

The Charlottetown Guardian

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Easter tide

The Easter anniversary is rightfully regarded with special reverence by the Christian world, commemorating as it does the resurrection of our Saviour, a fact of such importance to mankind that all other facts are dwarfed to comparative insignificance.

From the early days of Christianity the Easter festival has been observed with thank-offerings and hymns of praise. No finer expression of this prevailing sentiment is to be found in English literature than in the following seldom-quoted poem by GERARD HOPKINS, which breathes the very spirit of the season:

Break the box and shed the nard; Stop not now to count the cost; Hither bring pearl, opal, sard; Reck not what the poor have lost; Upon Christ throw them all away; Know ye, this is Easter Day.

Build His church and deck His shrine. Empty though it be on earth; Ye have kept your choicest wine— Let it flow for heavenly mirth; Pluck the harp and breathe the horn; Know ye not 'tis Easter morn?

Gather gladness from the skies; Take a lesson from the ground; Flowers do ope their heavenward eyes And a Spring-time joy have found; Earth throws Winter's robes away, Decks herself for Easter Day.

Beauty now for ashes wear, Perfumes for the garb of woe, Chaplets for dishevelled hair, Danes for sad footstep slow; Open wide your hearts that they Let in joy this Easter Day.

Seek God's house in happy throng; Crowded let His table be; Mingle praises, prayer and song, Singing to the Trinity. Henceforth let your souls alway Make each morn an Easter Day.

Brewery Stallion Arrives

It is to be hoped that when the House meets next week a full and frank explanation of the Government's brewery stallion deal will be made, either by Premier CAMPBELL or the Minister of Agriculture. The animal has now reached the Province, and will remain for the season in Mr. DENNIS' district, at O'Leary. This horse is one of several animals, purchased and loaned out on easy terms by the brewery interests for the purpose of advertising their wares.

It will be recalled that about the time this deal was made, a change in the system of issuing liquor prescriptions was instituted. Doctors, instead of receiving fifty blank prescriptions per month, were given fifty prescriptions for beer and fifteen for hard liquor. This would have a tendency greatly to increase the sale of beer for so-called medicinal purposes, and must have been highly gratifying to the brewery interests.

Perhaps—falling an explanation from the Premier or the Agricultural Minister—Hon. Mr. LePAGE, leading Prohibitionist in the House, will undertake to explain what this brewery deal is all about.

With whiskey interests dominating the KING Government's trade policy at Ottawa, and brewery interests philanthropically contributing to the CAMPBELL Government's horse-breeding policy in this Province, explanations of some kind are surely in order.

The Easter Recess

Approximately 240 members of the House of Commons, says an Ottawa correspondent, are in the mood to take off their hats and do reverent homage to a calendar, which, by thoughtfully providing for an annual Easter, secures Parliament a 12-day holiday, which would not be justified on any other basis, least of all on the plea that the labors of the past eight weeks have been so herculean as to make a period of rest and recuperation imperative.

In fact, an uneasy recognition of this latter truth is the only fly in the Easter vacation ointment, so far as the federal statesmen are concerned. The majority of them are planning to spend the period in their ridings, and they are unable to make up their minds as to what answer to return when their constituents ask them the inevitable question: "What have you done in the session so far?" Of course, they might tell the truth, but political hari-kari has not yet become popular on Parliament Hill. Besides, what would it avail the country if a few frank ruralites admitted that so far they have done little beyond "ting used to steam heat, inside plumbing, and acquiring a little polish and savoir faire from the social hostess whom the Government has hired to coach them?"

The reality of the situation is that the contingent of good men and true who carried the

hopes of an optimistic electorate with them to Ottawa some months ago have been given an opportunity so far of demonstrating only their ability in the rather doubtful art of seat-warming. Their one really major achievement has been the ratification of the United States trade treaty. In this matter, however, they had exactly the same amount of discretion as is possessed by a rubber stamp. The treaty was already effective before they passed it, and they did not have the power to add or detract a single word!

