

The Charlottetown Guardian

President, Lieut.-Col. W. Chester S. McLure. Vice-President, J. R. Burnett, F. J. I. Secretary, Lieut.-Col. D. A. MacKinnon, D. S. O.

Editor and Managing Director, F. J. I. Associate Editors, Frank Walker and D. K. Currie.

Morning Daily (founded 1877) 85.00 per year (in advance) delivered. \$4.50 per year (in advance) mailed to Canada and United States.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1936

Would Weaken Empire Ties

The Toronto Mail and Empire adds its voice to those already raised in protest against the proposed transfer of power to amend the British North America Act from Westminster to Ottawa.

"The machinery for amendments to the B.N.A. Act is already in existence. It has thus far worked smoothly and effectively. Many of those who wish the power of amendment to be centred at Ottawa instead of at Westminster are deliberately and craftily working to weaken the remaining ties which bind us to the Mother Country and to the rest of the Empire."

But for the lone stand taken by the New Brunswick Government, the proposals referred to would have gone through without opposition. At the recent Ottawa conference of provincial and dominion legal representatives to discuss this matter, Prince Edward Island was not represented at all.

This Winter, as the weather and other prophets foretold in their almanacs, has been hard on distinguished personages. The latest to be reported seriously indisposed is the world-renowned Irish poet and dramatist, WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS who lies at death's door at the age of 70 in Palma, Mallorca, where he had gone to enjoy the sunny climate.

Civic Relief Situation

A grave situation has arisen in connection with unemployment relief in Charlottetown, as revealed at the annual meeting of the City Council on Tuesday night. It seems that on January 23 last—nearly two weeks ago—the Treasury Board assumed unto itself the powers of government and passed a minute having all the impress of an order-in-council, stipulating that the Government would pay to the City \$3,000 for the months of January, February and March for direct unemployment relief provided the City in each of the said months contributed \$4,500.

Over its expenditure is a serious matter, none the less serious because there are \$112,919.30 of unpaid taxes and \$1,310,919.99 of unpaid sidewalk assessments. It indicates that property owners, people ordinarily prosperous, not having the ready money to meet their current liabilities, increased taxation would not ease the city's situation, but only add to the property owners' worries and liabilities.

Toronto the Good, like Charlottetown under the alleged lax administration of Prohibition, has "become a hell of a place," according to recent disclosures. The counsel for the Royal Commission investigating the Toronto police force said: "I am not in any way interested in suppressing gambling joints or bootlegging places in the City of Toronto. And, besides, it is not my duty. I am vitally interested in knowing the notorious joints that have been operated without interference from police officers in this city. The City of Toronto is honeycombed with the vice joints. Some one has to clear them up."

Complete information for a considerable number of significant factors dispenses with all doubt as to the wholesome advance in business operations during 1935. The increase in the index of the physical volume of business based on 45 factors, telling the tale of industrial and commercial operations, was no less than 8.7 per cent. The average for the index on the base of 1926 was 102.4 during 1935 against 94.2 in the preceding year. The gain of nearly 9 per cent represents the expansion in production and business operations, continuing the recovery phase of the cycle.

Owing to declines in Quebec and Ontario, the Dominion total of bank debits for 1935 was 4 per cent. less than in the preceding year. The total was \$31,546,000,000 compared with \$32,867,000,000. The increase in the Maritime Provinces was 7.5 per cent. Quebec, due mainly to the decline in Montreal, showed a dropping off of 5 p.c. Declines in Ottawa and Toronto had a predominant influence in Ontario, which declined 7 per cent. Despite declines in Winnipeg and Brandon, the total for the ten centres of the Prairie Provinces showed a gain of 1.7 per cent. British Columbia gained nearly 3 per cent.

