out that an acidosis or acid condition of blood and tissues exists during the "fever" stage of infectious diseases, when the patient is usually depressed, whereas during the period of convalescence or recovery, when the patient is in a more cheerful mood he has really the opposite condition to acidosis, that is alkali-osis. Dr. Hoff states that the ductless glands of the body (thyroid, pituitary, adrenal) and the amount of minerals, (iron, lime, phosphorus) in the blood and tissues also play important parts in the feelings of depression or cheerfulness, but nevertheless the acid or alkali condition plays this important part also.

There is no question but that overwork, overeating, starvation, overdrinking, overanxiety, all have the tendency to make the blood and tissues become less alkaline and approach more nearly the acid state. Thus depression may cause acidosis and acidosis may cause depression. So if we find ourselves depressed, cranky or irritable, it might be well to ask ourselves why. We can prevent more acidosis by calming and controlling ourselves, and build up a more alkaline condition by baking soda or other alkali.

The Poet's Corner

A PRAYER ANSWERED
God save the King! where'er our tongue is spoken,
Mid Indian palms and mid Canadian snows,
From every lome in his loved land of England,
Heartfelt, unbidden, thus the prayer arose.
Think not today our prayers were unregarded
Nor vain the words our loyal voices sang,
For whom, through these long years securely guarded,
Our God has saved the King.
From pride, hypocrisy, from all vain glory,
From hatred, malice, and the pomp of power,
From care for self, from faltering in service,
From loss of courage in the darkest hour,
From thought of tasks undone or friends forsaken,
From all the utter pains remorse can bring,
From love misplaced, or confidence mistaken,
Our God has saved the King.
And when the evening shadows darkened round him,
By loyal love at length in fullness known,
He has been saved—O rare reward of princes!—
From that dread loneliness which haunts a throne.
Not here is heard the final word of blessing—
There waits (the apostle saith) "some better thing"—
But here on earth, his people's hearts possessing,
Our God has saved the King.
—C. A. A. In The London Times.

Several readers noted that most of the material dealing with His late Majesty, and the institution of kingship, reproduced from other papers on this page on Monday, came from American publications. The reason for this is obvious. Every person, of course, knows the feeling of British papers toward their King. But the attitude of the press of the United States was something of a revelation.—Hamilton Herald.

VICTIM OF FAME

SPEN, England.—(C.P.)—Ramsay, a dignified cat who slept for years beside the fireplace of Ye Old Flow Inn, disappeared when souvenir hunters took their toll after Miss Isabel MacDonald, daughter of the former prime minister, bought the inn as a social venture.

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.

ELECTRIC LIGHT RATES

Sir.—A capital stock heavily watered. Annual total receipts from the local plant of \$200,000. Large operating and other costs of \$140,000. A yearly profit of \$60,000. These are the startling facts brought to light by the recent discussion and yet many investors here are not being paid their interest and the citizens of Charlottetown are refused fair and reasonable rates.

Will such conditions continue to exist? With a petition now on file with the Public Utility Board it is not conceivable that they will, but the newly elected Council must make due preparations for a full presentation of the facts. The Board also are obliged to take every precaution to see that the rights of the public are protected. The City has no inherent powers to regulate rates but it is the sovereign right and duty of the government to do so and for that purpose the Utility Board was established to perform the duties inherent in the government for the common good. Statements from the absentee owners must not be accepted as 100% authentic until established as to every detail. To show the necessity for this a recent published statement by the Company gives the number of permanent local employees as 40, whereas my information is that it is 18 per cent incorrect. Let us have the published names of the expert lawyers and electricians who were brought here from New York and their special pleading must be met by equal expert testimony on behalf of the public. Let no mistake be made. This is a real and vital case and there should be no falling down on the job.

