

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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ST. PATRICK'S AND BOOKS

This is probably the most glorious St. Patrick's Day in Ireland's history and so should be regarded by all Irishmen and friends of Ireland whose names are legion. To day "Ireland a Nation" is an accomplished fact and the sincere wish of everyone must be that before many more St. Patrick's anniversaries come round we shall have a united nation as well.

It is unnecessary here and now to dwell upon the struggles and aspirations of Erin towards the measure of independence just attained. It need merely be remarked that henceforth Ireland will have an opportunity of developing and expanding her national life in the manner best suited to her characteristics, resources and destiny.

Probably one of the first fruits of recognized nationhood will be a resumption of national literary pursuits, unclouded by the shadow of sorrow and tragedy, so much neglected and interfered with since the struggle for home rule waxed militant. Ireland has a great Celtic literary heritage and a wealth of what for a better term may be called cosmopolitan literature, being mostly by Ireland but depending upon outside incidents also for plot, action and interest.

This class of fiction has been sadly ignored during the more recent times of struggle for political freedom, but it once had a great voice and still provides some of the choicest gems of lighter literature. Thomas Moore, Maria Edgeworth, Samuel Lover, Charles Lever and Joseph Sheridan LeFanu are typically Irish writers in English, and to those may be added Swift and Goldsmith, who write Irishmen, wrote as much in the vein of Englishmen as Irishmen.

There is a wealth of humor in the writings of some of these Irish writers, especially in those of Lever, LeFanu and Goldsmith, and their successors of more recent years. Miss Emily Lawless, Mrs. Harter, Miss Jane Barlow, and that inimitable literary partnership, Miss Edith Somerville and Miss Violet Martin, "George A. Birmingham" (Canon Hannay) the author of "Spanish Gold" and numerous other novels, is a host in himself in depicting the pathetic and humorous of Irish life and manners.

It will be worth while one of these days to have a lecture, or better still, a series of lectures, on some of these literary notables and dealing with the various phases of Irish life, to give the rising generation an opportunity of getting better acquainted with so valuable a storehouse of delightful and ever refreshing mental pabulum.

QUALITY COUNTS

At an auction sale at Winsloe last Wednesday a number of cattle were sold, one cow bringing over \$300 and others over \$200. In view of the fact that, owing to the scarcity of feed throughout the province, many have sold off much of their stock, generally at a sacrifice, these prices afford additional proof, if any were needed, that quality counts. The cows were pure bred and had a reputation as milkers, this brought the price. Many cattle were disposed of during the winter at very low prices but we have yet to learn of a single instance in which an animal of recognized worth was sacrificed.

The past year has been an exceptional one; feed was scarce and so high that many farmers found it more profitable to practically give away their cattle than to buy feed for them. Yet a purchaser and a good price always awaited the animal of quality and this is true of every other product of the farm. Quality always counts and ensures

a ready sale and a good price. The market today has room only for the best and both time and money are wasted in producing anything but the best. This is the great lesson taught by the occasional lean years we encounter and should be taken to heart and practised during our fat years.

THE PRIME MINISTER SPEAKS

The Honourable William Lyon Mackenzie King made his debut as Prime Minister during the preliminary stages of the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. He had been preceded by the mover and seconder and by the Hon. Arthur Meighen, Leader of the Opposition, who has unfortunately for his opponents, the faculty of "carrying the war into Africa" without any preliminary calls for the way. This necessitated the taking of instant and probably unexpected measures of defense by the Prime Minister whose speech was almost wholly defensive and largely apologetic.

Reference was made to the Opposition leader's speech in our issue of Monday a glance at which will explain the Prime Minister's line of defence.

It has been said of the Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King that he can say less in an hour, and say it well too, than any other man in the House of Commons; the truth of this observation will be accepted by those of our readers who heard him during the pro-cession campaign here; it was also borne out in the course of his hour's speech on the address. He said little, very little, and he said it with his usual grace and eloquence and it took him an hour to say it.