Editorial Notes

Easter, the Queen of Feasts.

MUSSOLINI, having become intoxicated with the success of his troops in Ethiopia, now has the courage of the mouse who dared the cat.

Notwithstanding the set-back in the weather, the teachers had a good time while at Convention.

Easter music and Resurrection sermons will characterize tomorrow's Church services—not forgetting spring millinery and dresses.

Japan, hitherto as Fascist as Germany or Italy, is taking a leaf out of Soviet's book in starting to nationalize its aviation, automobile and oil industries.

Perhaps it is just as well our legislative members squabble in caucus, instead of making public exhibition of themselves as they do in Ontario.

Farm implements and machinery imported in February were valued at \$464,046 compared with \$386,993 last year. The amount from the United States was \$425,108 and from the United Kingdom \$15,246. Imports of cream separators and parts amounted to \$23,160 of which \$17,916 came from Sweden.

All this talk about loans, borrowings, deflations and defaults is having an unanticipated effect upon the rising generation. A nine-year-old boy of Red Deer, Alta., (made famous by the representation in parliament for many years by Dr. CLARK) is the proud possessor of a savings bank account totalling some 5,000 cents. His name is RONALD MCKINNON. Having heard that Premier ABERHART was having a hard time to get that two-and-a-half million dollars his sympathy was enlisted so to help out the Premier he wrote out and sent him a "cheque" for \$3,000,000.

The Gaspé forests, on the North Shore of the St. Lawrence are faced with a terrible pest menace, and the invasion threatens to extend itself to such formidable proportions as to recall the epidemic between 1885 and 1900 which so terribly ravaged tree life in Quebec and in some of the bordering States of the Union. This is the warning which Mr. G. C. PICHE, chief of the Quebec Forestry Service gives in a report to Hon. HONORE MERCIER, Minister of Lands and Forests. It will take still another 25 years before the effects of the 1885-1900 epidemic are removed, notes Mr. PICHE, dealing with the destruction to larch and spruce trees especially. He notes also that this epidemic of sinister insect life destroyed species of trees which have not yet re-appeared in the province.

The assurance given by Mr. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN in the House of Commons that the Government did not contemplate returning German mandated colonies to the Fatherland was intended more to placate the natives of these colonies than the British people themselves. The London Times Tanganyika correspondent said the Germans there had spread the report that the colonies were to be returned after March, and the average native has little desire for return to German rule, under which matters like holding the country in trust for its inhabitants would receive scant consideration. It has been common property for some time that certain Germans have received appointments to positions in Tanganyika as district commissioners similar to minor Nazi officials in their own country. Their words are law and woe unto the unfortunate man or woman who runs counter to their wishes, as the natives have found to their cost.

At a complimentary banquet on his retirement to Dr. D. BRUCE MACDONALD, headmaster of St. Andrews College, Toronto, 1900-1935, the Hon. R. B. BENNETT, referred to the indifference, callousness, and lack of initiative characteristic of many of the present generation, one of the consequences of the War. "We are looking out on strange philosophies," he said, "of which at the beginning of the century we did not dream. In times like this it is well that we have men of Mr. MACDONALD's type to guide the young boys of our country. As long as Canada has schools like St. Andrew's and headmasters like Dr. MACDONALD, Canadians need never fear that the spiritual life of the country will die." Senator MEIGHEN was present but did not speak. Others who attended the dinner were Lieutenant-Governor BRUCE, Sir WILLIAM MULOCK, Sir JOSEPH FLAVELLE, Chief Justice ROSS, and President CODY of the University of Toronto, a former Classics master of Dr. MACDONALD.

"JUBAL was the greatest of all earthly musicians," Archdeacon GOWER-REES, Montreal, claims. "You will remember he is mentioned in Genesis as the father of all musicians. He was the man who first heard melody when he plucked his bow string and listened to the wind in the trees. He who develops is less than he who invents." The archdeacon also draws attention to the tremendous popularity of music. MILTON's words, he declares, were not known as well as BRETHOVEN's melody. WAGNER's music was known to a greater number of people than SHAKESPEARE's verse. "Music," he maintains, "is a universal language. It is man's response to something that lives already in Nature herself." Hence the popularity of Easter music in the churches.

