

The Charlottetown Guardian

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A Case Of Second Sight?

Singularly correct has proven the prognostication of the local Liberal organ a few days ago, in connection with the seizure of Malpeque by the R.C.M.P. of a motor boat allegedly conveying liquor. The seized craft was brought to Charlottetown where, according to our contemporary, it was "being released" on "orders" of a nature too mysterious to be divulged.

Three days later, our contemporary explained editorially that its news item "was not intended to be any reflection against Magistrate DARY who, needless to say, will administer justice capably and fairly."

Now comes the announcement that when the case came up for hearing in Summerside, Captain MacDONALD of the R.C.M.P., representing the Crown, stated that he had "received instructions from Ottawa to withdraw the charge. The case was therefore dismissed."

Our contemporary was right in referring to the "air of mystery" surrounding this episode in our run-running annals. No less mysterious, however, was the prophetic insight of the Liberal organ in anticipating the disposition of the case.

Ontario Mayors Protest

The Ontario Mayors' Association was recently in conference at Orillia and passed a number of resolutions which are not without interest to taxpayers in other parts of Canada. The conference, which it is claimed represented approximately two millions of citizens and more than 75 per cent. of the taxes paid in Ontario, resolved among other things that the Dominion Government should assume the entire cost of unemployment relief in Ontario; that the Dominion Government should be told that the Unemployment Commission which it recently appointed does not include any members with direct municipal or relief experience; that relieving property from the heavy taxation required to carry relief will revive the building trade and certainly tend to do away with unemployment; that municipalities should be given an equitable share of income taxes collected by statute.

Another resolution was to the effect that whereas the high rate of interest charged by chartered banks for short term loans is greatly adding to municipal financial burdens therefore "this association urges upon the Federal Government the immediate necessity of nationalizing the currency and credit system through the Bank of Canada, to the end that the burden of interest charges may be removed from the field of overburdened taxation."

The Health Factor In Driving

An effort to attack the motor fatality problem from a new angle is made in an article published in the current issue of Canadian Public Health Journal. Based on a detailed analysis of automobile fatalities in Canada from 1917-1934, compiled by Dr. A. H. Sellers for the Canadian Public Health Association, the article emphasizes the inadequacy of safety education for adults unless based on a proper application of health methods designed to correct conditions for which the cause in many accident cases has been established.

It is found, from an examination of the figures, that the total accident rate for any given year is not appreciably affected one way or another by the volume of safety education; that in fact the province with the highest automobile accident rate can boast of the most active and energetic safety league.

To what extent, then, it is asked, are settled driving habits affected by booklets, newspaper articles, radio talks and similar media of instruction? When we read horrifying descriptions of the suffering of accident victims, do we apply a moral to our own conduct behind the wheel, or does such literature fall into the same category as realistic war books and merely cater to our sadistic instinct? Does a moving picture of automobile accidents make us more careful drivers, or does hairbreadth escape from sudden death give us the same thrill as that engendered by watching the screen's best loved comedian skirting the edge of a precipice on roller skates? Equally common and understandable, from the viewpoint of behaviorism, is the attitude toward taking a chance, and compensating through belief that one's own superior judgment will prevent mishaps from which the other fellow suffers.

Admittedly, certain factors affecting the accident rate do not come within the province of public health. Those empowered to enforce laws for the public safety will always carry this responsibility, but there are other major problems which are of mutual interest, and towards the solution of which a scientific attitude would be helpful. For example, it is doubtful whether present methods of auto licensings, and particularly re-licensing, can continue without challenge from those who realize the dangers of defects of vision and hearing, beginning mental and physical impairments which are likely to increase

with the years, or poorly integrated motor-coordination.

A system which it is suggested might lead to the setting up of practical standards of licensing could be achieved by combining instruction in normal driving—preferably given during the final high school years—with apparatus for recording defects in judgment, dexterity, motor-coordination, vision, hearing and other handicaps. In the latter connection, public health organization could bring into the field of safety education a viewpoint at present lacking because public health is based on preventive medicine and the traditional attitude of preventive medicine is experimentally to establish causes and test methods of control before embarking upon propaganda.

Editorial Notes

Dollar Day bargains.

Everything seems to be rising in price to the consumer—drat Grit taxation!

Everybody seems to know where the National Park is to be except the Premier.

To insure peace be prepared for war, is the old maxim stressed by Sir SAMUEL HOARE.

The weather kept fine while the Orangemen were about; and continued fine and wet for the farmer's later.

The late Rev. Dr. COFFIN was of a retiring disposition but was known and highly respected throughout the province, New York, Chicago and the West Indies. He was a born student and teacher, and never so happy as when among his books and students.