He gave it as his eloquent opinion that the Meighen Government had been "turned down" by the people of Canada, because Mr. Meighen had no mandate from the people to continue in power after the resignation of Sir Robert L. Borden. He forgot to mention that the Conservative vote at the election referred to was very much larger than the Liberal vote and that some one might rise in the House some day and declare with more truth though less eloquence that Mr. Mackenzie King had no mandate from the people of Canada to carry on the government.

He declared in chaste and elegant language that government ownership of railways would be given a fair trial. This declaration no doubt occasioned some surprise except among those who knew that the real function of words is to conceal, not to reveal, the thoughts of the speaker. To those who remembered the propaganda deliberately and scientifically circulated by financial interests and administered by partisan officials Mr. King and his Liberal colleagues, decrying government ownership and advocating private control, the declaration came of course as a shock. As remarked by the Hon. Arthur Meighen, it was but an interpretation of southern Lynch Law—hang first and investigate afterwards. Government ownership had been hanged during the campaign; it is to be given a fair trial afterwards. Those who expect a fair trial will keep a suspicious eye on the corpse.

He declared it was the intention of the government, as stated in the speech from the Throne, to make changes in the Customs duties. How nearly these changes would come to the revision promised in certain sections of the campaign before the election, no hint was given and there is a shrewd suspicion that the changes in the tariff will be "historically innocent" always awaited the animal of quality and this is true of every other product of the farm. Quality always counts and ensures

The Wheat Board and one or two other matters were eloquently and irrelevantly referred to with

Notes By The Way

(From The Examiner.)

The ways of Liberal Governments federal and provincial seem strange to ordinary mortals. For instance, there is the proposal of the King Government to give the Prairie Provinces the lands within their borders now belonging to the Dominion. This has been put forward by Premier King as an entirely new and brilliant proposition. In fact it is not at all new. As Ex-Premier Meighen has now reminded him, the same proposition was made by the Union Government eight years ago and rejected by the prairie governments. The new and brilliant offer is simply another case of "Me too."

It is the same with Government control of the National Railways. The late government took them over under stress of circumstances, to continue a system of railways in operation and prevent them being closed down in bankruptcy. Premier King says he will give the plan a fair trial, but his Quebec supporters want these roads handed over to the C. P. R. management. A fair trial would be, at best, another "Me too" arrangement, but it is not likely to be so favored. More than half of the Premier's supporters in Parliament are more concerned to make a failure of Government ownership than a success.

Reverting from the moment to provincial affairs we find some new blundering absurdity almost every day. Recently it came to our notice that a well known aged citizen had received some months ago a notice to pay some dollars of provincial income tax. The notice was addressed to his name with an official title that he had ceased to hold years ago. He gave no special attention to it. Another notice addressed in the same fashion came some weeks later. After that came a "final" notice with the same address claiming the same amount but with these words added: "in addition to \$2.00 Provincial Poll Tax, not previously paid."

Of course his Poll Tax had not been previously paid. As we read the law persons above 65 years of age are not obliged to pay Poll Tax. But in this case it was officially demanded. How many other aged citizens have been insulted with like demand we know not. How many may have paid this unlawful demand we know not, or what became of the money after it was paid. Nobody knows outside of the officials. The entire tax business, Income Tax and Poll Tax is under a muzzler. Muzzler of secrecy and where there is secrecy there is danger.

Of blundering and stupidity and amendments we have had a plenty in connection with the Tax Act during the past two years but surely those in charge of its working ought to understand their duties by this time. We shall never get this business straightened out in accordance with justice and equity until the light of full publicity is thrown upon it and the people are permitted to know who pay and who don't pay their taxes, who refuse to pay and are let off, even if such matters are now a party secret.

Taxes have been laid upon the people without notice, without their knowledge or consent, taxes which are unnecessary, which in many cases are an oppressive burden upon the poor. And as hundreds of our readers know the law has been administered by partisan officials in a manner which has aroused something more than suspicion of favoritism on the one hand and of

promises that they would be dealt with in the best interests of the country—which being interpreted may be taken as meaning the party.

