THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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Steady Progress

It is highly gratifying to note, from the figures shown by a preliminary count of the returns of the Seventh Census of Canada as of June 1, that the population both of Charlottetown and Summerside has substantially increased since the 1921 census.

For Charlottetown (exclusive of Royalty) the figures are: Population in 1921, 10,814; in 1931, 12,357, an increase in the last ten years of 14.27 per cent.

For Summerside: 1921, 3,338; 1931, 3,914; an increase of 21.25 per cent. Substantial increases are also noted in the population of Alberton, Kensington and Montague.

This gain is particularly gratifying in view of the figures given for many of the leading centres in our sister Maritime Provinces. In Halifax, N. S., the increase in population over the ten year period has only been 0.97 per cent, while Saint John, N. B., shows a decrease over the same period of 1.12.

It is possible that the total population figures may show a reduction in rural areas of the Province, due to the increased use of machinery which would have the effect of reducing the amount of manual labor on the farms. Nevertheless, the fact remains that our larger centres are forging steadily ahead, and that the Province is increasing in popularity as a residential and health resort. The figures bear out the statement, frequently made by visitors, that Prince Edward Island has been less affected by the depression than probably any other part of Canada, or indeed of the continent.

Nothing New Under The Sun

It is a far cry from the graceful aerial manouevres witnessed at the Upton Airport on Monday to the crude flying experiments made at the beginning of the present century by men who, in their day, were regarded as cranks, and whose names, in many instances, have been forgotten. A successful flying machine—but not a machine large enough to take up a human body—was made by Professor Langley of the Smithsonian Institute as early as 1897, and similar experiments were carried on at about the same time in Europe. It was not until 1909, however, that the aeroplane was available for human locomotion. This is scarcely more than two decades ago, and the progress since made furnishes striking evidence of the mechanical ingenuity of the age.

But we have no occasion to pride ourselves upon having initiated something new. The idea of a flying machine is as old, almost, as civilization. Greek legend has it that it was in Crete, thousands of years before Christ, that Daedalus attempted to make the first flying machine. Daedalus (meaning "cunning artificer") was a sort of personified summary of mechanical skill; and it is curious to speculate what germ of fact lies behind him and those waxen wings that, according to legend, melted and plunged his son Icarus in the sea.

Coming to historic times we find, as far back as the Thirteenth Century, A. D., an astounding prediction of Roger Bacon, a Franciscan friar of Oxford, in which power driven ships, automobiles and flying machines are envisioned as developments of man's inventive genius in the centuries to come. We think of the Mediaeval Ages as the dark ages, in which people dwelt in a sort of perpetual intellectual twilight. But here, in his own words, is Bacon's mediaeval prophecy, the fulfillment of which has only been brought about in the last half century:

"Machines for navigating are possible without rowers, so that great ships suited to river or ocean, guided by one man, may be borne with greater speed than if they were full of men. Likewise cars may be made so that without a draught animal they may be moved 'cum impetu inaestimabili,' as we deem the scythed chariots to have been from which antiquity fought. And flying machines are possible, so that a man may sit in the middle turning some device by which artificial wings may beat the air in the manner of a flying bird."

It was Solomon who said that there was nothing new under the sun. If we apply the biblical sage's remark to ideas and not merely to the mechanical development of those ideas, we shall see that he was profoundly right, and, incidentally, we shall gain a juster perspective both of the age in which we live and the centuries which preceded it.

"Ideas," as Elbert Hubbard well said, "are born; they have their infancy, their youth—their time of stress and struggle—they succeed, they grow senile, they nod, they sleep, they die; they are buried and remain in their graves for ages. And then they come again in the garb of youth, to slaughter and slay—and inspire and liberate. And this death and resurrection goes on forever. In Time there is nothing new or old; there is only the rising and falling of the Infinite Tide."

The Premier's Warning

Speaking at an informal reception in his honor at Calgary, Premier Bennett suggested that Canadians should be more cautious in over-speculating in everything—oil, wheat, land and everything else.

"And why," asked the Premier, "have you done this? Because you thought you'd get rich quick. But it can't be done. If you do get rich quick, you will not have it long. Don't let the race for wealth dominate your life."

These are words of wisdom. Coming from one who has made his own way in the world, who achieved financial success without resorting to "get-rich-quick" methods and who turned deliberatley from making money to devote his business experience and ability to solving the political problems of his country, they are words which should be treasured.

