

The Charlottetown Guardian
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A Literary Enigma

Who wrote "The Canadian Boat Song"? Speculation on this subject has been revived in the Old Country by the publication of a book dealing with the many theories of authorship of this now famous poem. That question, however—in view of the total lack of evidence to substantiate claims one way or the other—is of less interest than the comments of literary reviewers on the poem itself. For example, it is pointed out that "The Canadian Boat Song," is a song which is never sung, although music has been fitted to it. It is a song which was published as a translation from the Gaelic, but for which there is no Gaelic. It was obviously never written by a Highlander. No less evidently, it could never be a boat-song, because the rhythm of the oars is not in it. The song first appeared in Blackwood's Magazine in 1829, in one of the "Nostalgic Ambrosianae," written by Lockhart, in which it is put into the mouth of CHRISTOPHER NORTH.

But little attention was paid to it then. During the subsequent half-century separate lines and stanzas of it were quoted on different occasions by NORMAN MACLEOD and R. L. STEVENSON.

The song became magical one night in Inverness. During a speech in 1885 in the course of his "Unauthorised Programme," JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN recited the now celebrated stanza:—

From the lone shelling of the misty island—
 Mountains divide us, and the waste of seas—
 Yet still the blood is strong, the heart is Highland,
 And we in dreams behold the Hebrides:
 Fair, these broad meads—these hoary woods are grand;
 But we are exiles from our fathers' land.

The late Principal HERKLESS of St. Andrews, who heard "Joe" on the historic night at Inverness, related that the audience was electrified, and no one has since been found so dull and doltish as to fail to respond to the glamour of the song.

We never shall tread the fancy-haunted valley,
 Where 'twixt the dark hills creeps the small,
 clear stream,
 In arms around the patriarch banner rally,
 Nor see the moon on royal tombsome gleam.

There has never been anything quite like it in English poetry—the strange dragging rhythm, the poignant nostalgia, the eerie picture of the Highland glen. Yet what Highlander would have dreamt of writing "creeps the small clear stream" of a rippling, rushing mountain burn?

After the vision, the mood changes:—

When the bold kindred, in the time long-vanished,
 Conquered the soil and fortified the keep—
 No scer forsoled the children would be banish'd,
 That a degenerate Lord might boast his sheep.

Again there is a poetic licence it is doubtful if a Highlander would have dated to use in "conquer'd the soil," which has never been anything like true of the Highlands.

As to the authorship of the song, SCOTT, WILSON, LOCKHART, HOGG, the 12th Earl of Eglington, Dr. DUNLAP, D. M. MUIR ("Delta") and others are credited with the achievement. It does not greatly matter. All the possible authors are long since gone; only the song remains as an inspiration to the reader who loves wild, weird beauty and the music of words.

Britain's Recent Gains

Has Britain gained or lost in the recent European flare up? This is a New York international authority's summing up of the situation:

Britain has gained a Franco-Belgian pledge to protect her shores in case of German aggression without making any material concessions under the new "Locarno."

Italian occupation of the region of Lake Tana has put a decided damper on Egyptian independence moves. Egypt now needs Britain—badly.

Britain internal politics, which had been drifting into a vague benevolence of divers trends now has been galvanized into a steadfast desire to keep peace by shaking up the League of Nations.

French leadership of the League of Nations has been broken and British substituted. If it is argued that the League has gone to pieces under the strain, it may be replied that the weakness, always was there, now has been demonstrated, and can be dealt with.

Britain has put matters with Germany on a basis of real bargaining.

Changing Times

A news item from London announces that the King has ordered the conversion of the wine cellars in St. James' Palace into offices and workshops and the restoration of the palace kitchens and larders to the position of honour they originally enjoyed. It may seem a trivial piece of information, but it is, perhaps, suggests the *Vancouver Province*, of more significance than at first blush appears. Are the spacious days of royal entertainment to return, with elaborate banquets for distinguished foreign guests? If so, they will evidently be feasts rather than carousals. There will be plenty to eat, but not so much to drink, under the reported plans. That is a sign of the times, and surely a very good sign. The days of the "three-bottle" men are gone, but not the days of royal hospitality.

