

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink."

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1939

Why He Said "No"

Unanimous approval will be given to Prime Minister Mackenzie King's decision to refuse to accept the resignation of the Minister of Finance on his contemplated departure for England for the benefit of his health. Indeed, it is a gracious act to permit Dr. Dunning to return to his native shire and country with all the honour and distinction of holding the second highest portfolio in the Government of the Dominion to which he emigrated as a poor boy many years ago. As was aptly indicated by the Hon. Dr. Cyrus MacMillan on the occasion of the honorary degree of LL.D. being conferred upon the Minister of Finance by McGill University, his career and success in the land of his adoption exemplify the opportunities presented in this democratic country to "boys of parts" who apply themselves assiduously, even without the benefit of higher education, to improving their minds and positions.

Though every boy may not start life here with a marshal's baton in his knapsack, at least he may have a M.P.'s nomination, especially so, of course, if he be in the happy position of Dr. Dunning's colleague in Queen's of having an astute brother-in-law who has trod the path before him. Everyone will wish Dr. Dunning an enjoyable holiday and a complete restoration to health, though it would be too much to expect that he would sufficiently recover to undergo the rigors of another election campaign. It may be, too, that the Prime Minister had an additional reason to that to which he gave utterance for insisting upon Dr. Dunning retaining his portfolio, namely the difficulty of finding a successor who would enjoy the confidence not only of his cabinet colleagues but of the powers-that-be in St. James St. as well. Mr. Ralston was looked upon as a likely choice, but he had previously vacated a portfolio in order to pursue his practice at the bar. By all accounts he has fared uncommonly well in this respect, and it would be hardly fair to expect him, while still a young man, to forsake fortune's path, for the uncertainties of cabinet rank in a Government more than probably doomed at the forthcoming elections. The present acting Minister, Mr. Hsley has also been mentioned, but there is reason to believe that his appointment would not find favour in certain circles, and beyond these two there is no other in sight both able and popular enough on whom to confer the appointment. In the circumstances, the Prime Minister has accomplished a characteristically diplomatic move strictly on the lines of his well-known laissez-faire policy, especially in view of the fact that the situation in Europe enables him to delay announcing an election at the present juncture.

Mayors And Unemployment

About three weeks ago, Mayor Lewis, Ottawa, heading a delegation, presented to Mr. Hsley, in the latter's capacity of Acting Minister of Finance, a proposal that the Dominion summon a conference on unemployment. He cited such organizations as the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the Canadian Construction Council, and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. With the representatives of these bodies would be spokesmen for provincial and municipal administrations. The conference would examine the unemployment problem, chiefly as it affected urban centres. At this meeting "a campaign of action would be agreed upon which, among other things, would provide for the calling of similar meetings in every municipality throughout the Dominion by the mayor of the municipality," Mr. Lewis said. Such meetings would be participated in by local industrial leaders. They would "appraise the situation and examine its employment possibilities," he suggested. Publicity and organizational plans would be distributed, and all efforts bent towards solving the unemployment problem. Mr. Hsley told the delegation he had consulted his ministerial colleagues, and the conclusion reached was that it would be better for the Federation of Canadian Mayors to summon the conference itself. The Dominion would assist them. The Government would furnish all statistics required on the whole matter, and would also make available to the conference the services of the public officials most directly concerned with the problem, said Mr. Hsley. This week another delegation waited on the Government, and the same laissez-faire policy was recommended.

Reclaiming Drought Areas

Experiments to determine the best methods of reclaiming severely drifted land for crop production or grazing in the Prairie Provinces have been established at eleven points throughout the drought area. These experiments are being carried out by the Dominion Experimental Farms. So far the results have been decidedly encouraging, it is indicated in word from Ottawa. There are nearly 7,000 cattle and more than 2,500 horses in the 32 community pastures now in operation in the drought area of Western Canada. These pastures, established on land considered as unsuitable for crop production, promise to be important in increasing live stock production. The total land area of the three Prairie Provinces of the Dominion is 452,158,720 acres, of which the area seriously affected by drought in recent years amounts to 103,300,000 acres, or

NOTES BY THE WAY

Has he got something there? By Mussolini's orders Fascist officials have to show their own fitness on the track and in the field. They have literally to run for office and be always on the jump to hold it. At an athletic meeting in Rome, held to test officials, the secretary for Florence broke his leg trying to leap over a horse from a spring-board, while the secretary-general of the party not only put on a hair-raising motorcycle show but jumped the horse that had baffled his colleague. Some 500 took part, diving over horses and hurdles in the heat of a sultry summer day. It's an idea of physical fitness not to be laughed at and the man who can leap a horse must have a good understanding. Why not put the Mayor, the Board of Councillors and the City Council into training at once? It would teach them to reduce and curb needless waist. If they started now they might be able to do something. At the Canadian National Exhibition came around. In 12 months we might be able to send them to Rome and show Mussolini a look or two. It could do no harm.—Toronto Telegram.