Endeavours are being made by GOVIN followers to heal the breach between him and DUPLESSIS. Mr. LEONARD DEMERS, pioneer in the Action Libérale Nationale movement, expressed the opinion the breach between Mr. GOVIN and Mr. DUPLESSIS was the result of a matter of election tactics. "Neither Mr. DUPLESSIS nor Mr. GOVIN were traitors," he said. "The trouble arose from the simple questions of election tactics, and there is certainly a way open for agreement."

The deaths from certain causes for the year 1935 as compared with the corresponding figures for 1934 were as follows: Typhoid and paratyphoid fever 272 (293); Smallpox 6 (3); Measles 4.89 (1.88); Scarlet fever 242 (2.66); Diphtheria 262 (232); Influenza 3,387 (2,004); Infantile paralysis 63 (84); Tuberculosis 6,584 (6,431); Cancer 11,140 (10,581); Diseases of the heart 1,067 (16,352); Diseases of the arteries 8,293 (7,379); Pneumonia 7,405 (6,530); Diarrhoea and enteritis 2,764 (3,730); Mephritis 6,164 (5,643); Suicide 902 (927); Homicide 153 (142); Automobile accidents 1,224 (1,115); Other violence 4,606 (4,285).

The returns on hand at the Bureau of Statistics to date show the following figures on vital statistics for the whole of the year 1935, with 1934 figures in parentheses: Live births 221,036 (221,303); Birth rate 20.2 (20.5); Illegitimate births 8,313 (8,070); Per cent of total live births 3.8 (3.6); Stillbirths 6,437 (6,452); Per cent of total births 2.8 (2.8); Deaths 105,451 (101,582); Death rate 9.6 (9.4); Marriages 76,896 (73,092); marriage rates 6.0 (6.8). Deaths under one year 15,711 (15,870); Rate per 1,000 live births 71 (72); Deaths under one month 7,739 (7,777); Rate per 1,000 live births 35 (35); Maternal death 1,093 (1,167); Rate per 1,000 live births 4.9 (5.3).

Claiming credit for repealing section 98 of the Criminal Code, and at the same time asserting that they have rendered the repeal non-effective by amending other sections of the Criminal Code, the KING Government has roused the wrath of the Liberal Toronto Globe. "Mr. LAPOINTE has stated," it says "that other parts of the Criminal Code provide the protection intended by Section 98. If it is useless in giving 'governmental, industrial or economic' security, because it is superfluous, then removing it is no more helpful or harmful than retaining it. The fact that Communists are the chief advocates of its removal lends strength to the opinion that it contains some form of control over Red doctrines not found elsewhere. The amendment to Section 133 may protect governments against the use and advocacy of force. Where is protection found for industry, which in recent years has become more and more subject to rackets suggestive of Red methods?"

The great Peasants party of Rumania again is putting King Carol in a difficult position, demanding the expulsion of his Italian-haired friend, Madame Lupescu, from the country. Once before Carol gave up royal rank and dignities to accompany her out of the country. What will he do this time? Bow to the will of the Peasants or defy them? Maybe Michael again may be king in the not-so-distant future.—Niagara Falls Review.

Editors of the Encyclopedia Britannica announce that history will be made in the new printing of the 14th edition of this age of reference works. Never, in 188 years, has a living being given space in its pages. Children had to grow up and do something in order to become famous. But the forthcoming edition breaks new ground. It will contain the story of the Dionne quintuplets!—Windsor Star.

It is, in normal times, far less difficult to obtain raw materials from markets. The colonies, which Germany now desires after assuring us that a colonial Socialist scheme of things, provide no outlet for the white unemployed. There are, one reads, more Germans in Tanganyika Territory to-day than there were when it was German East Africa. Before the war there were more Germans living in Paris than in all the German colonies put together. There is no appreciable advantage in the possession of vast colonial territories.—World Review London.

The movement toward centralization continued slowly but surely. However, it remained for President Franklin D. Roosevelt to give it full career. The New Deal enactments have disregarded state lines and states' rights. Much of the legislation sponsored by the Roosevelt regime has been in flagrant disregard of the constitutional restrictions on Federal powers. As has been made clear by the Supreme Court in several noteworthy decisions. Thus today States' rights has become one of the liveliest of issues, with the New Deal regime repudiating it and the Republican party championing it. On this issue, certainly, the Republicans should have the support of Jeffersonian Democrats.—Buffalo News.

Notes by the Way

The world today is obsessed by fear. The international prospect is overclouded through rival ambitions, jealousies, and distrust of neighboring countries. In the midst of all the tumult, however, the Churches are going on steadily with the work which lies in their proper sphere, and in the end they may prove a more potent influence in preserving the peace of the world than the subtle intrigues of diplomats.—Belfast Telegraph.