After the Globe's repudiation of its own editorial on the future of the Liberal-Conservative Party, comes the announcement of the resignation of its Editor, Mr. HARRY W. ANDERSON, and the appointment of the assistant managing Editor Mr. A. A. McINTOSH as his successor. It appears that Mr. ANDERSON had tendered his resignation two months earlier, but it was not accepted until the objectionable editorial appeared and was disowned. This recalls the case of Senator LEWIS. When he was Editor of the Globe, he wrote an editorial abusing the Globe's alleged independence, and backing Rt. Hon. MACKENZIE KING, the new Liberal Prime Minister. Next morning he resigned, and Mr. STEWART LYON, then assistant, now Hydro-Electric chairman, took his place. Mr. KING at the first opportunity made LEWIS a Senator. Perhaps HARRY ANDERSON will be equally fortunate.

call the assurance given by their present legislative representative, Mr. ST. CLAIR TRAINOR, at the Capitol Theatre, as reported in the Patriot of July 20 last, from which we quote:

"No, ladies and gentlemen, there will be no starvation under the Liberal Government if returned to office on the 23rd of July." (Applause.) "If direct relief is needed, direct relief will be given. The labouring people and the unemployed have no cause to worry from the return of a Liberal Government in this Province." (Applause.)

Mr. TRAINOR's colleagues in office were equally generous in promise-making. It is high time that they put their promises into effect—at least to the extent of co-operating with the municipalities regardless of partisan politics, which seems to be at the bottom of the Government's dog-in-the-manger attitude in this case.

Since the foregoing comment was written, we understand that a meeting has been arranged between the Government and City Council representatives to take place this morning, when it is hoped a more satisfactory understanding will be reached on the relief question.

Editorial Notes

One thing, King EDWARD must be thankful for—he has not got to "break-in," a new Queen.

In Nova Scotia the Provincial Government increases the unemployment allowance to municipalities; here our Summerside Premier decreases it.

Why should it take a fortnight for a government resolution to cross from the Provincial Building to the City Hall? Something rotten in the internal make-up as well as in the external.

Commenting on the case of the Provincial Sanatorium vs. McARTHUR, in which leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada was refused, the Fortnightly Law Journal says drily: "The man who tries to evade his just liabilities doesn't seem to get much sympathy or assistance."

This Winter, as the weather and other prophets foretold in their almanacs, has been hard on distinguished personages. The latest to be reported seriously indisposed is the world-renowned Irish poet and dramatist, WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS who lies at death's door at the age of 70 in Palma, Mallorca, where he had gone to enjoy the sunny climate.

As was expected, and even planned before the funeral of the late Premier LEA, Mr. HORACE WRIGHT has been selected to run as Government candidate for the Fourth District. But he is not going to have a walkover. Many Liberals are not satisfied either with the choice or the way it was engineered, and are planning to run an independent Liberal in opposition.

The Minister of M. Pierre Laval was the one-hundredth government of the Third Republic of France to hold power and be withdrawn. Canada has had sixteen ministries in the 69 years while the Third Republic of France, a subsequent creation, has had one hundred ministries in 66 years. The French situation does not tend to stability, and there is a general feeling in Europe today that France is in the middle of a testing crisis.—Ex.

Hitler has managed to touch Japan on the raw. The Japanese are abnormally sensitive over matters of race and color. They are so insistent on asserting their own equality with the best and highest that they are constantly on the look-out for "insults" which are probably never intended. Hitler is reported to have said in a speech that Europe has been chosen to dominate "less civilized races," and Japan is up in arms over it.—Ex.

Discussing the functions of government in a country, Hon. Norman Rogers, Minister of Labor, explains: "No Government is omnipotent; no Government can restore prosperity by any process of legislative magic. Within its proper limits, however, a Government may mobilize and direct the human and material resources of the nation; it may also provide leadership in the restoration of confidence, in the revival of trade, and in the removal of obstacles to economic and social progress." That is boiling down to a few words a meaty definition of government. It is well to note that Mr. Rogers declares that restoration of prosperity will not come by magic. The way some people talk you would be led to believe, if you believed them, that prosperity can be accomplished by passing a couple of laws. That is not the case.—W. L. Clark in Windsor Star.

