

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1931

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

A sermon on "The Ethics of Christmas Shopping" was delivered by a preacher in Montreal recently. We quote two suggestive paragraphs from his address:

"There are certain rules that might be formulated at this time and season of Christmas giving. Never make a gift leaving the recipient with a feeling of obligation to you, or there will be poor cause to keep up with hard custom. There is a great deal of arrogance, selfishness and vandalism committed in shops by people who ought to know better; often the shopper causes more damage to objects in his search than the value of the thing he ultimately buys."

"Christmas expects better things of people. It has a definite message and meaning, and the bulk of our attention should be directed to the needs of the poor, never more distressed than at this time. Beware of display and imitation of vanity; remember that Christmas may be made beautiful and uplifting, or it may be degraded into a sordid, bedraggled affair."

The value of Christmas, another preacher has suggested, is that it upsets everything; it turns things inside out; it changes all things around and forces us out of the rut of self-seeking endeavor. "Christmas," he added, "creates a kind of summer in human hearts, and it is then that the hearts of cold men and women thaw out."

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Two recent items in the news despatches must have been noted with pride by Canadians. The first—from Washington—told that while the world lags, commercially speaking, the position in Canada shows a steady improvement. The verdict is by the United States Department of Commerce, which states that the Canadian retail trade is larger, manufacture of agricultural implements more active, lumber prospects brighter, demand for industrial chemicals good, Christmas hardware trade active and dairy and creamery equipment moving well.

The second item—from New York—tells how the United States National Foreign Trade Council has announced that Canada holds fourth place among the 10 nations showing the largest export growth during the past 17 years. These statements, heralded to all the world, are bound to have beneficial and far reaching effects.

OTHER DEPRESSIONS

The head of a large life insurance company has taken up the cudgels against the notion that the current depression is the worst in modern times.

If modern times began on June 23, 1919, with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, there is some truth in the contention, though the so-called post-war depression of 1920-23 embraced some pretty tough spots.

"In 1839 every single bank in the United States outside of New England closed its doors," the life insurance man relates. "On May 10 of that year every bank in New York City closed. In 1931 there were three million men out of work in a population of 40 millions; 89 railroads went into the hands of receivers and 260 out of 307 iron and steel plants absolutely shut down. As for 1893, I remember it distinctly, and I want to tell you that as a nation we are in case now compared with what we went through then."

Possibly, suggests the Winnipeg Tribune, words such as these contain but cold comfort, but the ring of historical accuracy is audible in them. It doesn't hurt to remind ourselves that things might be worse or that they—actually—have been worse many times in the past.

One thing at least is true of the present situation. Everyone, everywhere, is less indifferent to hardship and suffering than in the good old days when depressions were regarded as a visitation. To a greater extent than ever before, we are determined to help each other over the rough spots.

It is not that the kindly instincts of humanity have developed, but that there has been a tremendous

opening up of the channels of inter communication. Newspapers, rapid transportation and other agencies have broadened our sympathies by widening our contacts, our sources of information about how the other half lives. Vague sentimentality and helpless good intentions have been supplanted by accurate information and efficient responsible co-operation.

GOLD & AGRICULTURE

Industry is not the only department of British business that suffered when international financiers forced a premature resumption of the gold standard upon the nation, and that has prospered since the standard was abandoned. Agriculture has also been affected deeply.

Country Life, November 14, says: "Among farmers there is a prevalent feeling that those who can manage to find sufficient capital to hold on will shortly begin to reap a living more in accordance with economic requirements. In this sense, there is a growing feeling that the deviation from the gold standard was a great boon to the agricultural community. It is equally true that farmers need have little hesitation in embarking upon cereal culture with renewed confidence, since it is highly probable that steps will be taken to prevent destructive dumping by exporting countries."

"One of the effects of departing from the gold standard has been reflected in the appreciated prices which are now ruling for feeding stuffs. This, in turn, is stimulating the demand for home grown produce, and there are clear indications that some of the cereal growers' troubles are likely to end in consequence."