Newspapers are not the only victims of the abuse of the law of libel. Authors and publishers of books have also suffered, and in a letter to the Times a number of well known authors have called attention to the urgent need of a drastic reform of the existing law. One suggestion which they made is, I think, a novelty. It is to the effect that in the event of the failure of an action for libel which the judgment of the court was improper, or some indirect or improper motive and without reasonable or probable cause, the court should have a discretionary power to award damages (in addition to costs) to the successful defendant, thereby applying to such cases the principle on which damages may be recovered for malicious prosecution. This possibility might restrain some plaintiffs who issue writs as instruments of blackmailing. More often than not, however, they are persons of no substance, and a judgment against them for damages would be as abortive as a judgment for costs.—Truth, London.

The Social Credit Minister of Alberta (Canada) has at last come down to earth, and not very clean either. By his announcement of a compulsory conversion of a provincial debt to a rate of interest only two-thirds of that which it contracted to pay it has shown what its economic idealism is worth. A party that offers as its panacea the arbitrary limitation of the earnings of one section and the payment of unearned dividends to another has not produced a fundamentally new idea. Many class-conscious reformers have evolved schemes for despoiling the successful and dividing the proceeds among the unsuccessful. The destruction of the value of property is a little less crude than forcible expropriation, but ethically both are robbery. The Albertan Ministry has shown its contempt for private rights without troubling to devise a technique of its own. Its competence and bad faith have already been indicated by its indefinite postponement of its much-vaunted dividends. Its standard of political morality is now being brutally disclosed.—Melbourne Organ.

In Greece county, Georgia, A. S. Moore ran for county coroner this spring, but was hopelessly defeated. Whether he had this notice inserted in the local paper, I want to thank the intelligent, honest and upright 96 voters who cast their ballots for me. The 2321 who cast their ballots against me can go jump in the lake.—Wall St. Journal.

Before Mussolini puts up his 250-foot statue, he might hark to Shelley's traveller from an antique land, who said: "Two vast and trunkless legs of stone stand in the desert. Near them on the sand, has sunk a shattered visage lies. And on the pedestal these words appear: 'My names is Ozymandias, King of Kings; Look on my works, ye mighty, and despair! Nothing beside remains. Round the decay Of that Colossal wreck, boundless and bare, The lone and level sands stretch far away.'—Toronto Star.

The loner and level sands stretch far away.—Toronto Star.

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That Body of Hours

By James W. Burton, M.D.

ALBUMIN IN URINE NOT NECESSARILY BRIGHT'S DISEASE

A few years ago if albumin were found in the urine of boys and girls, young men and women, and even middle-aged men and women, it was felt to be a sure sign of chronic inflammation of the kidneys (Bright's disease) and the outlook was considered grave. Government and private companies refused to give these individuals employment, and insurance companies either renege on them or made them pay heavy premiums.

Boys in whom this albumin in the urine was found were forbidden to play games and their enjoyment and success in life was greatly hampered. All over the world investigators were trying to show that albumin in the urine did not necessarily mean Bright's disease, but it remained for the Medical Branch of the Post Office, Great Britain, to get the real facts. The Post Office is probably the largest employer of labor in Great Britain and one of the largest employers of young people. The medical officers were thus able to trace the records of the working life of the employees between the ages of fourteen and sixty.

Dr. H. H. Bashford, Chief Medical Officer to the Post Office, records in the Practitioner, that in 1909 he began the study of a consecutive group of 30 cases showing albumin in the urine, and to examine them after periods of service from seven to fourteen years. He found them without exception to be in good health; none of them showed lordosis (swayback); there was a history of scarlet fever in only one instance; five were regarded as being possibly a nervous type, only two of them remembered fainting. Albumin was still present in the urine of six cases; and of these it was absent in the morning or after-rest of five; and of the one exception some "casts" were also found and this patient died seven years later of acute inflammation of the kidneys.

Dr. Bashford was able to examine this group in 1926 (seventeen years later) with the exception of the above case and five others who had died of other causes. Of the remaining twenty-four all were in good health; the youngest, being 43 and the oldest 54. From the examination of this group and others Dr. Bashford concludes:—

- 1. About one in every twenty young males, and even more in females, will show albumin in the urine.
2. This may persist for many years or throughout life.
3. In the majority of cases after rest or sleep albumin will be absent from the urine.
4. Albumin in the urine (with no other symptoms) has no significance either with present or future health.

The Poet's Corner

DAISIES

Over the shoulders and slopes of the dune I saw the white daisies go down to the sea. A host in the sunshine, an army in June, The people God sends us to set our hearts free.

—Bliss Carman.

A Great Judge

(Exchange)

Lord Darling's death breaks innumerable links with a memorable but fading past. Born in 1849, called in 1874, a Q.C. in 1885 Lord Darling, to the surprise and rather indignation of lots of people, was made a King's Bench Judge by Lord Halsbury in 1907.

But like his younger contemporary, Lord Birkenhead, he brilliantly justified his promotion, and gallantly nonplussed his detractors. Poet, scholar, and litterateur, though he never attended any other university than the law courts, Lord Darling may or may not have been a great lawyer, but he was emphatically a great Judge, and rarely indeed was one of his decisions reversed on appeal.