Surely foreign rulers who attended the late King's funeral were impressed by the fact that, despite their presence, not an untoward incident marred the occasion. In what European Capital would there have been the same assurance of safety from the wilder radicals?—Ex.

Notes By The Way

During the past year, the strong and courageous leadership of Mr. Hoover has been the greatest single factor in restoring the morale of the Republican party. Morally and intellectually his utterances have surpassed those of any other spokesman of the party, inspiring hope and faith and courage. His speech to the Young Republicans of California, for example, has not been equalled. It was cogent, unanswerable, bold and inspiring. It laid the foundations for a crusading campaign to enlist the youth of the nation. These are some of the reasons which seem to me to indicate that the standard of the Republican party in the campaign of 1936 should again be entrusted to Mr. Hoover. The leaders of the Democratic party and of the New Deal fear the choice of Mr. Hoover as Republican candidate more than they fear anything else. No one is so familiar with the bluster of the Roosevelt administration as to desire the selection of Mr. Hoover by the Republicans, on the theory that he would be the easiest of the possible candidates to defeat.

The nomination of Mr. Hoover would bring to millions of Republicans and other millions of political independent men and women boundless inspiration. Under his leadership they would go into the conflict in 1936 with enthusiasm and pride and the indomitable will to conquer.—John Spargo in The Review of Reviews (New York).

If it is deemed desirable for the King to announce his coronation, his accession which has already been proclaimed—in India and the dominions by appearing in person before his subjects on some public state occasion, there is no constitutional objection to his doing so, subject to the usual parliamentary approval. There is an erroneous impression that the King is entirely precluded from leaving the United Kingdom; there are plenty of records of his doing so. King George himself visited India, and his army in France, not to speak of putting to sea with his fleet beyond British territorial waters. If on full consideration of all the pros and cons, it is decided that King Edward shall make a royal progress through his overseas dominions, he will be doing something on a scale no other monarch has done it, and his people will certainly welcome the opportunity to demonstrate their loyalty and devotion to the Throne and to his person.—Ex.

Sir Ronald Lindsay, the British Ambassador at Washington, has stated that the British Government, while still keeping the possibility of a settlement in mind, does not consider that the time is yet ripe for discussing the question. There the matter must rest for the time being. The contention of the British Government that the debtors' power is not right to plead inability to pay instalments of their debts while they are increasing their armaments is not accepted by countries like France and Italy, who claim that the city of self-protection must come before everything else. They also resent the implication that the United States Government has not the right of their needs regarding land, air and sea forces better than they do themselves. The matter at issue must remain as it is for the present; and, in view of the economic depression which has afflicted the whole world for so many years, this is not really a cause for astonishment, quiet apart from the "armaments race" which has not as yet been effectually checked, and shows no sign of stopping.—Belfast Telegraph.

The Ministry of M. Pierre Laval was the one-hundredth government of the Third Republic of France to hold power and be withdrawn. Canada has had sixteen ministries in the 69 years while the Third Republic of France, a subsequent creation, has had one hundred ministries in 66 years. The French situation does not tend to stability, and there is a general feeling in Europe today that France is in the middle of a testing crisis.—Ex.

Hitler has managed to touch Japan on the raw. The Japanese are abnormally sensitive over matters of race and color. They are so insistent on asserting their own equality with the best and highest that they are constantly on the look-out for "insults" which are probably never intended. Hitler is reported to have said in a speech that Europe has been chosen to dominate "less civilized races," and Japan is up in arms over it.—Ex.

Discussing the functions of government in a country, Hon. Norman Rogers, Minister of Labor, explains: "No Government is omnipotent; no Government can restore prosperity by any process of legislative magic. Within its proper limits, however, a Government may mobilize and direct the human and material resources of the nation; it may also provide leadership in the restoration of confidence, in the revival of trade, and in the removal of obstacles to economic and social progress." That is boiling down to a few words a meaty definition of government. It is well to note that Mr. Rogers declares that restoration of prosperity will not come by magic. The way some people talk you would be led to believe, if you believed them, that prosperity can be accomplished by passing a couple of laws. That is not the case.—W. L. Clark in Windsor Star.