Notes by the Way

The more one examines it, the more grotesque is the idea that the British fleet could be driven out of the Mediterranean by Italian aircraft. I have heard these stories of the hundred desperadoes who are prepared to commit suicide and to sink the Super-Dreadnoughts. We have some pretty desperate fliers in the naval air arm, and if they thought it was a question of our fleet being driven out of the Mediterranean I think they would give a good account of themselves in the air. The total strength of the Italian Air Force, including school machines, is 1,861, according to the last published figures. The number of our first-line machines alone, not counting instructional and reserve machines, is approaching 1,330—Lord Strathgaird, quoted in Public Opinion (London).

Life is not shapeless or confused. If it seems to be confused, it is only because we are standing too close to it and are following too faithfully the headlines of the morning's paper, the art, the art, the reality, has meaning and shape and philosophy. If our years were not so cruelly numbered we could find that meaning even from scores of years of newspapers, just as at the end of an old man may see the shape of his own particular life, which he did not see in youth or in the activity of his maturity. It is the business of the novelist to sense and see that shape which others do not see, and by choice and skill in the use of the materials of his art—and his materials are forever people and only people—make it come clear as any bronze or music to be seen and to be heard.—Pearl S. Buck in Spring Yale Review.

John Masfield, England's poet laureate, has attracted attention in England's literary circles by his reply to queries as to whether or not he would write an ode for the coronation of King Edward VIII. He feels that it would not be right to hammer out a poem on order. On the occasion of birthday anniversaries for kings in the past, other laureates have written poems every year. Few, if any, of these poems have attained anything more than passing attention. With the soul of the true poet, Mr. Masfield does not believe in forcing his Muse. If he does write a coronation ode it will be one of excellence.

Professional penologists frequently dismiss advocates of a general house-cleaning for prisons as being either too severe or too sentimental. They may be—probably are—correct. Still, within a few days the public has learned that one prisoner, convicted of a cruel and premeditated crime, had a private bath and very obviously a large amount of liberty, and that the inmates of another penitentiary had such easy and uncontrolled access to its photographic and engraving laboratory that they used it as a workshop for making counterfeit \$10 bills. Furthermore, they also succeeded in smuggling the contents of the prison. Can it be that some prison officials are more sentimental than the sentimentalists?—Christian Science Monitor.

Having noted that for the third successive year Great Britain ends a fiscal year with a real surplus, that is the Government took in more than it paid out, the New York Times remarks: "Her record at the very least establishes one necessary conclusion: It is not necessary for a Government to spend furiously during a depression to pull the country out."

So far, the League of Nations has prevented war. And what a deal has been said in that one sentence! Hot heads have been kept to words. Sane men have been given time to make their suggestions heard. Little by little the people get to hear of the problems and are seeking the great thing the world needs—a just and lasting peace. Nations are allowed to say the things they will and have found relief by so doing. All is not well with the nations, but they are a great deal better than they were in 1914 when precipitate action plunged the race into war. Governments work out their plans through a series of approximations. Rome was not built in a day. Peace is a growth—a gradual achievement.—Exchange.

Hitler has chosen not to wait for a judicial settlement of the status of the new treaty. Again, as in the case of reparations and rearmament, Germany has resorted to unilateral action in plain disregard of existing commitments. No one can mistake the significance of this latest move. For months Hitler has apparently been hesitating between two policies. One was to attempt to strengthen German relations with Great Britain by refraining from any action which might still further jeopardize the peace of Europe during the critical situation created by Italy's invasion of their plans. The other was to use this critical period for a bold stroke on another front. He has now chosen the second of these alternatives, and his action adds to the grave problems with which the European democracies are confronted.—New York Times.

