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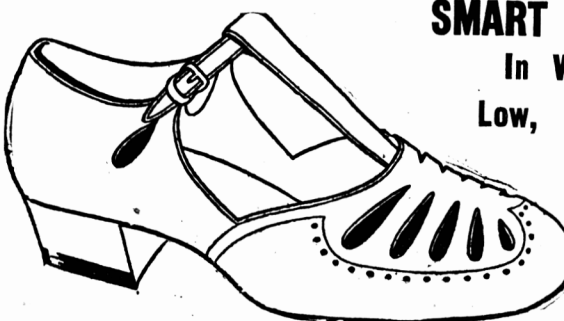
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PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

(Continued from Page 4)

have enough fairminded, far-seeing men among them to make some efforts to save at least a portion of our most beautiful and beneficial wild life species from extermination.

I am, Sir, etc.,
LUDLOW JENKINS

WHY PROTECT BIRDS AND GAME?

Sir.—Previous to the year 1906 the enforcement of the Game laws was considered the duty of policemen or constables none of whom ever troubled themselves in the matter, while the conservation of the insectivorous, woodpecker, and vermilion destroying birds, had no protection whatever. Under such conditions each year found the game birds becoming scarcer, and gunners turned their attention more and more to other species of birds, thus bird life in this Province was rapidly approaching the vanishing point.

In the Legislative session of 1906, a Game Act which included the protection of useful birds was passed through the efforts of the Prince Edward Island Fish and Game Association. In order to lay the matter fairly before the people, they caused illustrated lectures to be delivered throughout the Province, explaining how the farming community would be both directly and indirectly benefited by the enforcement of the new laws. They also issued an illustrated booklet of Prince Edward Island, giving the facilities and attractions of the Province, over five thousand copies were distributed free of charge, and the members of the Association at their own expense have been at work ever since.

In some places there seems to be a belief that the Association has been formed for the benefit of a few sportsmen; in other places the idea prevails that the Association was a sort of club for the express purpose of obtaining special privileges for its members. I can say positively that the Association of which I have been a member since its inception, has no such intentions as to securing rights of any kind except the right to prosecute poachers, and law-breakers. What the Association desires is that all the people shall have the right to shoot and fish for their own use in a legal manner, and it wants all the people to help to see that no one does so illegally.

The Association is not a close corporation. Every citizen of the Province can become a member, with all the privileges of voting and speaking on all subjects by paying the membership fee of one dollar per year.

It is of vital importance to the whole Province that the protection of our fish and game should be rigidly carried on, for under proper protection fish and game will become more abundant.

The consequences of this will be a large increase in crops of the farmer on account of the extinction of injurious insects and vermin, by the partridges, plover and useful birds.

The rigid protection of fish and game will indirectly prove a great advantage, as it will develop the tourist trade; anglers, sportsmen and persons in search of pleasure or health will be drawn hither, bringing large amounts of money to the Province.

The Associations desire to leave to the boys and girls of tomorrow a good showing of the marvelous birds, fish and animals that make the world beautiful. They believe we have no right to squander and destroy a heritage which we have done nothing to create, and which is not ours to destroy.

We no longer destroy great works of art they are treasured and regarded as of priceless value, but we have yet to attain the state of civilization, where the destruction of a glorious work of nature, whether it be a forest or species of bird, fish or mammal is regarded with equal abhorrence. Beyond question we are exterminating our forest birds and fish through the lack of protection.

The uplifting influence that birds may exert upon the lives of men, constitute to many their greatest value and charm. Probably the greatest boon that the study of birds can confer upon man is seen in the power of the bird lover to keep himself young. Old friends are they who greet him as in the days of childhood to bring tidings of good cheer.

Thus it is ever, years roll on, youth passes, the homes and woods of our childhood disappear, the head becomes frosted by the snows of time, the friends of youth pass away, but with the return of spring the old familiar bird songs of our childhood come back to us still unchanged by the passing years. Let them teach our children to love and protect the birds, that these familiar friends of their childhood may remain to cheer them at the summit of life, with song and beauty.

I am, Sir, etc.,
ALBERT E. MORRISON,
 Game Inspector.