Surely foreign rulers who attended the late King's funeral were impressed by the fact that, despite their presence, not an untoward incident marred the occasion. In what European Capital would there have been the same assurance of safety from the wilder radicals?—Ex.

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.

PROPOS THE OCCASION

Sir,—Certain information "slipped" to Prince Edward Islanders through a mainland medium, probably to ease in the shock, calls to mind the occasion of the Speaker of the British House being drawn to the Speaker of the House of Commons to Buckingham Palace on the occasion of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, and of which Sir Wilfred Lawson wrote the following:

"His beer, as is to statesmen known, Supports the Altar and the Throne."

"His Beer" this parliament returned. And the great Tory triumph earned. Almight Beer controls the realm. The Brewer's hand is on the helm. Men think the nation cannot thrive Unless the lusty Brewer drive. To him they crouch, to him they bend. Their guide, philosopher, and friend. For him incessantly they toil, They do the work—he gets the spoil.

At times like these it's only right That he should manifest his might. And so his steeds, one rightly feels Should drag the Commons at their heels."

There is probably no need to further point the moral, neither possibility of adorning the disgusting tale that seems to be "leaking out."

I am, Sir, etc.

ANTIBREWERY.

CHARLOTTETOWN VS. ST. PETERSBURG

Sir,—St. Petersburg, Fla., is the winter resort of thousands of the learned and wealthy of both the republic and Canada. It does not appear that it is necessary to the enjoyment of the "Sunny City." It has two saloons only, and these are not allowed to sell after 10 p.m. Here is an extract from a recent issue of the St. Petersburg Times: "When we first knew St. Petersburg it had 1500 people and three saloons. But a few years later one had petered out and then there were two. Those two were in the same block, as well conducted as could be by men who stood well in the community, and having a monopoly they prospered financially. But they could not handle the goods of every distillery, so each year some legal representative of other distilleries would ask to be granted a license for another saloon, and they would be refused. And each year the d'stillery interests would threaten to have the courts mandamus to the City dads and compel them to grant a license. And each year the City Council would invite them to go to 't, while a local option election would be held and all liquor traffic whatever would be voted out. And the said distillery interests backed off and left things as they were. And if today the liquor interests think they can through court procedure, dictate c'sting hours for the City of St. Petersburg, let them go to 't—and as surely as an election can be held all liquor selling places of every kind will be banned in the city."

Well done "dads" of St. Petersburg. But they could not "go to 't" like that if the morale of St. Petersburg was not far, far above that of our poor run selling city. It is clear rum is not wanted by the "Sunny City" class of tourists. I am Sir, etc.

WE AND THE B. N. A.

Sir,—Looking at things from the outside, one cannot help wondering why our Premier has not lined up beside Premier D'ysart of New Brunswick on behalf of Maritime interests in regard to the suggested abandoning of the god old B. N. A. Act. What has any part of Canada to gain by such a move except that the larger centres controlling the larger vote may be able to enforce their wishes on the outlying sections. Why the great desire to have the minutiae abandon their safeguard, a blind man could see the purpose of it all, can there be any other reason than the obvious one. Surely Maritime interests have suffered sufficiently even with the assurance we now hold, and which we may yet have to evoke to get a semblance of fair play. Any attempt to abandon the safeguard of Imperial sanction to amendments to the B. N. A. Act on the part of the Maritime Government should be treated as an act of Treason to Maritime interests. What is the great hardship in continuing the present arrangement. London is not going to refuse to sanction amendments that may be necessary, and that are agreed to by the provinces, and all we have to do is agree on the changes needed and apply to London for the necessary legislation and it will be granted, at the same time all the provisions of the Act are assured that nothing unfair to their interests and to which they object will be forced upon them. How very different the situation will be with the control centered at Ottawa. Too well we know how little our interests or our welfare will be considered if the interests and welfare of the central provinces demand consideration. Someone suggested we were in danger of selling our birthright for a mess of pottage. I cannot see where we get even the mess of pottage in the proposed deal. I am, Sir, etc.