We saw on Saturday for the first time the new \$12,000,000 Mental Hospital, which is being erected a few miles south of St. Thomas. Leaving aside the controversial question of need of the hospital and the erecting of it in Elgin county, the home riding of Premier Hepburn, both the site and the architecture shocked us. The hospital is on a stretch of land without a solitary tree. With all the beauty spots in Elgin county one would have thought a more suitable site could have been found. The architecture is modernistic. We have seen pictures of great new modernistic apartment houses in Berlin and Moscow. The new Mental Hospital is built on these lines. It may fit into the German and Russian capitals, but it seems strangely out of place in a treeless Canadian pasture. The new Mental Hospital is built on these lines. It may fit into the German and Russian capitals, but it seems strangely out of place in a treeless Canadian pasture. The new Mental Hospital is built on these lines. It may fit into the German and Russian capitals, but it seems strangely out of place in a treeless Canadian pasture.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Earl Baldwin born this date, 1867.

Another perfect half-holiday yesterday.

The bicycle is the popular mode of conveyance in Holland, there being approximately 4,000,000 wheels in daily use or almost one to every two persons in the country.

In view of the serious and possibly irreparable damage by drought to the hay crops in the eastern United States as far south as New Jersey, there is every indication of an active demand for Canadian hay during the coming year.

Canada sent 50,964 head of cattle to U.S.A. during the period April 1 to June 30, 1939, 98.54 per cent of the quota allotted under the United States-Canada Trade Agreement for the second quarter of the year.

Mink ranching has now spread to Europe, particularly in Sweden, Germany, Norway, Finland and also in Russia. North American producers at present easily lead both in quantity and in quality, and the old story, there is a demand in Scandinavia for high-class Canadian and American mink for breeding purposes.

Visitors from the mainland who were present at the Governor's Band Concert were delighted with the gardens as well as the cordiality with which they were received by His Honour Government House, in its long history, never stood higher in public estimation and appreciation than it has during His Honour's noteworthy regime.

Little Switzerland isn't fooling with Nazi agitators. The leader of one of three Nazi type groups in the country has just been arrested. He is charged with plotting to overthrow the government and to establish a Nazi dictatorship in Germany. He is comforting to see people of this type dealt with firmly. The United States is having trouble along the same lines. And we know that even in Canada there are men devoted to the Hitler "ideal" and anxious to promote it in this country. For the most part, however, they are kept quiet, and are prevented from doing otherwise. In neither Canada nor the United States, of course, is there any real room for people who have Adolf Hitler's method of government is the one to be preferred. People who think along these lines have no right to call themselves Canadians or Americans and to call for others to follow them to either country and return to "that lovely Germany" where no man may call his soul his own, where the State does all the thinking and all the planning, and the individual is to be the will of an Austrian house painter who, by a curious combination of circumstances, finally found himself in the driver's seat.—Wind-sor Star.

In spite of all war-like gestures, business, it seems, is business. The Province of Ontario has even Manitoba proposes, whether Ottawa likes it or not, to carry through its plans to exchange farm products for \$300,000 worth of German military equipment. And the Province of Quebec proposes to ship \$35,000 worth of dried and fish to Italy in exchange for wines. Were it not for the tensions in the relations existing between the major belligerent countries—Germany and Italy—and the democratic nations, which include Canada, these commodities could be viewed with equanimity and indeed, with high favor. Even as it is, it is far less inconspicuous to conduct ordinary trade with the countries in question than it is to consider the other side of the coin, the fact that it would be both foolish and impractical to challenge the proposals of the belligerent and to refuse to trade with them. At the same time, the fact that the Governments of Berlin and Rome for that matter—would do well to reckon with Canadian sentiment. Because of the provocative and belligerent conduct of the Japanese an undeciphered embargo has been put upon Japanese goods by the nations of the world. The nations of both Germany and Italy have been barbaric and their conduct and their attitude towards the world is certainly provocative. If they desire a market for their goods, they must first show respect for the rights and interests of the nations of the world.—Branford Expositor.

PUBLIC FORUM

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HON. DR. DUNNING'S RESIGNATION

Sir,—While most people in Canada regret the illness of the Hon. Dr. Dunning, people with any sense of proportion can hardly swallow the move of the Prime Minister in refusing to release the Minister of Finance. It is a case, when the "easy chair makes it hard for a lot of us!" Can anyone believe that these two politicians did not discuss the situation before it was announced to the public? Such stupid tactics help to disrupt good government, and the intelligent voter sees no reason for paying the salaries of absentee representatives. It's up to "The Island" to get busy. I am, Sir, etc., A. CAROLYN PAYFIELD.

