

The Charlottetown Guardian

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No Revision This Year

Word now comes from Ottawa that, owing to the disturbed international situation in Europe, the revision of the Ottawa trade agreements, scheduled for next summer, may be deferred for another year.

These intra-Empire trade agreements, signed at Ottawa in the summer of 1932, were entered into for a five year period and will therefore be effective till 1937.

The reciprocity treaty between Canada and the United States, says the Sydney Post-Record (Independent), has unquestionably lessened the value of the Ottawa agreements to Great Britain and the other Dominions.

For Canada, as well as her provinces, the only wise plan for securing a reduction in interest charges is the systematic and orderly one of gradually refunding existing obligations at lower interest rates, as and when opportunities arise, without repudiation either of principal or interest and without calling, or insisting upon the exchange of, existing securities except in strict conformity with contract provisions.

The British Way

Where but in old England could the following incident have taken place: On March 27 a group of die-hard Jacobites marched to Trafalgar Square and there proclaimed Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria rightful king of Great Britain.

Britain has no Statue of Liberty, holding aloft the torch of Freedom and equal rights to all. But where is the spirit of Democracy so safely enshrined, so much a part of the national life?

The Radio Situation

Reference has been made in these columns to the probable line of policy which Parliament will be asked to endorse in the matter of radio broadcasting. The finding of the Liberal majority of the parliamentary committee on this subject is, according to informed Ottawa observers, pretty well cut and dried.

Editorial Notes

Now drunken drivers will lose their licenses for a year. But will this be mandatory, or at the discretion of the politicians?

The Supreme Court of Quebec gave judgment in 13 appeal cases the other day, and it is noteworthy that only three were maintained—the fifth, seventh and thirteenth.

After all the controversy over alcohol out comes our doctors with the discovery that "shots" of that liquid is a cure for pneumonia and kindred ailments. But alcoholism usually develops pneumonia.

Just to what extent did consideration for the devotion of Holy Week enter into the plans of the Government to adjourn till after Easter? And why lay claim to a virtue when really it was a necessity?

Premier HEBURN has done the expected. He has decided not to retire on the ground that to do so "would split the party in two."

A New York newspaperman went all the way to Europe to discover that HITLER'S moustache "is a bright red set in peaches and cream complexion," though it photographs black.

Here is the issue between the Dominion and Alberta as set forth by Finance Minister DUNNING: Premier ABERHART insists he will do nothing that will take away from Alberta the sole control of its borrowings.

There are supposed to be 11,000,000 people in Canada. Allowing an average of five to a family, that represents 2,200,000 breadwinners. Prime Minister KING asks for a vote of \$50,000,000, and at least another \$50,000,000 from the provinces and municipalities for the unemployed.

Wonder if Mayor TURNER will be as refreshingly outright as the Mayor of LACHINE. "What happened at the Mayors' Conference at Ottawa? A member put this question at a meeting of the Metropolitan Commission of Montreal.

Power to convert every dollar of Alberta's present \$160,000,000 debt into perpetual securities, on which the principal need never be paid, is contained in the Social Credit Government's compulsory refunding bill.

The press gallery in the Ontario legislature has a healthful deflationary effect upon members of the legislature. Col. W. H. PRICE admitted to Parkdale Conservatives. While that function was exercised throughout the session, it reached its peak at the annual press gallery dinner—when the mirror (perhaps a wavy one) was held up to Nature.

Perhaps the question raised by Mr. Matthew P. Looney's letter as to whether hot water freezes quicker than cold may be somewhat elucidated—complicated—by a tall story current in the Klonkond region. During the gold rush it is said, a prospector lately come to Alaska heated some water for shaving, but it got too hot. He set the bucket outside to cool. A moment later when he brought it in—at least the story goes—the water was frozen solid and the ice was still warm.—Letter to Christian Science Monitor.

How desperate Italy's foreign-exchange problem has become was disclosed in a brief despatch from Rome under date of March 21, indicating that Italy was proposing a currency to which Germany has been forced by its recent comparative commercial isolation. Tourists in Italy in the future according to this dispatch, will be able to obtain lire at a discount. In other words, in order to obtain the foreign currencies that may be used to import needed materials from abroad Italy is preparing to make a special rate on lire to those spending the proceeds within its borders.—New York Herald-Tribune.

Notes by the Way

Governor James M. Curley of Massachusetts evidently takes a long view of life. He has taken out an insurance policy the accumulated proceeds to be left to the poor of Boston, 125 years after the death of his last surviving child.

Soviet Russia has ordered excavators to dig 10 per cent faster, bricklayers to lay 15 per cent more bricks, carpenters to saw 35 per cent more planks, and workers engaged in attaching fixtures to speed up 65 per cent. There's no loafing, even in the Hammer-and-Sickle Utopia.—Windsor Star.