LIBRARIES AND TAXES

Sir.—Of all words in the English language perhaps the most detested and hated one is "Taxes," which implies that the money thus represented has been forcibly wrung from the pockets of the people. Probably the odium associated with this word is perhaps not so much the imposition thereof, as the use which may have been made of such moneys represented by these taxes, by the governments which may have been selected and elected by the taxpayers to this position of trust to economically and

efficiently trustee these tax funds in their disbursement equitably for the benefit of these tax payers, for all persons of upright mind would cheerfully donate what is necessary and essential for the public good and benefit of all. But when the faith and trust of those who in good faith and hope pay such taxes may be betrayed by any appointed and elected to such office of trust—is it then any wonder if our people should become outraged at such perfidious and betrayal of trust?

There may be a few demanding that the government pay from out of the people's taxes the amount demanded by the alien representative of the libraries of \$30,000.00 without any explanation given by them how this alien representative will spend this gigantic amount, and these few have not even asked, as far as known, why this stupendous sum is demanded or how it will be spent.

It has been announced that there are 21,519 "registered" readers. This means, if true, as some one has already pointed out, that these 22 branches serve about one-quarter only of our people and a few demand that about three-quarters of our people who receive no benefit whatever in any way therefrom be taxed to pay the costs imposed for these libraries for the sole and exclusive benefit of this small fraction of the population.

If this announced registered number of readers is genuine and which is a reason given in the endeavour to force the government to pay this formidable amount and force taxation on three quarters of our people for the benefit of a small fraction of people—then why the need of forcing payment of this amount on three quarters of our people who receive no benefit whatever? For if this announced number of registered readers be genuine, they themselves can very easily finance every branch, as it has been stated that each branch can be very efficiently operated for less than \$150.00 for each branch each year. Thus the 22 branches can all be efficiently operated for less than \$3,300.00 each year, but of course this will not provide for any high fancy salaried officials.

If each of these 21,519 "registered" readers pay the extremely small sum of twenty-five cents each year this would provide \$5,379.75 each year for the operation of these 22 branches—almost twice the amount required as stated.

Is not the service, which some say they receive from these libraries worth the paltry sum of 25 cents to each for one year?

If these "registered" readers are genuine, this yearly payment by each one will then fully ensure the necessary financing for the adequate and efficient operation of all these 22 branches.

If anyone demand that the government pay the enormous amount demanded, does it not then cause a grave suspicion to arise in the minds of our people that these so-

called registered readers may possibly not be genuine and if so, this aspect assumes the greatest importance from the fact that this is the basis on which the government of the people's taxes for the benefit of a small fraction of our people to the exclusion of any benefit received by about three-quarters of our people.

I am, Sir, etc.,
TAXPAYER

NOT BOOK AGENTS

Sir.—It has been my purpose not to enter into debate on the subject of the Carnegie Libraries. Since considerable of my time has been lately taken up in writing letters on the liquor problem, it would seem to me that others should answer questions and criticisms in reference to the library. A number of excellent letters have appeared on this subject, but some criticisms have gone unanswered, so I have felt it necessary to write my second letter on this subject, though I have not the detailed information at hand to answer some points.

"Taxpayer" has suggested that the Carnegie Library Demonstration officials are only book agents for foreign publishers who want business. In the interests of accuracy it is to be pointed out that this is absolutely false. The Carnegie Corporation is carrying on its work in the interests of the people of this province and not for the benefit of any publishers. Prince Edward Island is most fortunate in that during the past three years so many thousands of dollars have been thus used to raise the quality and increase the quantity of good reading available to the people of this province, especially for those who cannot afford to buy it, and to lay a sound foundation for the future.

As to the number of readers, the 21,519 registered readers, and the large number of books going out each week, are a very incomplete index of the use made of the libraries. Many readers in families are not registered, and books taken from the libraries are often read by several members of the family before being returned in two or four weeks, as the case may be. The use made of the books is much larger, not smaller, than any figures obtained from records kept.

In regard to expense, "Taxpayer" has indulged in much exaggeration. In the first place it should be said that the expense to the province for the first year will not be anything like the sum of \$30,000. The libraries are in good condition now, and I have been told that the Carnegie Corporation is giving some further assistance. Also the Premier has stated that his government intends to maintain the libraries with due regard to the needs of the work and the financial condition of the province. I think that part of it can be safely left with the government.