SLOW PAY

Mr. Biggar, Dominion Returning officer at Ottawa, reports that 75,000 officials were employed in taking the votes at the last federal election and that they did their work well and efficiently. The election was held on December 6th and would you believe it? The returning officers, deputy returning officers, poll clerks, doorkeepers, owners of polling places have not yet received a dollar for their well performed work! If the MacKenzie King government keeps its other obligations as faithfully as it has this, there will be something doing before they retire from public life.

The Public Forum

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

EXTRAVAGANCE

Sir—I am sure that all taxpayers will agree that the only way our country can progress is through a rigid economy in the administration of such a country. As an over-burdened taxpayer, I would like to draw the attention of the public to the economy as practiced by two of our Liberal members in the House today. During the reply to the Speech from the Throne, I noticed several said members using envelopes (officially as memorandums instead of the official paper as provided. This in itself is trivial but it proves that as long as it is the people's money that pays for same, it doesn't matter and if this goes on in public what happens behind closed doors when your money and my money is being handled by such economists who care not as long as you pay? A repetition of this wilful waste will necessitate publication of offenders' names. I am Sir, etc.

OBSERVER.

Indictiveness on the other. We have reason to believe that hundreds of cases, such as the unlawful demand above cited have occurred. Whether these are instances of mere blundering or of attempted extortion let our readers decide.

REPINCTON IN TORONTO

TORONTO, March 16.—Charles A. Repington, who was minister of the London Times during the war, and is of Toronto, for a day or two, is of the opinion that India is not ready for self-government. "India is not like Canada—a civilized, progressive country—but an uncivilized, backward, uncivilized country," declared the colonel. Speaking about the arrest of Gandhi, and the consequences this might have, the colonel said:

"You can never tell what will happen in India; the thing that, in my opinion, might arouse the whole country, sometimes turns out to be the very thing to quiet the natives; and on other occasions an insignificant matter might set the whole Indian world on fire." Speaking of the situation in England, Colonel Repington said: "I think that Mr. Lloyd George is the only man that should continue in office, because Mr. Lloyd George is the only man with any authority in Europe today."

Regarding the refusal of the United States to participate in the League economic conference, Colonel Repington said he did not think that the United States should have been asked to sit in at a new conference, while the Senate has not yet decided to ratify the treaty signed at the Washington conference.

A TERRIOR DECORATED

A terrior named Peter, belonging to Rev. W. Adams of Liverpool, has been awarded the medal of the National Canine Defense League. While on holiday at Borowdale in the lake district Peter was locked in a garage adjoining the hotel and started the guests by barking violently. Mrs. Adams went to soothe him, and in searching for the cause Mrs. Adams discovered that a young man named Arnold had fallen 50 feet down the hillside and was pinned by the rocks which had fallen upon him. His leg was fractured and there were many severe wounds on his body. Mrs. Adams attended to the injured man until the arrival of the nearest doctor, who lived four miles away. Had Peter not given the alarm the young man would probably have died before he was discovered.—Manchester Guardian

Daily Selections for Guardian Readers

From the W. S. Louson collection

PARTING OF THE WAYS

By Frederick M. Steele

The parting of the ways must come. Some day, my dear; The summons closing of the sum Of what our lives have grown to be. Both cloud and clear Will come, for you, or me!

Then one must weather all the storm; Alone, I ween— Till comes to blessedly transform The waiting soul and clothe it new. And nake it clean— The call for me, or you!

Whoever may be left, God give His tender care— His blessing showing how to live And how to die, earth duties done— Then may we share The joys but just begun!

Others' View Points

The "Review of Reviews."

(Manchester Guardian)

Sir Phillip Gibbs is giving up the editorship of the "Review of Reviews" after something over a year's work upon it, and Major David Davies has parted, I hear, with his interest in that monthly. After the current number it will be published by Mr. Daniel O'Connor. Sir Phillip and other members of the staff will remain associated with the "Review."