His fame as the outstanding wit of the Bench was household. His sayings were printed daily by papers who told off their brightest men to chronicle them. He was of wide sympathies, but made no compromise with deliberate crime, and did not believe in mollycoddling evildoers. He penned his own epitaph:—"Mantle and stole laid by, and cap of doom; Bereft, alone, I wear no ermine more; Nor judge—yet one Aesop; I, fearful, must attend."

Modern Poet A True Balladist

(A.K. in The Aberdeen Journal) A. E. Housman, who died the other day, was a professor and a poet. He was a professor of classics, but he was not what one would call a classical poet. Or rather, he was and he wasn't. For of all the poets of our time and a good many generations before it, he was the one, perhaps the only one, of whom it could be said that the spirit of the ancient balladists lived again in him.

Our fathers, who were interested in such things, had Swinburne and the "Omar" of Fitzgerald to excite them. We their sons had Kipling and Housman. They may seem to be an ill-assorted couple to be bracketed together, yet they had much in common. The ballad poet with his ditties of the bar-ack-square, and the singer of life in the old English countryside beneath the Wrekin. Housman published only two slim volumes of poetry—"A Shropshire Lad" in 1896 and "Last Poems" in 1922.

Kipling wrote in the argot and slang of the Services, his characters queer questionably, his metaphors from the cities. The language of Housman was the plainest, simplest, purest English, and his people the plain, slow-thinking Saxons of the villages. Yet which of them was it who wrote this?—

I listed at home for a lancer, Oh who would not sleep with his brave? I listed at home for a lancer, To ride on a horse to my grave.

And it was A. E. Housman, the academe and student of Humanity, not Rudyard Kipling, Imperialist, boon companion of Mulvaney, to whom it fell to write the epitaph of the British Expeditionary Force—the "Epitaph on an Army of Mercenaries":—

"These, in the day when heaven was falling, The hour when earth's foundations fled, Followed their mercenary calling, And took their wages and are dead. Their shoulders held the sky suspended, And they stood, and earth's foundations stayed; What God abandoned, these defended, And saved the sum of things for pay."

It is possible, though I do not say probable, that from Housman's character and circumstances we might deduce something to help solve that puzzle of Scottish literature—Who were the balladists? That they were not yokels is certain; that they were not even steady-going yeomen is certain; that they were not frequent before the Deformation we can guess; and that they were not women is obvious.

We cannot tell exactly how great they were as poets, because their works have been all pawed over by hands not very careful and often not very clean. We have no author's manuscript of "Barbara Allen," or "The Laird o' Drum" or "The Wife of Usher's Well." Yet these ballads, after their separate fashions, are so good that they are simply bound to have been much better when they were originally composed.

No one, reading Housman's poems as anonymous verse, would guess that he was one of the most acute Latinists of our time, or that he lived most of his life in Cambridge academic world. But Housman was a countryman, an educated, cultured countryman (like Walter Scott), and like Scott he wrote the best ballad we have in the traditional ballad style outside the compositions of the balladists themselves.

May it not be then that when educated Scots—and they were all countrymen then—found it imprudent to write poetry for Reformers who regarded such things as loose and libidinous, their talent was diverted as it were underground? They composed ballads which eventually came to light again, like springs of water, many years after on the lips of the people. At any rate, we shall be safe in saying that these mysterious sad singers of the past had much in common with the modern scholar who wrote:

The lofty shade advances I fetch my flute and play; Come, lads, and learn the dances And to-morrow, more's the pity, Away we both must high, To air the lute.

It is quite Elizabethan, and what was Elizabethan in England was late Jacobean in Scotland—the last flowering of medieval philosophy. But somehow the Dark Ages have never ceased to exist—as the ballads and Housman, for two examples, sufficiently prove.

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do him an injustice, and it may have been some of those who altered his ballads when he was forgotten—could not have left this story as Housman left it. The bridegroom too would have had to die of grief, and be buried beside his love, and twin briars would have grown from the graves and intertwined. The balladists were at heart sentimentalists. Housman was anything but that. The study of the Humanities does not conduce to pleasant deceptions. He was a pessimist, but not a cowardly one:—

The troubles of our proud and angry dust Are from eternity, and shall not fall. Bear them we can, and if we can we must. Shoulder the sky, my lad, and drink your ale.

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But Parliament, generally speaking, dislikes such scenes, frowns on them. Mostly, despite all its verbal vituperation, it maintains a fine comradeship all its own.

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Politics And Pugilism (Ottawa Journal). That grand veteran Mr. C. H. Cahon, standing more than six feet in his stockings, intimidated to the irrepressible Mr. Jean Francois Foubert that he would like to take him out into the corridors and