People who have wondered why they of all the accidents along a certain street should be singled out for friendly calls on the part of transients and beggars need no longer seek an explanation. If they suspected the circulation of a species of sucker-let amongst the wayfarer gentry, they are not mistaken, for a beggar who turned up in magistrate's court at London, Ont., a few days ago was found to be in possession of a list of house numbers on five streets in that city and opposite six of the house numbers there was an "X" indicating that there were good pickings at those places. The beggar in question said that he had been given the list by another transient in Oshawa and admitted that he had made good use of it.—Brookville Recorder and Times.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Bortea, M.D. PREVENTING SPINAL CURVATURE

One of the difficulties school medical examiners meet is the refusal of some parents to have their child stripped to the waist. They are usually willing to have the undershirt opened in front or have it pulled down sufficiently for the examiner to listen to the heart, and, as best can be, the lungs also.

However, the spine, the very backbone of the youngster cannot be examined unless the clothing is removed to the waist, and many "curved" spines are overlooked.

When we remember that more girls than boys develop curvature of the spine, mothers should be glad of the opportunity of finding whether or not the spine is curved, because a curve during the school age can usually be corrected by exercise and stretching, whereas if left till well into the teens, the correction may mean weeks or months in bed on a frame, or even an operation.

Mothers should think what it will mean to the child's and their own happiness or peace of mind, if they refuse permission to the school medical examiner or well-qualified nurse to make an examination of the back.

What happens in spinal curvature is that there is first a slight curve in the spine and then to overcome this and bring the spine as straight as possible to maintain balance, another curve occurs. By straightening the first or original curve the second curve straightens itself.

The usual treatment in early cases is to try to straighten the spine by hanging by the neck from any simple apparatus which fits around the chin and back of the head. Any youngster can do this the first time and can hang for many minutes after a few weeks' treatment. Some start with their feet on a chair or the floor and simply lift their feet up by bending the knees.

A second step or other method is to have the youngster hang on two rings, one hand on each ring, with one ring higher than the other so that the spine is brought into a straight line. Hanging 8 to 10 times for about a half minute or more morning and evening is necessary.

This brings the spine straight. To hold it straight have the youngster lie on abdomen and try and bring head and heels together with knees straight, the arms being adjusted (right up beside head and left down by body or vice versa) to bring spine into a straight line. This should be done six to twelve times, then a short rest and six to twelve more times, morning and evening.

The Poet's Corner

EASTER EVE
"From 'The Christian Year'"
At length the worst is o'er, and
Thou art laid
Deep in Thy darkness bed;
All still and cold beneath yon
distant stone
Thy sacred form is gone;
Around those lips where power and
mercy hung,
The dew of death have clung;
The dull earth o'er Thee, and Thy
foes around,
Thou sleepest a silent corpse, in fun-
eral tones wound

Sleep'st Thou indeed? or is Thy
spirit fled,
At large among the dead?
Whether in Eden bowers Thy wel-
come voice
Wake Abraham to rejoice,
Or in some drearier scene Thine eye
controls
The thronging band of souls;
That, as Thy blood won earth,
Thine agony
Might, set the shadows realm from
sin and sorrow free.

Where'er Thou roam'st, one happy
soul we know,
Seen at Thy side in woe,
Waits on Thy triumph—even as all
the blest
With him and Thee shall rest,
Each on his cross, by Thee we hand
a while,
Watching Thy patient smile,
Till we have learn'd to say, "Tis
justly done."
Only in glory Lord, Thy sinful ser-
vant own."

O come that day, when in this rest-
less heart
Earth shall resign her part,
When in the grave with Thee my
limbs shall rest,
My soul with Thee be blest!
But stay, presumptions—Christ,
with thee abide
In the rock's dreary sides;
He from the stone will wring celest-
rial dew
If but the prisoner's heart be faith-
ful found and true.

—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.