The Three Rivers Recount

The recount of the ballots cast in the Three Rivers-St. Maurice by-election confirms the return of Charles Bourgeois, K. C., the Conservative candidate, by 38 votes,—precisely the majority first announced on polling day. Rarely, comments an exchange has the challenge of a returning officer's report resulted in the transfer of a Parliamentary seat on a recount, and no one will be surprised to find that this case has followed the general rule. But if the Three Rivers recount reconciles the defeated party to accept the result with better grace than they showed when the ballots were first counted, the time and expense devoted to it will not have been entirely lost.

Editorial Notes

Another evidence that Canada is on the upgrade, agriculturally and commercially, is shown by the record breaking attendance this week at the opening of the Canadian National Exhibition at Toronto, which numbered 82,000 persons. Last year's opening attendance was 71,000. The next largest opening day was in 1929, when 80,000 persons passed the turnstiles.

Definite decision has been reached to hold Thanksgiving Day and Armistice Day on separate occasions, the former probably a month before the latter. This is in accord with the wishes of a great many of our citizens who wish to see Armistice Day disassociated from all other anniversaries, and commemorated for its own sake.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Although some varieties of birds are considered a great nuisance, very few of the feathered tribe are more destructive than useful. Birds are the most natural enemies of insects, and insects are the greatest enemies of mankind. Scientists have declared that without continued research and the employment of improved means of combatting insect pests they would overrun the world and destroy all other life, including man. With this ever-present menace of insects to combat, we can hardly have too many birds. Not only out of humane sentiment, but as an actual protection to civilization, the birds should be spared.

Press despatches state that Lord Kylsant was deeply surprised and shocked when sentenced at Old Bailey to 12 months in jail. The noble peer should have settled in Canada instead of England, have promoted a power development instead of a steamship line, and had his case reviewed by a parliamentary committee instead of a supreme court judge—Sydney Record.

With a birth-rate of 24.5 per thousand of population, Canada is keeping a healthy average of increase, according to figures just issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa. The most interesting featuse of that birth-rate, however, is that the figures show Quebec well in the lead over all other provinces, with a rate of 30.6 per thousand and of the 243,291, births in the Dominion during 1930. 83,625 were credited to Quebec.

The view is widely but erroneously held that the public is consuming less and less, and that commerce is staggering and threatened with disaster. Yet in many cases the very opposite is true. The public is buying more today than it has ever bought in the past, but it is paying less and that is all that is happening. The great mistake that we make is to measure commercial activity by the value of sales, calculated in dollars, and never by the amount of the turnover.

The inconsiderateness of set-owners in inflicting their radios on those who have no desire whatever to hear them is one of those unaccountable quirks of human nature which are as irritating as they are difficult to cure. Night is made hideous, especially in the summer months, when the windows are opened wide, and offenders seem to be quite unconscious of the misery and resentment they are causing, in spite of the many polite reminders they receive in the press and elsewhere. Patience has been exhausted and there will be general satisfaction that the police have at last determined that the practice has got to be stopped. It will probably take a few stiff fines to emphasize the fact that the authorities are thoroughly in earnest, but those who are wise will not wait for such a drastic intimation. They will amend their ways and keep their noctural concerts strictly to themselves. A Canadian's house is his castle, within which he can do pretty much as he pleases; but his liberty does not extend to the invasion of the welfare of other citizens, with rights equal to his own.—Hamilton Spectator.

French farmers are demanding that the maximum percentage of foreign wheat in French flour should be reduced. The perecentage system adopted by France has also been adopted by other countries. In Italy, since July 2, it is compulsory to use 95 per cent of native wheat in the manufacture of flour. In the Netherlands the obligatory percentage is 20 per cent. Similar measures are in force in Germany, Sweden, etc. Canadian farmers, who specialize in the cultivation of wheat, like the Prairie farmers, should keep track of this attitude of the European countries, for it will without doubt have a considerable influence on market prices and they should govern their exports accordingly.

The imposition of a tariff of 10 or 15 per cent is likely in Britain. If this reform is introduced, in addition to an improvement in British business, it should bring about a great improvement in the economic relations between Great Britain and the Overseas Dominions. It will be remembered that the proposal formerly put forward by Mr. Bennett in the name of all the Dominions together, exactly outlined the imposition of a general tariff of this kind, which would permit the manipulation of reciprocal tariff concessions between the nations of the Commonwealth.