THE REMEDY

The Ottawa Journal puts in cold print the suggestion that the Canadian dollar has been pushed far lower than conditions warrant and that it is, indeed, being deliberately butchered by the international money changers for their own profit and aggrandizement. Our contemporary adds: "All of which has its moral. That moral is that, once out of this morass, Canada must never again place itself in the position where the United States has an excuse for demoralizing our currency. We can never go back to frenzied borrowing. Not, at all events, from the United States. The past ten years saw this country in a regular orgy of borrowing. Dominion Government and railways, provinces and municipalities, industrialists and merchants—all rushed to New York for more and more money. The thing pyramided and pyramided until it reached hundreds of millions; and so long as money was cheap and easy to get we based our expenditure, not upon essential needs, but upon our borrowing capacity. Now the chickens are homing to roost. We are beginning to learn that in finance, as in most other things, every action has a reaction, and that Uncle Sam, a good lender, is likewise a mighty good collector. Hard and shrewd." Meanwhile, one course is clear. It is that the people of this country spend their Canadian dollars in Canada. Let them buy in Canada and travel in Canada.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Professor O'Sullivan, Minister of Education and chairman of the Government Party in the Irish Free State, has intimated that Ireland will soon have a general election. The presumption is that Mr. Cosgrave will emerge victorious, for it seems to be generally accepted by the people that his administration has faithfully discharged its obligations, both public and private.

A signal tribute was paid to a former Maritimer, the late Mr. C. E. Neill, vice-president and managing director of the Royal Bank of Canada, at the largely attended funeral service held last week in Knox Crescent Church, Montreal. All the dignitaries of Montreal's banking and business world were present to pay honor to one who of humanity have developed, but had been one of their most brilliant associates.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Before the Senatorial Committee in United States the other day the President of the United States National farmer's union produced documentary evidence that a farmer in his community sold seven lambs to a well-known packing house for \$3.30 out of which amount there was paid \$2.55 for insurance, inspection and commission. The farmer received a cheque for the balance 75 cents. The cheque was produced as evidence. The department of agriculture was instructed to follow these lambs to the ultimate consumer. The department reported that the lambs were sold to consumers for \$3.70. In presenting his case the president stated that during a journey from Chicago to Washington recently he had paid 85 cents for two lamb chops 10 cents more than the farmer received for his seven lambs. Similar revelations would probably result in Canada and even in Prince Edward Island if products were followed from the farm to the ultimate consumer.

According to recent statistics, the United States farmer this year has 680,000,000 bushels of wheat to sell; has been selling it at an average rate (to the farmer) of 40 cents. If the whole crop goes at that rate, then we have this fact: that 149 Americans with their total net profits of \$355,000,000, could buy the entire wheat crop of the United States this year, throw it away—and still have net incomes of more than half a million dollars apiece to live on. This says an exchange is hardly a wholesome economic condition.

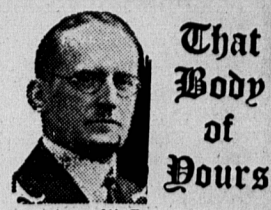
Rosetta and Vivian Duncan, who three years ago were worth more than one million dollars as a result of their success in vaudeville, musical comedy and motion pictures, announced a few days ago that they are "broke" and filed a voluntary bankruptcy petition in Federal Court at Los Angeles. "Gold mines with no gold, worthless stock, the fickleness of Wall Street and signatures on too many dotted lines are responsible," Vivian related in tears.

If the United States folk are disrespectful to the Canadian dollar why should this country's business men import raw materials from abroad through agencies in that country? There are too many middlemen getting their "whack" before the ultimate consumer receives his goods. In planning to stop this business the Minister of Trade and Commerce is on the right track.

We are, after all, very much like sheep, especially when it comes to any form of art. Instead of enjoying what we like, we strive manfully to enjoy what we are told to like. We go to a concert, for instance, and get a great deal of pleasure out of the music; but the next day some critic announces that the orchestra was badly off form, the composers represented were dull and hackneyed, and the tenor had a bad cold—and our remembered enjoyment vanishes as we try to make our own impressions jibe with those of the reviewer.

On a Dominion dollar note, points out an exchange, there is this inscription: "The Dominion of Canada will pay to the bearer on demand, One Dollar." The one dollar is in gold. On a one dollar note of the United States of America there is this inscription: "This certifies that there has been deposited in the Treasury of the United States of America one silver dollar, payable to the bearer on demand." One Silver Dollar. And the value of the silver in a silver dollar is exactly 28 cents. Yet, continues the writer, the American dollar, with 28 cents worth of silver in it, is worth 20 cents more than the Canadian dollar, backed by gold. What can the average man make of that? The moral, if there is one, is to spend the Canadian dollar in Canada on Canadian products and receive the benefit of its full face value.

The persons who think, says the Detroit Free Press, that the Santa Clause myth is going to imperil religion or break down regard for truth because it is allowed to invade the precincts of a Sunday school while Christmas festival is in progress, must have a dreadfully exaggerated idea of the fragility of both these institutions. He forgets that while adults frequently regard it as a solemn attitude toward the romantic and imaginative aspects of life, children have a better sense of proportion. It is rather an insult to the intelligence of youngsters to insist that they must be "protected" from the "menace" of the S'n'ta Claus myth or of any other beautiful or entrancing story



By James W. Barton, M.D.