Public opinion esteems the fact—and who will dare to affirm the contrary?—That France, with its forty-two million inhabitants, cannot pretend to face a German-Italian coalition mustering more than one hundred million men and women and more than ten million bayonets. Meantime, Italian friendship at least secures neutrality in the Alps; the possibility of utilizing the garrisons and the armament of that region; tranquility in North Africa; the ready and easy transportation of French troops stationed in Algeria, in Morocco, and in Syria. The more that France spreads in the Mediterranean, the more Italy occupies a sort of central position in the breast of that French Empire. For the average Frenchman, then, her enemy combined with German hostility, would be a formidable and even alarming contingency.—Quarterly Review.

The most unpatric thing that has happened in Italy in a long time, is the way the stock market slumped after Mussolini's booming announcement of putting industry under the regulation of the state. Evidently just as soon as the citizens got through cheering Il Duce's speech they ran to a telephone and called their brokers; in other words, cheered long and sold short.—Christian Science Monitor.

The American farmer has usually judged the hawk as the American plumed bird. The Indian—the only good one—is dead. But after examining the stomachs of 5,185 hawks and eagles the biological survey has come to the conclusion that at least six out of 17 species are genuine friends of man. The American eagle, however, gets only a 50-50 rating. Old Baldy does about as much good as he does harm to the farmer, eats just about enough rodents to pay for his raids on the chickens. The golden eagle is rated as a pal. Gold-standard folks will say "I told you so." The sparrow hawk, it seems, does not eat sparrows, but, since he dotes on grasshoppers, all can be forgiven. Pigeon hawks, the biological survey finds, can be tolerated in small numbers.—Chicago Daily News.

We are told there is more newsprint being produced in Canada than ever before. Nickel exports are larger than at any time since the war and gold production is at peak levels. A little more of that kind of thing and Old Man Depression will be back against the ropes.—Peterborough Examiner.

Experts in the science of aerodynamics say that with the present design of wings airplanes can do more than 575 miles an hour. The fastest transatlantic flights to date have averaged 221 miles an hour. It is going to be a long time then, before an aviator can hope to circle the globe in 24 hours even in the high latitude of our Canadian boundary line, where the distance round the earth is about 15,000 miles. But if a speed of 500 to 800 miles once becomes practicable it won't be long before some venture-capitalist attempts to take off with the sun some fine morning and keep pace with it back to the place of beginning.—Boston Transcript.

We would not amount to much in this world if we did not dream, did we not of imagine—and look forward, having great expectations. None of us ever attain everything we look forward to gaining. Few of us come any where near the goal. But it's the striving, the objective, the determination to reach the heights that spur us on and which gives us the measure of success that we achieve.—The fortunate thing for us all is that most of us have wants. We know that only a few of them will be realized, but each one that is unfolded to us, makes us just that much happier over what we have done.

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The Poet's Corner

FROM "THE CHRISTIAN YEAR"

"They gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but He received it not."—St. Mark, xv, 23. "Fill high the bowl, and spice it well, and pour The dew obdurate; for the Cross is sharp, and He is tenderer than a lamb."

"He wept by Lazarus' grave— how will He bear This bed of anguish? and His pale weak form Is worn with many a watch Of sorrow and unrest."

"His sweat last night was as great drops of blood, And the sad burthen press'd Him so to earth, The very torturers paus'd To help Him on His way."

"Fill high the bowl, benumb His aching sense With medic'd sleep."—O awful in Thy woe! The parching thirst of death Is on Thee, and Thou triest

The slumbrous potion bland, and wilt not drink; Not sullen, nor in scorn, like haughty man With suicidal hand Putting his solace by:

But as at first Thine all-pervading look Saw from Thy Father's bosom to th' abyss, Measuring in calm presage The infinite descent;

So to the end, though now of mortal pangs Made heir, and emptied of Thy heart, gave woe, With unwept eye Thou meetest all the storm.

Thou wilt feel all, that Thou mayst pity all; And rather wouldst Thou wrestle with strong pain, Than overcloud Thy soul So close in agony,

Or lose one glimpse of Heaven before the time. O most entire and perfect sacrifice, Renewed in every pulse That on the tedious Cross.

Told the long hours of death, as, one by one, The life-strings of that tender heart gave way; Even sinners, taught by Thee, Look Sorrow in the face,

And bid her freely welcome, unbegull'd By false kind solaces, and spells of earth;— And yet not all unsooth'd; For when was Joy so dear.