Editorial Notes

Road machines, new and old, are ready for the road.
 From now on farmers will be busy as the proverbial hatters.
 Pedigree certificates registered by the Canadian National Live Stock Records, approved by

the Dominion Minister of Agriculture, during the month of March, 1936, included 217 horses; 2,679 cattle; 364 sheep; 526 swine; 2,777 foxes; 571 dogs; 161 poultry, and 4 goats—total 7,299.

Notes by the Way

Hope there is going to be no gambling in turnips as there was in potatoes some years ago. Let the shoemaker stick to his last.

Discussing the disposition of British Columbia and Vancouver to raid sinking funds, the *Financial News* asks to whom sinking funds belong. Among private corporations, it states, sinking funds are held to be the property of lenders. Is not provision of a sinking fund implied at least when a municipality borrows?

Canada has the only cyanamide plant on the North American continent. It is also the largest plant of its kind in the world. Cyanamide is employed in the manufacture of mixed fertilizers, and its use for single application alone as a competitor of nitrate of soda and sulphate of ammonia is making headway in the Dominion.

It is estimated that there were 94,000 less egg-laying hens on farms in Canada in 1935 than in 1934 but 268,000 dozen more eggs were laid, and the total estimated value of eggs (\$37,763,000) shows an increase of \$3,309,000 over the revised valuation of 1934. The average value of eggs in 1935 is estimated at 17 cents per dozen against 15 cents per dozen in 1934.

British Columbia having failed to get Federal guarantee for its \$3,500,000 loan to cover one maturing May 15, has made arrangements with New York financiers to meet the situation. Of course, these financiers realize that the Federal Government cannot ultimately let B. C. down, so their principal and interest are both safe—given time.

In consequence of the predicament of Ethiopia the Black nations are lining up in self-defence. An empire envisioned by Arab patriots probably would include Syria, the Lebanon republic, the Arabian Saudian Kingdom, formerly Hedjaz and Nejd), the Kingdom of Iraq, the Imamate of Yemen, the Sultanate of Kuwait, the Sultanate of Oman and possibly Transjordan, mandated to Britain and Aden, British protectorate. The inclusion of Palestine, also at present under British mandate, is regarded as less likely.

In the proceedings in the House of Commons at Ottawa, last week, Canadians were placed in possession of two rather startling facts in connection with their country's economy. The first was the total cost of one year of Federal Government to the Dominion. It stands at \$508,000,000. The second was the combined drain of the depression and railway sink-holes, likewise calculated for a twelve-month period only. It stands at \$124,000,000. These two facts came to light when Hon. CHARLES DUNNING, minister of finance, tabled emergency supplementary estimates totalling the last-mentioned \$124,000,000 figure.

A bill to remonetize silver through the Bank of Canada was introduced in the House of Commons by Mr. THOMAS REID (Lib., New Westminster). Speaker CASGRAIN was doubtful if it came within the competence of a private member to introduce such a measure, and after taking time to look into the matter decided against him. Then Mr. REID had his comeback. Why then, he asked, did the Liberals support his bill when they were in opposition? Under the REID bill the bank would be empowered to add silver to its currency reserve in the same way as gold. The bank then would issue silver certificates against the silver. In addition, the bank would have power to purchase newly-mined silver on instructions of the finance minister.

A threat in the House of Commons to transfer the grants given various health organizations to the nine provinces direct has raised strong opposition on the part of these voluntary bodies. Dr. GORDON BATES, general director of the Health League, (previously the Social Hygiene Council), declared that "to one familiar with public health problems in Canada it is quite clear that such a suggestion could arise only from total ignorance of the conditions with which the work is confronted." To divide grants for public health education among the nine Provinces would actually be about the worst possible way that could be devised for getting any tangible results from the money, Dr. BATES claimed. It would mean overhead and administrative costs multiplied by nine.