Now for a few examples that may help in forming a judgment. Take Pictou, N.S., our next door neighbor. The facts as to the achievement of the Pictou County Power Board are given in an editorial in the New Glasgow "Eastern Chronicle" of January 16, 1936. "The Board was formed in 1920. It acquired power from Sheet Harbor, 52 miles distant. It bought out the private company. In the first month the rate was reduced from 15 cents to 8 cents, then followed 'reduction' after reduction until today the rates of the Pictou County Power Board are lower than in any other place in the American Continent with the single exception of Tacoma, Wash. "The system has been extended 60 miles to the east, including the town of Antigonish and a large surrounding area, and to Truro to the west." The Board "made large surpluses each year" and "consequently have better lighted homes and schools and the electric range is in a great number of homes."

The rates in Tacoma, Washington mentioned in the above editorial are 4 1/2 cents for the first 20 k.w.h. and one cent for the next 800 k.w.h. Minimum charges are 20 cents per month for domestic customers. How do these rates compare with small users in Charlottetown, and my information is that about 1-3 of the consumers here use less than 20 k.w.h.

In Tacoma for 20 k.w.h. the rate is 90 cents. In Charlottetown for 20 k.w.h. the rate is \$1.90, or 95 per k.w.h. In Tacoma for 60 k.w.h. the rate is \$1.30. In Charlottetown for 60 k.w.h. the rate is \$3.67, or 61 per k.w.h. In Tacoma for 100 k.w.h. the rate is \$1.70. In Charlottetown for 100 k.w.h. (immediate rate) \$5.97; (inducement rate) \$4.45.

The history of electric rates in Montreal is interesting. According to a bulletin issued on January 6, 1935, "The new tariff is equitable, simple and easily understood. . . . The equity of proportional rates has been definitely established wherever they have been put in practice. They ensure that each customer will bear the cost of his own service only, no matter what his consumption may be and that he will benefit directly from the lower rates his own increased consumption makes possible."

In Montreal for residential use the schedule is: For 50 kilowatt hours, 3.01 cents.—\$1.55. For 100 kilowatt hours, 2.05 cents.—\$2.05. For 200 kilowatt hours, 2.02 cents.—\$4.04. In Charlottetown (immediate rate): 50 kilowatt hours would be \$3.32. 100 kilowatt hours would be \$5.97. 200 kilowatt hours would be \$8.57. Under what is called the inducement rate the charges may be slightly lowered.

In a rate survey of New York State as of January 1, 1935, the list includes 790 localities and of these 140 show a minimum bill of less than \$1.00 and in every case include more kilowatt hours than are allowed for Charlottetown. The schedule shows a due consideration for the small consumer, but the inducement rate of the local plant only favors the larger and richer customer. This must not be the case with the coming new rates. Let the Montreal rule be followed "that each customer will bear the cost of his own service only, no matter what his consumption may be."

I am, Sir, etc.
JOHN F. WHEAR.

A DEGRADING BUSINESS

Sir.—The story of our Liquor Laws during Beverage Sale would not be complete without referring to the effect of the liquor business itself upon an engaged in it, as well as buyer. Some of its effects upon the buyer have been referred to. Let us next consider the effect upon the seller. It is proposed that the Government and people of the Province should become vendors and purveyors of intoxicants for beverage use and should, in part at least, take the place of former tavern-keepers or liquor-sellers. Do the pages of the legislative story contain any information regarding the effect of the business upon its ven-

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CONTROL OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR
Sir.—Thanking you for the publication of my article on Liquor Control in last week's issue of your esteemed paper, I beg leave to submit for your readers' further consideration the following on (a) the History of Drink, and (b) the History of Liquor Legislation in Great Britain:
The history of fermented liquors stretches back probably 30,000 years. The use of fermented drinks seems to be a universal custom of those races that have attained the agricultural stage of civilization. Even the shepherd folk of the fermented milk of goats, or as among the Tartars, of mares, is used as an intoxicant. Very primitive peoples as the aboriginal races of various countries have neither the skill nor the means for procuring intoxicants. It is believed that the primitive Lake-dwellers of Switzerland and the neolithic man in Central Europe drank fermented liquors made from the raspberry, mulberry, and doberry. In Italy wine seems to date from the Bronze Age. It is probably not until the 18th century that liquor (alcohol) was distilled by a process invented by the Arabs. More definitely alcoholic beverages have been extracted from grains, fruits, and vegetables. The danger in writing the history of the liquor problem, espec-

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