ATTAINING A HEALTHY OLD AGE

When we realize that the span of life since 1880—fifty years—has been lengthened by fifteen years, we have cause for thankfulness, and yet when we realize further that the span of life after the age of 45 has not been lengthened, has perhaps been shortened, we naturally ask ourselves what it all means.

As you know the real reason the span of life has been lengthened is because the lives of babies and young children are now being saved, so that where formerly as many as 3 in every 10 babies died at birth or during their first year, now less than 1 in 10 is the record.

However you can readily see that of all these extra children whose lives have been saved by careful nursing, and the avoidance of the more serious children's diseases, there must be a great many who are not really strong, and although they reach manhood and womanhood, are more likely to pass away earlier than others.

However this does not tell the whole story of why individuals after reaching middle age do not live any longer than did people of middle age, a hundred years ago.

The truth of the matter is that as a people we have not learned that as we grow older we should take things a little easier. This does not mean that we should stop working even if our circumstances permitted it, but that the eating of food, the striving for success, the playing of games, all our efforts in fact, should be guided by the knowledge that we have reached the half way or more of human life and must live accordingly. We must still keep an interest in anything and everything but there should be no excesses, no attempts to do the things in business or professional life that call for continued stress or strain.

Where we have enough of this world's goods and our loved ones are reasonably provided for, it is foolish to enter into circumstances that will cause worry, sleeplessness, a fast heart rate, a heightened blood pressure, which are bound to affect the heart, blood vessels, and kidneys, and practically every organ in the body.

One can understand the middle aged individual still striving for enough of this world's goods to insure comfort, can understand striving to achieve something aside from wealth that will enrich his life, but for men of wealth breaking down their lives in pursuit of more wealth is hard to understand.



JOHN MILTON (Born Dec. 9, 1608.)

When Shakespeare laid aside his magic pen, And just had closed the golden book of fame.

It was reopened by the muse again, Who wrote therein another mighty name, A name quite different—one whose verses roll Like organ music which he loved so well, The great outpouring of a mighty soul

Who dreamed of visions no one else could tell, In life neglected, now he firmly stands A beacon in the darkness of the night;

Revered by many tongues, by many lands, The blind man radiant with an inward light;

The wondrous genius through whose sightless eyes Mankind behind the realms of Paradise.

—Leon Huhner, in New York Times.

Worry Cora—Would you marry a man for his money?

Dora—Not exactly. But I'd want my husband to have a lovely disposition, and if he didn't have money he'd very likely be worried and ill-natured.

Monotonous "The old-fashioned—English breakfast is most monotonous and devoid of variety," I meant a writer. We suggest that the writer should try buying his breakfast-egg from our grocer.

of childhood. Suppose as his critics contend, Santa really is a "pagan saint." The idea he conveys is anything but pagan.

Stone Of Scone

(Montreal Gazette)

How many visitors to Westminster Abbey, inspecting the many interesting features of that sacred building, realize when they look at the Coronation Chair that in it is an object of peculiar interest? asks the Sunday Referee, London. Peculiar, because it embodies stone, history and mystery, for underneath the seat of the Coronation Chair is the Stone of Scone. About this object there is mystery as to its exact origin.

One story identifies this stone with the one upon which Jacob laid his tired head at Bethel when he was a fugitive from his brother's wrath and dreamed of the ladder set up from earth to Heaven. When he awoke, he said, "Truly, God is in this place," and used the stone as an altar to render sacrifice to God.

After that he carried the stone with him in his wanderings and it passed down through the ages as his descendants grew into a mighty nation. Upon it, or standing beside it with a hand resting upon it, the Hebrew kings are said to have been crowned. When the Babylonian captivity carried them away into a foreign land the stone is supposed to have gone with them in the care of the prophet Jeremiah.

Later on Jeremiah, who had secured the good graces of the King's daughter, escaped with her from Babylon and they took with them the sacred stone of the Hebrews, wandering from place to place throughout Southern Europe.

There is said to be an ancient record in Ireland telling of the appearance there of a strange foreign princess, accompanied by a mysterious man, a prophet, it is suggested, and in their possession a magic stone. The story goes on to describe how this stone became the recognized stone of the ancient Kings of Ireland.

Another story somewhat varies the sequence, and suggests that after the association with Jacob at Bethel the stone was transported to Egypt by his countrymen. Thither came Gathelus, son of Cecrops, King of Athens, and married Scotia, daughter of Pharaoh. He and his Egyptian wife, alarmed at the fame of Moses, fled with the stone to Sicily or to Spain. From Brigantia in Spain it was carried off by Simon Breech, the favorite son of Milo the Scot, to Ireland. There on the sacred hill of Tara, it became Lia Fail, the Stone of Destiny.