As for running the libraries on \$3,000 a year, the suggestion is ut-

terly unreasonable. A central staff must be maintained to efficiently manage the undertaking, worn out books must be replaced, new books must be added, the service is still to be extended, annually the books have to be transferred from one branch to another, in addition to giving the librarians in over twenty branches a reasonable amount for their services.

Disparaging reference has also been made in regard to the use of the libraries by school children, that they lose needful sleep and only to read trashy novels. I do not know of any whose health is suffering for this cause, but I do know of a number of young people finding an interest in wholesome books instead of loafing around the roads at night, which is decidedly unwholesome. By the way, I saw a book-mark recently with the words printed on it "And here I fell asleep", and my suggestion is that reading is quite apt to make many young people get more sleep than if it was not available.

About that "most pernicious and detrimental fiction" the Carnegie Libraries have exercised good judgment in the fiction which they receive to carry. The book stores on the average do not, neither do those who sell magazines. During the past three years much good has been done by providing a large amount of good fiction, and thereby reducing the amount of fiction of the "True Story" type, so freely sold at book stores, news stands and country stores. The presence of the public library, run on the principles of the Carnegie Demonstration, greatly reduces the harm done by unscrupulous publishers.

Then there is the impossible suggestion that the well-to-do should support the libraries out of their own pockets. To indulge in a little plain speaking, most of them would not do it. The burden would fall on those who were much less than their small earnings. By far the largest number of those who are most benefited are not able to pay the large amount that would be needed from them if all users had to pay their share, they have no radio, and they are not able to buy many books. A dollar does not go very far in providing a year's reading for a family.

About returning books to the libraries, there has also been a little misunderstanding. It is not necessary to take a book back to the library in two weeks under penalty of a fine. It is only necessary to send word, before the two weeks are up, that you wish the book renewed, and then as long as it is returned any time within the next two weeks, no fine is necessary. Some system such as this is needed in order to prevent books going astray.

It has been said that a number who have taken an active part in the library work are "aliens" and pay less taxes than many others. Whatever measure of truth there is in that has no bearing on the wisdom of the public library. Any who

may find it necessary to conscientiously oppose the libraries should not have to depend on misrepresentation and unfair exaggeration.

I am, Sir, etc.,
REV. T. R. GOUDGE
 Murray Harbor, P.E.I.

HANDBOOK FOR DRINKERS

Sir.—The solicitude of the government for the liquor drinker is marvellous. It is touching. It would be in line with its proposed legislation that the government should prepare and distribute, strictly in the interests of temperance, of course, a Handbook or Guide to Drinkers. This might read somewhat as follows:

"Mr. Drinker, both moderate and immoderate:

"We cannot recommend your buying liquor from a bootlegger. We have our own shops. Could you expect us to recommend competitors? But if you must buy from a bootlegger, then allow us to give you a few words of advice. We are your friends. We have your interests at heart. Therefore read the following instructions carefully. You will see that we are very forgiving. Please remember that to our credit when we come before your bar:

"1. In buying from a bootlegger, if you are seen, ply help you. You are liable to a \$200 to \$500 fine. We would hate to prosecute you for that. We do not say to you, 'Don't be seen'. There are some things we can leave to your own perspicacity.

"2. In buying from a bootlegger there is this further danger. You are probably buying smuggled liquor. You are liable to a \$50 fine for that. That is not our affair however. That is a matter for our friends at Ottawa. We cannot help you if you are so foolish as to be 'caught with the goods on'. You must govern yourself accordingly. Further on, in these instructions, you will see how you can avoid all this. Read on. We will point out to you the better way.

"3. If you have been so foolish as to buy from a bootlegger our next warning to you is to empty the bottle. Do this as quickly as you can. Otherwise, there are obvious risks. As this is written in your interests we will point out these to you. We presume it is not necessary for us to tell you how or where you shall empty the bottle. We are strictly a temperate government and could not very well advise you more definitely as to that. All we can say is, 'Empty the bottle'. You will see there are several reasons why you should do so. You have not only bought from a bootlegger, (Fine No. 1, \$200). You have had in your possession liquor (Fine No. 2, \$50). But even if these could not be proved against you, you are liable to Fine No. 3, \$200, for having possession of liquor obtained illegally. So you are in a bad way. And we want to help you.