It may seem anomalous, but one of the major ailments of the world today is too much money, or rather, more than the banks and other agencies are able to find profitable outlets for. As a result good bond issues never were in such demand and interest rates never lower. With the cheap money everything else has been cheapened and the result of depression and what is known as hard times. Cheap money is due to the fact that there is little demand for it and the same may be said to be true of everything. When there is a demand for more money for legitimate investment purposes, which will be when confidence is restored, there will be a return of good times with a greater demand and better prices for everything.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

TREATING HAY FEVER

"Atmosphere tests have shown that there are days in the autumn when 1000 tons of pollen sift down from the air in the ragweed area of the United States alone, and the annual crop is estimated at a million tons.

Just how much there will be this year depends upon climatic condi- will be 'too much', as the thousands will be 'too much', as the thousands of hay fever sufferers will testify. It is this varying amount of pollen in the air that makes some hay fever victims find themselves a little better one year, and a little worse the next, which is naturally discouraging.

I spoke some weeks ago of the advisability of getting the vaccine injections to prevent hay fever, as they are helpful in a fair percentage of cases. Your doctor will tell you that taking these injections during the hay fever season does not usually help much.

But what are you to do when the attack comes on?

Some fortunate individuals go each year to those sections in the country where hay fever is unknown, but this is not possible for many sufferers.

However there are now available a number of remedies which are of great assistance in carrying the patient through the hay fever season, without too much suffering and inconvenience.

The basis of most of these remdeies is adrenalin, the juice or secretion of the little ductless glands situated one on top of each kidney. As it is the swelling of the little blood vessels in the nose that causes the symptoms, anything that will reduce this swelling, is of course, the first thought, and this is just what adrenalin does. Unfortunately its effects do not last long, even when it is applied in the form of an ointment. There are other remedies put up by wholesale drug houses containing such drugs as belladonna, ephedrine, menthol, quinine, and others, which are helpful.

Some physicians report excellent results by the use of ordinary baking soda, a level teaspoonful, three times a day.

I have seen small daily doses of epsom salts to help.

If you have never done so try the vaccine treatment next year; you may be one that can be helped.

The Poet's Corner

PRAIRIE MOON

The time is now long since, O prairie moon,
When creeping wagon trains slept under you,
And walking sensed the pepperminted dew,
Refreshing pearls of hope, O prairie moon.

When thin clouds touched by evening's splendor keep
A tryst upon the plains' far edge—the veil
Rolls back to empay grasslands; sloos asleep
And hollows greened; the faintly curving trail . . .
Glad willows of the swale in silver mass,
Red viking lilies flare in mystic rune
Above the blushing berries in the grass,
There youth adventured, ever seeking boon,

Old memories crowd thick, O prairie moon;
Progress has claimed the plains, through sweat and strain,
Yet hearts still sing, still sigh and dream again,
For love is ageless, too, O prairie moon.

—Roberta Robertson, in the Chicago Tribune.

Where Do Liberals Go From Here?

(Toronto Mail and Empire)

Premier Taschereau's victory shows that Canadian Liberalism still has a back-log in Quebec. Defeated in all the other eight provinces, as also in the Federal arena, it was able to hold its own in French-Canada. Peculiarly enough the so-called Liberal Government, headed by Mr. Taschereau, is by long odds the most conservative in Canada. It stands as a stone wall against many modern innovations. Compared with it, the alleged Tory Government of Ontario and the Conservative Governments of other provinces are widly radical.

With Monday's contest behind us, what is the future of the Liberal party throughout Canada? Its fortunes are at a very low ebb. Its overthrow began with the political corruption which undermined the thirty-three-year-old Liberal Govment of Ontario, in the early years of this century and, though twenty-six years have elapsed since Mr. James P. Whitney came into office, the provincial opposition today is weaker than ever. In recent years Liberal Governments have gone out of office in Nova Scotia, Prince Edard Island, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

The Beauharnois disclosures appear to have completed the wreck. Liberals like Mr. W. E. N. Sinclair and the Twentieth Century Club have been shocked at finding that the Federal Liberal organization accepted $720,000 from the promoters of this project, while the Federal Conservative organization rejected an offer of $200,000 from the same source. No amount of howling in some Liberal papers about the general evils of campaign funds will over-take the impression created by these major facts brought out at Ottawa a few weeks ago. As one of our correspondents writes, the vast majority of Liberals throughout the country have been shamed, as they have never been shamed before.