That Body of Hours

By James U. Barton, M.D.

WORRY IS PROLONGED OR CHRONIC FEAR

"Worry is a thin stream of fear, trickling through the mind. If encouraged it cuts a channel into which all other thoughts are drained."

The above quotation is from Arthur Somers Roche, whose writings in books and magazines are now so popular.

Some one has described worry as "chronic" fear. We are all afflicted with fear at times because fear is aroused by the emergencies, responsibilities and cares of life. If we are well mentally and physically we immediately use natural methods to rid us of these fears—studying the situation carefully, working out in our minds the common-sense and effective method of removing this fear, watching our food, exercise and sleep. Thus a fear that loomed large when we were hungry and a good rest and a satisfactory meal.

Often a temporary condition such as headache or stomachache takes the fight out of us for the time being. Thus Chesterton says "an attack of indigestion, a sleepless night, and a rainy morning can make a coward of a man who might otherwise have been a hero."

The thought expressed by Mr. Roche is that worry is like a little creech that if allowed to grow becomes really a channel into which all our thoughts flow or are drained. This means that we view or think of things, size up problems, and in chronic fear—worry—in our minds, and therefore every little care or responsibility looks twice as large or difficult because worry has us half licked or beaten before we face it.

Now just as the mind by its coolness and calmness acquires its own religion or otherwise can favorably affect the body as a whole and each organ individually, so also can the body by proper food, diet and exercise be made fit to feed the brain with rich pure food, and enable it to prevent fear taking a prolonged hold on us.

THE STORY OF OUR LIQUOR LAWS

Sir,—No story of the liquor laws of the Province would be complete without showing the history of the Colony prior to the enactment of any liquor legislation. Our first Legislature met in 1773. In that year the first legislation of any kind was enacted in what was then known as the "De de Saint Jean" or "Island of the Saints." Before 1773 there was no law in this Province prohibiting the sale of liquor; not even a license law. There were no restrictions upon its sale, nor was liquor subject to any tax or duty. All was free. Free of taxes, free to sell, free of all restrictions. Any person might sell, might sell in any quantity in any place, at any hour of the day or night, and at any price he could get for his product. Possibly there was "home-brewed" more probably the imported article was so cheap, and so pure, there was no need to make the home-brewed. Certainly there were no "bootleggers," for there was no law to violate; everything was legal. If conditions were unsatisfactory, one could blame it on "Prohibition," nor upon the bootleggers which were then being brought in with Prohibition.

So far as law was concerned there was none. There being no restraints, no "thou shalt nots" to vex the soul of man and to induce his desire to violate them, there was no need of "taking into account man's nature," or his "constitutional recalcitrance to coercion." If he had an "ingrained aversion to coercion," there was no coercion. He was absolutely free to take his liquor or to leave it alone. No legal coercion was ever, nothing that could be blamed on law. If Mr. J. J. Hughes is correct that the elimination of the tax or duty on liquors would, by reducing the price, do away with the evil of strong drink, here were the conditions. Nary a tax, nary a duty, nary a bootlegger. And liquor cheap beyond all bargain-hunting. Cheap and good; the "pure liquor" of the Moderationists. "Good honest liquor," direct from Demarara, with good pure molasses for those who wished to sweeten it. A veritable Moderationists' Paradise. The absence of every defect which makes liquor bought from a bootlegger today such a bugbear; the presence of every requisite which the Moderationist (including "Citizen") could wish for.

And what were the conditions in those halcyon days of pure liquor, of absence of legal restraint and of the existence of personal liberty and perfect freedom? Hear the tale of the legislature at its first session in 1773, Chapter 12:—

"The practice of drinking Rum, or other distilled spirituous liquors, has become very prevalent and common, especially among Artificers, Servants, Labourers, Soldiers, and belonging to this Island; the constant and excessive use whereof, tends greatly to the prejudice of their health, renders them incapable of discharging the duties of their respective occupations, debauches their morals, and incites them to the practice of various other vices."