DON'T LIKE THE COURTS

Sir—The government can't trust our courts or judges. The barbarian Hitler form of dictatorship is more to their taste and less risky. And so in one law the right of appeal, excepting from Hitler to Hitler, is denied. Other laws are on the agenda, and how many of these will be similarly excluded from the courts of justice, is as yet uncertain.

Dr. MacDonald, during the election campaign, was pilloried by the Liberal organ for saying, "There are men in this contest so crooked that they couldn't hide behind a corkcreek." There is a suspicious flavor to that fear that will not trust the King's Judges as between his ministers and his subjects. It is gratifying, even in the solid thirty, to find a few of sufficient manhood and fair play to denounce the measure as a prelude to corrupt party favoritism.

I am, Sir, etc.

CITY OWNERSHIP

Sir—Mr. Whear is to be commended for his advocacy of city ownership of light and power. If he would reduce the volume of argument to pointed concrete facts, the shorter letters would be more effective.

Even without his big array of exposures it is too evident that we are bled without mercy by the foreign octopus. I can at any time produce an account, from an inland Massachusetts city, where coal is \$13 to \$16 per ton, which includes gas supply for cooking and bathroom heating, and a more extensive electric current than I use in my home, the cost of both services less than I am mulcted for the electric alone.

Moreover this foreign controlled company assume rights not authorized by their charter, which neither the legislature nor any common-sense business body would sanction. The federal and provincial governments cannot float loans on the people without act of parliament. They cannot make them compulsory, nor without interest paid semi-annually, nor do they force those loans upon citizens to distress their financial ability.

The Maritime Electric Co. arrogate this power above governments, to force individual loans upon citizens, without security (the bondholders having first lien), and practically without interest, their shadow interest being only paid on final surrender of certificate, which may not be for fifty years in the future, after the holder and all concerned are mouldering in the grave.

This loan is alleged to be security for payment of tax. It is unnecessary, for no business in the province has a more powerful debt collection system. No one can do without light. They can disconnect a day after default, and the defaulter must pay up, or be shut out.

Let a strong and immediate push be made to end this imposition. Owning our own plant we would get our light and power at cost. Instead of sending profits away to pay the losses on the company's outside "lemons" they would revert to the pockets of our own people, and instead of being dominated by the Stars and Stripes, citizens of our own community would as in years gone by be at the helm.

I am, Sir, etc.

CONSUMER

INVADING PROVINCIAL RIGHTS
Sir—In his address delivered in the legislature a few days ago on the subject of certain proposals respecting the B. N. A. Act the Premier states "at the present time it seems to be the provinces which are most urgent for a change in constitutional relationship." The Premier further states, "The Dominion Government has been gradually encroaching upon provincial rights in many directions." He then refers to Privy Council decisions as "inclined to lean in favor of centralization, in favour of the validity of Dominion legislation as against that of the provinces," and adds "a great deal of the legislation which is an our statute book might appear to be just a little shaky if it were scrutinized in the cool light of judicial decision."

Whatever may be the merits of any scheme which may be afoot with regard to the B. N. A. Act, it is not desirable that we approach the consideration of that scheme (when brought to light) under any misapprehension as to the present position of the Province or the powers of its legislature.

Mr. Campbell gives an entirely wrong impression when he suggests that the Provinces need an extension of their legislative jurisdiction and that they are asking for this change in the B. N. A. Act and its status because provincial legislation has been found "shaky." It is the legislation of the Parliament of Canada that has been found "shaky" in so many instances and in fact quite unconstitutional. In brief, the trend of Privy Council decisions has been largely in favour of the powers of the provinces to legislate upon the subjects considered by the Courts and against the Dominion's right to legislate upon those subjects. Not only has the Dominion been usurping provincial legislative functions, as Mr. Campbell admits, but such usurpations have many times been declared illegal or ultra vires. In short, it is not the Provinces which are so much in need of an extension of their legislative powers as the Dominion.