"4. Now in emptying the bottle, be careful. If you pour it down the 'red lane', and you are seen,

again we say, 'Pity help you'. You are liable to a fine of ten dollars for 'consuming'. (Fine No. 4, (Section 43a, enacted by our predecessors in virtue, the Saunders government, in 1929). You will therefore use your judgment as to whether or not you shall be seen consuming it. We can only point out to you what the law is.

"5. Now, remember, we are not advising you to drink this liquor. Besides, it is bootleggers' stuff. If you were sick, we might have a cure for you. We will come to that later. We are a strictly temperate government, as you will see.

"But if you are unwise enough to drink, you would be still more unwise not to drink it all. If you leave a little in the bottle, even a 'spoonful', you still have some liquor in your possession, externally. Having strictly temperance principles, we cannot of course allow you to get away with that, if you are caught with any of the 'goods' on the outside of your person. The obvious moral will suggest itself. If the liquor should happen to be safely inside, and if you have not been seen drinking, you are immune, unless you should be so unwise as to become intoxicated and to be seen in a public place intoxicated. As to that we cannot help you.

"Should you however be unable to gulp the liquor fast enough, and should you be seen with any of it still outside your person, well, you are unfortunate. We are however still your friends. We will still help you. As a proof of our friendliness, we will ignore and forget all about that \$200 fine to which you were liable for buying; we will ignore that \$50 fine for which you were liable when you violated the Customs and Inland Revenue laws; we will even go further: Instead of that \$200 fine which might be imposed upon you for having possession of liquor which you unlawfully obtained, we will make you pay a fine of ten dollars only!

"Now, aren't we your friends? Surely you will know how to mark your ballot when our testing day comes.

"Mr. Drinker, there is another method of which we haven't spoken yet. It is the better way; the safer way; may we call it the more patriotic way?

"You have been patronizing a bootlegger. Why do that? Haven't the government got good liquor, better even than the bootlegger's? Besides, the government needs the money, the profit.

"But you will say, what about the law? Wouldn't I be violating the law if I get my drinks that way?

"True for you, my friend. We must always keep that in mind. We cannot advise you or any one to break the law. And the law is very circumspect and careful. If you wish to buy liquor 'under the law', and keep it up, you must be in a position to join the Government's Order of Chronic Hypochondriacs ('hypos' for short, from which we get the terms 'hip-pocket', etc.) In other words, you must be sick, gen-

uinely sick. After you have read this over, see if you have not that tired feeling. It may possibly be accompanied by a dryness of the throat or other symptoms of thirst. "If then you are sick, and this is a matter for your conscience of course, and the doctors, go to your doctor and get a certificate.

"Remember, he must prescribe it genuinely, 'for medicinal use and not as a beverage'.

"If your doctor is cantankerous, and you still think you are sick, tell him if he doesn't prescribe when you have a real need, you will have to get some other family doctor. Give him the name of some other doctor that you think will not be so 'pernickety' and will more readily realize the seriousness of your condition. Probably that will make him see how ill you really are. Granted you obtain a certificate—and remember the law must not be violated in obtaining it,—take it or send it to the vendor, and let nature take its course. We presume you will know how to get better.

"The advantages of this over the bootleggers' variety are fourfold, namely (1) you can leave the stuff in the bottle; (2) you don't need to gulp it, you can drink it more slowly; (3) you get a better brand of bootleg; and last, but not least, (4) you help out the government.

"One general warning, however, we must give you, whether your 'Duggan's Dew of Kirkin'tilloch' be bought from a bootlegger or from the government. Don't, for goodness sake, get drunk. The government and the bootlegger are both opposed to drunkenness. It ruins the customer. Drink it slowly. Get better gradually. Don't be in too big a hurry to get well."

Perhaps if some such instruction were given to drinkers it might result in a little less law-violation. Possibly the vans of the government black stallions might be used for some judicious dispensary to show the government's general benevolence towards liquor drinkers and its methods of promoting temperance.

I am, Sir, etc.,
ADMIRATION

LONDON—(CP) — Government statistics, which state that seven years have been added to the expectation of life since 1911, say London's suburban residents are healthier than the rest of England's people.