These words of condemnation from our earliest legislature must surely act as a flaming sword to turn aside all who seek by means of the elimination of law to bring about a return to that Delectable Eden where liquor was free, unlicensed, un-prohibited; where man's "constitutional recalcitrance and ingrained aversion to

The Four Musicians

(Sir Andrew MacPhail in Saturday Night)

(Sir Andrew MacPhail in Saturday Night)

Emil Ludwig once week before Christmas, came to see Lisl, the most perfect of her beautiful race. He remained to talk with me. He confessed to the gift of reading a photograph, and asked me to show him a picture without disclosing the name. He read it as a musician would read a score. These were his words, meditating and tones murmuring in the German tongue: "A man of earnest life, original thought; his estimate of a person based on character not on performance; a friend of honest men; an old and practical idealist; his inner life devoted to knowledge; loved only once; an excellent citizen, husband and father; independent of money, a trustee to whom one would entrust a fortune; loved his sons more than he showed; deeply religious with signs of silent grief; unmoved by destiny; born of an educated father with a family tradition of learning; and, finally, a musician." The picture was a photograph of a portrait of my father, made by an artist who at that time was in discussion with his mind was being restored. The reading was of an astonishing accuracy, but the most subtle intuition was that the subject was musical. That is the incentive to the present writing.

In those early days, seventy years ago, he was known as the Master, because he was master of the school. The place was Orwell, with his own hands. The violin and his father had been called away with only a copy of Horace saved from the shipwreck, a meagre equipment for life in a new world. The book stained with sea-water is yet in a safe place. The Master was a good musician. He sang in a voice that was true, rich and strong. He had sufficient skill in technique to set down in musical notation any tune he heard sung. He had a repertory that was large but not varied, and he was continually extending it. On every journey when he was Inspector of Schools he would bring home a new song. The parish house of the priests was a fertile field, but he would amend their hymns and songs to bring them into conformity with his own established doctrine. In a description of Heaven he would substitute "brightness" for "sunshine." With his more precise information he was aware that the heavenly "city had no need of the sun."

He performed on no instrument. His sole appliance was a "pitches" that belonged to his maestro, the American musician, named Tom. Later, he had a tuning-fork which he carried in his waistcoat pocket, and bit between his teeth to elicit the sound. The pitch-pipe was a whistle, in section two inches square and about a foot long; it had a plunger marked with the notes; and the complete scale could be played by successive thrusts or withdrawal of this plunger. Indeed with skill one could produce any tune that lay within the compass of eight notes. Even the chatter of the bagpipes does not cover a greater range.

The Master never allowed his love of music to lead him into excess. There was an organ in the house, and—much later—a piano. The "new Minister's wife" played very well, and would accompany him. At times a gifted colporteur, an agent for books, lightning rods, or fruit trees would come. Then there was a concert, and their return was eagerly looked for. Like

all persons with a gift, he thought his own gift was of great educational advantage to others. He taught music in his school, and when he became Inspector of 160 schools he implanted his musical ideas in a wide field. It was in no perfunctory way, but for his own entertainment, he taught music. He transcribed scores on sheets large enough to be read by a class of forty persons. These sheets were rolls of wall-paper. He ruled the staves on the reverse side, and marked the notes with a piece of cork tipped in black ink; the sharps, flats, and clefs were done in red with a quill pen. Modern musicians who have had the privilege of examining these simple manuscripts, made by the Master then long since dead, were astonished at his perfection, although they did inspect them with that curiosity with which anthropologists regard hieroglyphics on the walls of a cave.

One of these musicians, a soprano from the Metropolitan Opera in New York, who spent three summers at Orwell, sang all these forgotten scores with perfect understanding. An old neighbor, who happened to be present, removed his coat, and in his white shirt lay down upon a couch. When the music finished, he arose in such bewilderment as Lazarus must have shown. He affected to have been dead and in Heaven. The singer said that was the most profound and subtle praise she had received in a distinguished European and American career. She, too, is now dead.