But as we have already asked, what of the future? Liberalism cannot remain where it is and it is worthy of being saved. The ancient party, which in the past boasted such leaders as Wilfred Laurier, Edward Blake, Oliver Mowat, Christopher Fraser, Alexander MacKenzie, Richard Cartwright, David Mills, Baldwin, Fielding and Gouin, must not throw up the sponge to make way for political groups, based on class ideas, which only bedevil legislatures and make for confusion in government. The time, therefore, has come for the better elements of the party to get together for the purpose of house cleaning and reorganization. The men who have led it into the Valley of Humiliation should be gotten rid of and replaced by men of higher character, men who will place principles and ideals before mere callous opportunist and who, if a party convention adopts a platform, will not look upon that platform as a mere chart to be, in the main, disregarded for election purposes.

A Grass Blade

(Montreal Gazette)

"Common as grass" has become a proverb amongst us. Seldom, perchance, do we think of grass except in springtime when it freshly enamels the fields and lawns, or again, the harvest season when hay is piled upon the cart and bundled into barns. Likely we grow vaguely aware that somehow the grasses mark the passing of the seasons, or that their clusters provide a trestle for the crickets, shade for the ants, a home for mice and the lesser wild creatures of the field. Yet this is but a scant and shallow reckoning. Of all agencies set for the service of mankind, grass is the most constant, the most widely diffused, suitable to all lands, climes and places, and in the scope and variety of its uses this parent of all herbs stands without a peer amongst things fashioned for our convenience, comfort, delight and material well-being. Scientists tell us there are more than five thousand species of grass making up the embroidered carpet at earth level laid to our doors.

Grass is the first gift of the seasons. It is the first element of living things. It is the most ancient and primary form of vegetable life above the plane of inorganic structures, perpetually transmuting rocks and soils into the vital tissue out of which all other ranks and orders of verdure grow. Being the first seed dropped upon the continent above the level of the seas, the grass-blade stands perpetually a creature vital, affecting the silent fusion of earthly chemicals with heavenly light, and is set as an evangelist between the living and the dead. If we could but understand how the grass blades manage to achieve this alchemic marvel, or once penetrate the secret that throbs in its hollow culm, we might get at the secret of creational life in its wildest sweep. The lines of Tennyson come to mind—

"Flower in a crannied wall,
I pluck you out of the crannies;
I hold you here, root and all, in my hand,
Little flower—but if I could understand
What you are, root and all, and in all,
I should know what God and man is."

Who can calculate the vast host of wild creatures that find home in the grass-fields? How many grass-built huts and thatched roofs are there in the world? Let us remember that the reeds growing by the rivers, and the bamboo forests in tropical regions, are legitimate members of the grass tribes. Then think of the reed dwellings and wattled constructions which occupy so large a place in the architectural designs of our race. Westminster Abby itself is the outcome of an original sanctuary builded of mud and wattled reeds. Grass gives clothing, as may be seen in the millions of folk who weave grass-cloths of one sort or another, and whence comes our best linen fabrics, clean and white, but from the flax of the fields? And finally, as to food-stuffs. Grass feeds the cattle upon a thousand hills. All our cereals are cultivated grasses. Their ancestors still grow in wild state on the hills and along the lanesides. In the grass-blade, then lies our granary. From it we get food, home, garmets, fuel, medicines, rest, shade and music. And from it also a fund of gentle delights that cannot be registered in terms of material assets or cash values, but are nevertheless of rare influence in developing our finer tastes and sensibilities, like the sunlight falling upon the wavy-blue shadows of wind-stirred pastures, wherein are heard the happy voices of children, and shepherds tend their flocks and herds. Says Walt Whitman—

"Who makes much of a miracle?
To me every hour of the light and dark is a miracle,
Every square yard of the earth is spread with the same,

And once more, we may consider the beauty of the grasses of the field. The grass has a wonderful faculty. It combines force with fragility, gentleness with strength, work with silence, energy with ease, pliancy with resolution, grace with growth, and simplicity with grandeur. The grass is as useful as it is beautiful, and is serviceable at our doors surely as its freshness gives pleasure and its fulness rest. Its whisperings breathe music, its gesturings touch peace, its softeness has redemptive touch, its odors sweeten the air.

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A visit to the Union Commercial College would almost make one think that he had stepped into an actual business establishment where book-keepers, stenographers and other executives were busily engaged in performing their usual services.

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