One may recall that when the late W. T. Stead started in 1890 he entered upon the congenial business of editing it with immense energy. In the facsimile messages he printed in the first number, a postcard from Gladstone hailed it as "a synopsis over the whole range of affairs; and a letter from George Meredith, as an indicator, Meredith also suggested that "editing it, for the first time, was not always Stead's strong point."

But Stead was generally so good at his job that it would be needed the side of the angels, and the Parroll Commission, the new-comer in literature (which he called his "strange Chinese fever") and the Kaiser as labor reformer gave him his opening in the earlier numbers. The cartoon miniatures from foreign countries did not appear in the "Review" till the end of the first year. I became one of the "Review's" most taking items. They will remain in evidence in the new issue which I am told is to break new ground while keeping up the old line of reviewing comprehensively the monthly reviews of the press, home and foreign.

—Mr. J. H. Gauder left Tuesday morning on a business trip to St. John, N. B.

CHEERFUL FACES NEEDED

(Toronto Mail and Empire)

A London newspaper reporter not long ago began studying "Monday morning faces" on the street. He counted a large number that frowned, were gloomy or sad, and only one or two that bore a bright smile. If a Toronto reporter began counting faces on that system, in Toronto street cars, he would find an astonishingly large number which frowned, indifference, sadness or hopelessness stand out strikingly. Perhaps many of these persons have feelings expressed by these looks, but the possibility of some of the faces indicate that the expression is more a habitual pose than a representation of true feeling. Would it not be possible to have a "look cheerful" campaign to induce thoughtless frowners to change their expression? "As a man thinketh, so he is" needs to be changed into "As a man looketh, so he is." The psychologist will tell you that if you turn up the corners of your mouth you will become cheerful. It is possible to change one's whole mental mood, if not caused by some deep emotion, by putting on an appearance of cheerfulness. Too many people let their worries, sad moods, or plain hopelessness depress their spirits until recovery to normal good temper seems impossible. Three-fourths of life's troubles come from the way in which events are viewed. Sweetness of disposition, cheerfulness of thought, the forgetting of meanesses and trifles, and dwelling on the finer elements very evident in humanity, will work wonders with sour, cranky faces. Whether the Kingdom of Heaven is within you, or not, it is least positively certain that each individual has, in his or her mental power and point of view, control of about 80 per cent. of happiness or unhappiness. A cheerful face under difficulties is a sign of mental power.

LORD ALLENBY.

(Correspondence of London Times) The Chief (Lord Allenby) as he was naturally termed in Palestine, hated losing men from sunstroke, and gave orders about sun helmets accordingly. He is alleged to have met two officers, of high rank, who, greatly daring, were actually venturing to disregard his orders. Both crept homeward chastened and—so the story goes—reduced to their substantive rank, to see others promoted next day to the places they had ceased to fill. As a cavalryman the Chief's sensibilities were offended by the sight of men riding in shorts—the customary wear for all ranks in hot weather—and it was possible to realize how he had earned his cognomen of "The Bull" when an offendership had to be rebuffed at long range. The Chief has another great gift, the power of saying "No," and this a certain well-meaning individual learned when he eagerly offered to become personally responsible for the administration of Jerusalem. "No," said

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Mr. Kennedy's Job (Ottawa Citizen) Delightful tales have been told about the meant adopted by Lord Allenby to persuade the enemy that he had no sort of kind of interest for Beerseba, and that all his affection was for Gaza. His only love. How with a perky truly Alibion, he made ready for the final push; how he prepared elaborate accommodation for his mythical advanced G. H. Q. in Jerusalem, how he sent his columns eastward by day while troop columns marched westward by night; how he had an army in an orchard, persuaded German hero, planes for weeks on end that his G. H. Q. was an infantry camp, and generally misled the enemy into thinking anything but what was right; may best be read in the archives of the "Yildirim Army Group" Intelligence Department captured at Nazareth.

No More, Please. (Vancouver Province) The Minister of Industry and the task of keeping the nation's owned system intact, as best he can until the people's common good away from the fact that Canada is an impoverished country.

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