Musical instruments were not held in favor. One young man who performed very well on the bagpipes abandoned the practice at the time of his conversion; and to prove his sincerity destroyed the instrument which he had created with his own hands. The violin was unknown, except among the Irish. It was considered a disreputable instrument. The performer on the violin always strove to enforce the rhythm by tramping with his feet to give the effect of drums. He required a firm seat, a level and hard floor. If the floor were not level he would choose the highest corner. It had happened that some mischievous boys poured water from the wall of the room, which ran down to the lowest level, and was trampled into a spray that soon silenced the strings.

In that island there are no stones, unless they are quarried with great labor from the earth, and these are all red sandstone. There was a great red sandstone boulder in a field, the last of the glacial drift; but it was believed to have fallen from Heaven. In a spirit of reckless pride I imported a white stone for a doorstep; "a tall man could lie upon it." Many visitors came to view the wonder. Amongst the visitors was Pat Bolger, the last of the violinists, who discerned at once the essential stillness of the stone. He brought his fiddle, and played a long composition of his own to his entire satisfaction. The resonant stone gave the effect of a complete orchestra.

The work was entitled, "The Arkansaw Traveller." It was like all of Rimsky-Korsakoff's, a medley of popular airs; but this musician, a'so like the great Russian, would play the tune as it is commonly played, and then embellish it with the riches of his own inner imagination. He made his own fiddle.

(Continued on page 6)

ance be rendered. However, it stands to reason that it be made clear that the large number of members are willing to pull their weight. To me that is a fair proposition, and the sum per capita is so small that it would not expect the large number of members falling over one another in their eagerness to pay it. And if the appreciation of the members is as great as your correspondent states it is, it will all happen as described, and if politics is not working in a business way, what can be expected of it?

Probably most of your readers would suggest fifty cents per member annually, rather than twenty cents, but that amount would not be needed to branch five hundred members. Anyway, let the test be made, or any other test, by which it can be ascertained to what extent, in a practical way, those to whom a branch is a boon, are doing, and will do, their own reasonable part. I am, Sir, etc.

ANTHROPOS.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY SUGGESTION

Sir,—I have read with some interest the correspondence in your columns re the E. Island Libraries, and containing suggestions with regard to the future. My work takes me to different parts of the Province, and I have heard comments on a letter in which was stated what a large number of members are enrolled in that district. Now your correspondent forgot to state how many of the five hundred intend helping themselves before the Government, which is pressed for money on all hands, is asked to pay out. Your correspondent is right in using the word "boon," and, far be it from me to say different. But, if it is a "boon" then will the 500 members subscribe an average sum of from thirty-five to fifty cents per member per year? The larger sum would bring \$250 to the branch of 500, and what a trifle for such a large number. Of course, variations could be "scaled," where, say, more than three members of the same family are members. Nothing in the world is so easy to find as members, if the proposition appears like "something for nothing," and it does appear to me that there are more "something for nothing" folks in P. E. I. today than I recollect twenty years ago. Anyway, the following is my proposition: Let the local officers of each and every branch get busy, and make up a signed list of what all the members are ready to subscribe annually, and when all this is ready, an official of the local government to visit each branch, meet the committee, and should the government decide that the branch is helping itself in a reasonable way, and if the government has the money, let the assist-

W. E. BENTLEY

The Poets' Corner

JANUARY DUSK

Austers and clad in sombre robes of grey. With hands unfolded and with silent wings, In unimpassioned mystery the day Passes; a lonely thrush its musician sings.

The dust of night is tangled in the bougie Of leafless lime and lilac, and the pine Grows blacker, and the star upon the brows Of sleep is set in heaven for a sign.

Earth's little weary peoples fall on peace And dream of breaking buds and blossoming, Of primrose airs, of days of large increase, And all the colored retinue of spring.

—John Drinkwater, in "Poems: 1908-1919." (Boston: Houghton Mifflin.)