Later on it fell into the hands of the Scots and was taken to Scotland, where it became associated with the Coronation of the Kings of Scotland. Finally it was brought to England by Edward and found its present resting place under the Coronation Chair in which Kings and Queens of England are crowned.

The Scots could not reconcile themselves to the loss of their Stone Stone and were forever attempting, through various suggestions, to encompass its return when the Treaty of Northampton, which closed the long war between England and Scotland, required the restoration of the lost relics to Scotland. Edward III of England directed the Abbot of Westminster, who had the stone, to give it to the Sheriffs of London, who would see that it and the other articles under the Treaty were safely restored.

Other articles, including even "The Black Rod," which was the sacred cross of Holyrood were sent back to Scotland, but the people of London (which probably meant the Abbot of Westminster) absolutely refused to permit the Stone Stone to leave its new home.

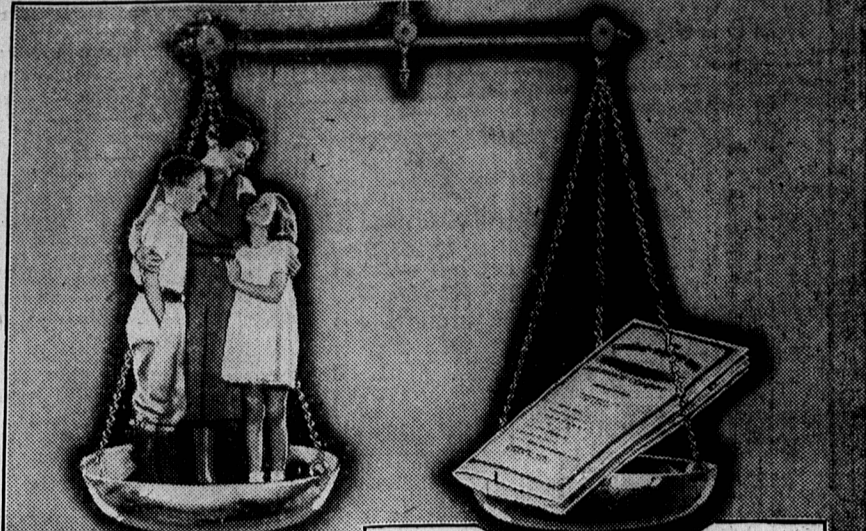
Thirty years later David II began negotiations atfesh with Edward III, which entailed that the stone should be delivered to Scotland, but nothing materialized and the Stone Stone remained in Westminster Abbey, and has been there ever since.

Both Addison and Goldsmith refer to this stone as Jacob's Pillow, and the fact that the chair is scratched over from top to bottom with the names of inquisitive visitors proves not only the reckless irreverence of the intruders but also the universal attraction of the relic. It is the one primeval monument which binds together the whole Empire.

There are iron rings let into its battered surface, which is badly cracked, and these have been said to indicate long migrations consistent with the idea of the stone having been carried on a pole during the wanderings of the children of Israel.

The first English King who sat on his august seat in the Abbey was the unworthy Edward II, who was crowned there on Shrove Tuesday, February 23, 1308, by Woodcock, Bishop of Winchester, in the absence through illness of Winchester, Archbishop of Canterbury.

The stories told about the stone can probably only be regarded as legendary—even though legend



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does contain the charm of supposed history. There are a great many references to it in early Irish and Scottish history, but it would be impossible to definitely connect it with so early a figure as the fugitive son of Isaac. However, from the very earliest record it is evident that it was regarded with great reverence and it is quite possible that the story of its having served Jacob as a pillow has been confused with the stone which served a similar purpose for St. Columba. In this connection it is interesting to observe that St. Columba is also reputed to have dreamed the dream of a vision of angels passing from Heaven to earth, identical with that of Jacob.

In 1865, at the request of the Dean of Westminster, a certain Professor A. C. Ramsey, Fellow of the Royal Society and Director of the Geological Survey of England, examined the Coronation Stone in the Abbey and wrote the following remarks: "The Coronation Stone consists of a dull reddish or purplish sandstone with a few embedded pebbles. One of these is of quartz, and two others of dark material, the nature of which I was unable to ascertain. They may be Lydian stone. It is very difficult to settle the geological formation too

much in far transported matters of stone, especially when the history of the matters is somewhat vague in its earlier stages. The country around Scone is formed of old red sandstone and it is quite possible that the Coronation Stone may have been derived from one of its strata." The name, by the way, is pronounced "scoon."

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