As the deep call that breath'd, "Father, forgive," Or, "Be with Me in Paradise to-day?" And, though the strife be sore, Yet in His parting breath

Love Masters Agony; the soul that seem'd Forsaken, feels her present God again, And in her Father's arms Contented dies away. —John Keble.

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.

THE B. N. A. ACT PROPOSALS

Sir,—The Premier has spoken upon the subject of the Dominion-Provincial Conference with regard to the B. N. A. Act and has said very little which was not known before he spoke.

Conferences were held. The subject of amending the Act was discussed, proposals were drafted, considered, and recommended for further drafting. The Premier is delightfully vague about everything. No decision was reached, he states. Yet he admits "the subconference tentatively agreed on a form of procedure to be followed in securing further amendments to the British North America Act." What these are, however, the public is entitled to guess. It was all "confidential" the Premier states, "the result" only of the deliberations should be made public.

But it is these results the people are interested in, and have a right to know. Other Attorneys-General are not so close-mouthed. Mr. Perrault, for instance, the Attorney-General of Quebec, lets it be known quite definitely the proposal is "to revoke the Imperial Parliament's right to amend the Canadian Constitution and to endow the Parliament at Ottawa with this power."

Mr. Campbell seeks to give the impression that this does not mean "scrapping the British North America Act as a piece of imperial legislation." Mr. Campbell says as to the proposals made that the Dominion Government "is not seeking to force anything upon the province in this respect." Mr. McNair, the Attorney-General of New Brunswick, says "At the Dominion-Provincial Conference at Ottawa last December an effort was made to obtain from the provinces their consent that the Parliament of the Dominion be given power to amend the British North America Act."

Who is right as to "scrapping the B. N. A. Act as a piece of imperial legislation?" Is it to remain an Imperial Act to be amended, when necessary, in London, or is the Canadian Parliament to be given the power to amend? Mr. Campbell should be more explicit or more accurate. If the proposal is that power is to be given the Canadian Parliament to amend the Constitution, what are the conditions upon which such amendments shall be made? Must there be consent of all the

"The Haberdashery" Dress up For EASTER. Hyde Park Suits Finer Than Ever. Spring Toppers. Dacks Shoes \$9.50. Henderson & Cudmore MEN'S WEAR. Includes images of suits and a man in a suit.

vinces, or of two-thirds of the provinces or of a mere majority of the provinces? Again the public is left to guess.

Mr. Perrault mentions a majority, but also speaks of unanimous consent, but the published reports of his speech are too meagre to be definite. Mr. McNair refers to "the intention to give to the Parliament of the Dominion power to invade the legislative field of the Provincial Legislature, provided two-thirds of the provinces agree." This is clear and definite. Mr. McNair does not withhold the information as being of a confidential nature. Apparently the "results" of the discussions and the matters tentatively agreed to," were intended to be made known. Yet Mr. Campbell is withholding them. The public have a right to know.

Mr. Campbell is in a very peculiar position. He is leader in a House which is not representative of all classes of the people. Nearly half the population have no representative whatever in the House. They cannot speak; their wishes cannot be advocated; their views cannot be expressed; they have no voice whatever in the Legislature. In fact, the carrying on of its functions by the Legislature without any representative whatever from 42 percent of the electorate, is a violation of the spirit of responsible government. When responsible government was asked for, many years ago, it was sought as a guarantee that the well-entitled wishes and interests of the people would on all occasions be faithfully represented and advocated. It was intended that the Legislature should be an "image and transcript of the British Constitution and should be representative of all classes of the people." Today, and for the next five years, no sound may be heard within the walls of the Legislative Chamber either in protest, or in warning from one that the population no matter what may be the course of action contemplated. It behooves the Premier to be frank. He cannot be criticized in the House, nor can any questions be asked of him by those who are unrepresented. The very plenitude of the Premier's power should make him careful. He should err on the side of caution. He should also be superlatively frank. No excretion will be too great if in his present position of absolutism he irretrievably sacrifices rights in his sole keeping.

The matter admittedly is grave. The Premier admits that. Yet he says, "It doesn't appear to me to be of a great deal of importance whether amendments to the British North America Act are made in London or in Ottawa."

Attorney-General McNair thinks differently. He says "Under the new scheme New Brunswick would lose her status, enjoyed since her foundation in 1784, as a province of Great Britain, and would become simply a territorial division of Canada."

Attorney-General Perrault asks, "Is it necessary?" He refers to confederation as a contract "between majority and minority, certain rights and creeds," giving certain rights of which "no power to amend should be conceded."

Is it not possible Mr. Campbell may not understand fully the gravity and the seriousness of the problem? He may be disregarding or minimizing rights of the Prov-

ince and of its legislature of which by his position he is constituted the guardian. The subject will be dealt with further.