UNFAIR ELECTION TACTICS

Sir,—Having read letter signed "Old Elector" in your issue of the 25th inst., must say that the writer has covered the ground pretty well. But by no means has he got it all. In the past two months the writer has travelled over a large portion of the Province, and I find the same tactics applied to all districts as Elector describes at Port Augustus. In the spring of 1938 many farmers had to apply to the Department of Agriculture for assistance in buying seed, feed, fertilizer, etc., for which the Government took a crop mortgage. This gave the men in need a break and a help out. Although they did have to give a mortgage, which the western farmers did not have to do. However in the spring of 1939 election year there was no crop mortgage asked for. The seed, feed, etc., was offered to all who would vote right. Those men in need were bought with their own and their wives and children's money. Therefore the Grit politicians and their henchmen took away from those voters their birthright, their manhood, their all. Notwithstanding all this about the 8th or 10th of May everything pointed for a MacMillan Government. But from Ottawa down the money was voted and spent like drunken sailors would vote or blow it in. If this money gave employment to the needy men, to clothe and feed the poor, it was a good thing. Nothing much could be said. During election the word on every platform throughout the Province was, this great amount of road work together with other public work was for the needy unemployed. Now we find that this work is for the men who voted Grit no matter if he is in need or not and who are in need cannot get work because they voted Tory. Of course those in charge do not say that in those words. But when a man in need does not vote right, he is given a line to the foreman and the foreman says, no, and the fellow who gives the line says, "I am not a Grit." Therefore, if those committee men are acting straight and telling the truth about handing in the names to the foreman and then it is the foreman who is running the whole show, and sure by the approval of the representative in Ottawa, the committee men are only made use of and therefore should resign. If they have the required backbone to do so.

It would be difficult to find a word in the English language sufficiently strong to express public opinion of men such as we have described. With money voted for unemployment (Reith-inflousum) might be suitable and that means Hitler and Mussolini, spelled backwards to make it more so. I am, Sir, etc., ANOTHER ELECTOR.

THE CIVIC MUDDLE

Sir,—In an editorial note you remark, concerning issuing of tax notices for alleged arrears, that it is the only way the City Authorities can ascertain what is good and what is worthless as assets on their books. Given a little time, all will be straightened out, so there is no need of unnecessary worry on the part of justly indignant taxpayers. I agree with the general tenor of your conclusions, but object to the methods adopted. The law distinctly confines City administration to certain procedures. The Auditors have themselves, properly I admit, referred to mandatory clauses in our Act, I submit that they should themselves comply with not only the mandatory, but also the directory spirit of the statutes in their own procedure. Emphatically they have not done so. I further submit that by complying with the laws they would get, better, more honest, and more satisfactory results than by their heterogeneous excursions far beyond the scope of the enquiry. It is manifestly wrong and unfair to use a most threatening language, demanding payment of money, which if it ever was due, has been outlawed by statute. It is still worse, when old bills chargeable to those now long in their graves are unlawfully "juggled" into liabilities of the living. And one of the shameful results is the fact that times persons are innocently brought to the fear of publicity, and some in fear of being charged with fraud, actually pay monies that they do not owe to escape this retribution. The authorities could ascertain that no assessments under any provision or authority of this Act—shall extend beyond the arrears of taxes, (Sec. 62), before sending out tax demands for alleged arrears extending back from ten to fifty years. By all means those who preach- describes accurately the extent of liability for street improvement works, and it would be more sensible, and dependable, to measure a work, and by conforming to the "mandatory" clause of the act, than by sending arrear demands ridiculous on their face, in a needle-in-a-haystack search for results. The dead are not with us to de-

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Send their character from odium of defaulters, so why resort to the tender memories of the living in the turning up of grass covered soil to implement their needs of revenue. I am, Sir, etc., TAXPAYER.

The Poet's Corner TO JAMES WALLICOMB KALEY Your trail runs to the westward, And mine to my own place; There is water between our lodges, And I have not seen your face. But since I have read your verses 'Tis easy to guess the rest,— Because in the hearts of the chills There is neither East nor West. Born to a thousand fortunes Or good or evil hap, Once they were kings together, Throned in a mother's lap. Surely they know that secret— Yellow and black and white— When they meet as kings together In innocent dreams at night. By a moon they all can play with— Grubby and grimed and unshod, Very happy together, And very near to God. Your trail runs to the westward, And mine to my own place; There is water between our lodges, And you cannot see my face.— Rudyard Kipling. "The poem not, in the complete edition of Kipling's poems, was found by Alfred Noyes many years ago when visiting Indianapolis, in an appendix to an edition of Riley's poems. It was sent by Kipling to Noyes in 1890. Writing in 1934, Mr. Noyes said that all future editions of Kipling's poetry ought to include it. The dead are not with us to de-

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