There have been many decisions

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of the Courts with regard to the respective fields of legislative jurisdiction, and a general review would be entirely too extensive. Reference to a few instances may be made in order to show the trend only. It may also be useful to show the need of a change in the Act. The method that should be adopted in making future changes, whether at Ottawa or in London, will be referred to later on.

During the war, emergencies arose. The War Measures Act 1914 was passed. This gave very broad powers of legislation through Orders in Council. Other special wartime legislation was passed and a very great invasion of the provincial field of legislation necessarily took place. This was justified under the national emergency. It was during this period that the Dominion invaded what had previously been regarded as a provincial field of taxation, namely income. A direct tax upon income was levied by the Dominion. This was quite obviously necessary at the time but was probably never intended by the Dominion. Even though the Dominion had been given power by the B. N. A. Act to "raise money by any mode or system of taxation," it will be remembered that the Provinces have only the right of "direct taxation within the province." Income tax is a species of direct taxation. This two, and sometimes three, taxes are imposed in respect of the same income: (1) Dominion, (2) Provincial, and sometimes (3) Municipal or Civic. This Dominion tax did not cease when the war was over. It still remains. The provinces were first in the field. P. E. I. has imposed an income tax since 1884, forty-two years ago. This invasion of the field by the Dominion has naturally been to the disadvantage of the Province. They cannot increase their revenue from that source beyond a certain limit by reason of the existence of this additional tax payable to the Dominion. There are limits to what the tax-payer can pay. The Provinces have thus lost a very substantial potential source of revenue through the duplication by the Dominion of this Provincial direct tax. The Provinces cannot collect what is known as an indirect tax. The Dominion can. It is the collection of this income tax by the Dominion on behalf of itself and on behalf of the Provinces, and the subsequent distribution or apportionment between the Dominion and the Provinces, to which the Premier has referred in his recent address. This is really more of a detail of administration than a basic question of jurisdiction. It is true it would necessitate an amendment of the B. N. A. Act if the Dominion were constituted the collecting agent of the Provinces in this respect. The change would no doubt have advantages for the Province of efficiency and economy of collection. It would not be entirely popular with the tax payer. The right might also be abused by the Dominion. A still greater advantage would be secured if the Dominion were prevailed upon to retire from the field of taxation of incomes and to leave this much needed source of revenue to provinces and municipalities.

There were many other Dominion statutes passed during the war which invaded Provincial fields of legislation. After the war was over the Dominion desired to retain much of this legislation, notwithstanding its infringement. The validity of such continued legislation was questioned. The Privy Council declared that while the infringement was quite justified in time of war or national emergency, it was not justified when the emergency

passed. "No doubt there may be cases," declared the Judicial Committee, "arising out of some extraordinary ordinary peril to the national life of Canada, as a whole, such as the cases arising out of a war, where legislation is required of an order that passes beyond the heads of exclusive Provincial competency." "An epidemic of pestilence" is mentioned as another instance. In any such emergency, the Dominion may be justified in "interfering with Provincial rights under Section 92 (the Provincial field) in a fashion which could not be supported under any of the enumerated heads in Section 91 (the Dominion field), and therefore could not be sustained."

The individuality of the Dominion's Board of Commerce, Paper Control Tribunal, and other organizations and legislation may be recalled.

The bulwark of the Provinces against these attempts at legislative invasion of Provincial jurisdiction or autonomy by the Dominion Parliament was the right of the Province or of the person affected to resort to the Courts to pass upon the validity of the questioned legislation. Yet Attorney-General Campbell asks, "What safeguards have we at present of Provincial autonomy and Provincial rights?"

Whether this right will remain if the proposals of Mr. Campbell's friends should be adopted is open to grave question and will be discussed later.

I am, Sir, etc.

PRO PATRIA

C. N. R. REVENUES

MONTREAL, Que., Apr. 9—The revenues of the all inclusive Canadian National Railways system for the week ending April 7, 1936 were \$3,358,934 as compared with \$3,149,032 for the corresponding period of 1935 an increase of \$209,902.

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