I am, Sir, etc., PRO PATRIA.

BOUNTIES

Sir,—Were it not for the fact that I was misquoted in the letter of "Oldtimer" I would hardly feel it necessary to answer his letter. I did not criticise the policy of our Government in regard to the bounty on skunks. Nor did I say they were the chief food of the horned owl. When only the bill of the owl is sent in to claim the bounty it probably would be hard to tell just what its food consisted of. But I know, of course, that oftentimes little boxes, containing the heads of all species, as well as live birds are sent in.

A few weeks ago I happened to be in the office where the bounty is paid, and I was in a little box with one of the farmers friends blinking and seeming to ask if I could not do something for him. I said to the lady in charge, "What are you going to do with that poor fellow?" "Kill him," was her exact reply. "Its alive, kill it!" is the title of a little pamphlet given out by our friends to the South, which gives the attitude of a certain class of people there. It is well worth reading.

A few years ago in a certain school on this Island a bird flew in through an open window. The children's attention was attracted to it at once. In its efforts to escape it became imprisoned between the iron sashes. The teacher, a lady, if you could call her such, caught it, went to her hat, coolly pulled out a pin, struck it behind the bird's eye, when it fell limp in her hands. The impression that incident made on some, at least of the children present will never be blotted out, and the only thing she is remembered by "Its alive, kill it."

I wonder how and who killed that owl, as well as scores of others? It must be a noble "sportsman." "Oldtimer" tells why the bounty was put on owls. To protect the Hungarian partridge? But why "protect" them? Why so? Two or three "Oldtimers" can kill them. A strange process of reasoning. "Protect them to kill them."

Personally, I must say I enjoy seeing them around and for the past several winters have fed them regularly and protected them as requested by one of the importers through the pages of the press. Of course just so he and a few others could "kill" them, themselves. But I am compelled to say that all farmers are not so anxious to have them around, especially those who stack grain out over winter, on account of the holes they burrow in the stacks to get down to the grain, thereby letting the rain and snow in and so destroying quantities of grain.

A friend of mine in Manitoba says they have increased and drive the native birds out to such an extent that they had to put a bounty on them in his section at least, if not in the whole Province. But the most all bounty have, it failed to have the desired effect and is now removed. There is no closed season on them, and they are re-

garded as one of their worst pests, and as such are regarded by numbers of our farmers in this province, and they have cost us hundreds of dollars already in bounties on Owls that should have been saved to say nothing of the damage done to farm crops.

"Oldtimer" quotes some "facts" supplied by the Special Game Officer R.C.M.P. If they are like some of his recent reports they will need to be revised. However one "fact" he quoted we believe to be true. The Hungarians do not turn white in winter. The snowy owls are all shot anyhow, so why have a bounty on them?

"Sportsman" and "Farmer" say the great horned owl is outlawed by all game authorities and ornithologists in Canada and the U.S.A. The U.S.A. Dept. of Agriculture Circular 61 Biological Survey, quoting what they claim to be the most noted authority in America says: "It is to be regretted that the members of our legislative committees who draft our laws are not better acquainted with the life history of our raptorial birds. That the beneficial Hawks and Owls will be eventually protected then is not the slightest doubt."

Already the leading agricultural papers and sportsman's journals are deprecating the indiscriminate slaughter of those useful birds, and after giving a list of fobbs of horned owls taken from the large number of stomachs examined, which include rabbits, four species of rats, gophers, chipmunks, four species of mice, four species of squirrels, one muskrat, two species of shrens, and besides those mammals and birds grasshoppers, beetles, crawfish, scorpions are also taken to say nothing of skunks, finishes up by saying: "The horned owl, and if farmers did not allow their chickens to roost on trees, the principal damage done by this bird would be prevented."

"Oldtimer" says he advocates protection on our small owls. Is he aware that countless numbers of them are shot, trapped and killed with sticks, all in the hope of claiming the bounty? I dare say that if he would have a look into the bounty office most any day, he could see some, perhaps "stuffed," but the large numbers as "I know for the truth" only getting as fat as the furnace, near the bounty table but "mum" is the word about them.

Now, Sir, I have no use to grind or money to make by having them "shot on sight." "Oldtimer" quotes Mr. J. D. Jenkins. Mr. Jenkins said not long ago: "The lamentable feature of this bounty is the large numbers of small owls coming in. And he also said to myself over a year ago, just after showing me specimens of the rare hawk owl. 'There has been enough owls shot now.' The rest of the conversation I will quote in my next letter if I have to reply.

Now, Sir, I have tried to place this matter squarely, and if after careful investigation and hearing both sides of the matter by competent recognized authorities, our authorities decide to still continue the bounty, why we will have to make the best of it. But I think we

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