Denouncing the "nauseating exhibition" of misleading and exaggerated news broadcast over the radio from Moose River *The Eastern Chronicle* says:

"Premier Angus L. Macdonald spoke of this outrage in the House of Assembly, and stated that he had protested to the Canadian Radio Commission. The people were entitled to the news, but a plain statement of fact was all that was necessary. Investigation at the mine showed that the radioed details were largely exaggerated in far too many instances. At the mine, Minister of Mines Dwyer also protested against the harrowing information being sent out, and instead sent out clear and concise statements, which were much appreciated."

It should be borne in mind that the receiving radio stations are in no way responsible for this state of affairs, and are as anxious to have it remedied as is the most intelligent listener-in.

Commenting upon Alberta's default the *Calgary Herald* declares: "While there may be some people in this province who applaud the defaulting action of the Alberta Government, thinking that the 'Big Shots' in the East must be squirming, they fail to realize that the Winnipeg School Teachers' Pension Fund is affected, as are the workmen's compensation boards in all four Western provinces. Among the larger cities in the West which hold these bonds are Winnipeg, Brandon, Moose Jaw, Regina, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, North Battleford, Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Vancouver and Victoria." It might have added that Prince Edward Island Government is also an unfortunate holder of these bonds.

PUBLIC FORUM

OLD AGE PENSIONS
 Sir,—Your editorial in the issue of April 27th inst. under caption Old Age Pensions, brings to remembrance the circumstances of the debate which I listened to, when the legislation was being enacted by the Federal Government.

The spirit of the measure was not one of charity, but for "service rendered." This should be understood by many persons who are suffering from economic pressure—for no fault of their own, and because of a silly false pride—fall to make application, for what really is their right. It is generally conceded by persons who have given this matter serious thought, that while the principle of the legislation is humane and economically sound, the age limit is faulty and the purchasing power too small. Two phases of the legislation which need readjustment.

I am, Sir, etc.,
 A. CAROLYN BAYFIELD,
 Charlottetown, P.E.I.
 April 27, 1936.

ROAD DRAGGING
 Sir,—In driving over the main highway in West Prince Sunday afternoon, I observed and appreciated a very much needed governmental charitable act, or better termed, "a work of charity," executed by the good people inhabiting that section of our fair province. This was in the line of road dragging. There were many miles on this famed highway dragged and it sure was a pleasure to drive on it. These people took the chance, irrespective of the outcome, despite the fact that the Press carries a very imperative notice to the contrary. How about the rest of the good people in the rural districts of the province, that is to say, outside the Borden, Summerside and Charlottetown highway which seemingly is the only road on the Island worth recognition, following the example of our western friends and smoothing out the old dirt thoroughfares which we have to travel as to "hard rock" roads.

The Geneva Disarmament Conference has failed; the London Naval Conference has been abortive. The international situation is overcast, and even a workable system of collective security through the League of Nations necessitates a suitable and efficient contribution from all three British Services. Before vast commitments of new expenditures are entered upon it would not conceive of a car covering 292 feet within the four seconds it takes a driver to turn and speak to a rear-seat passenger. At the same speed, how many realize when they pass the familiar sign, "Railroad crossing 200 feet ahead," they will reach the tracks in less than three seconds? One way to drive home this lesson is to reduce the speedometer to translate miles p.h. hour into feet per second.—Bosson Christian Science Monitor.

Fifty m.p.h. (miles per hour) is 73 f.p.s. (feet per second). It is easy to understand why motorists cannot conceive of a car covering 292 feet within the four seconds it takes a driver to turn and speak to a rear-seat passenger. At the same speed, how many realize when they pass the familiar sign, "Railroad crossing 200 feet ahead," they will reach the tracks in less than three seconds? One way to drive home this lesson is to reduce the speedometer to translate miles p.h. hour into feet per second.—Bosson Christian Science Monitor.

A university administrator may sometimes find himself in the position of defending the right of free speech on the part of an individual, although he may strongly disagree with the views expressed and consider the individual's course of action lacking in wisdom and seeming to regard for others. The University of New York University recently puts the responsibilities of both university and instructor: "If the instructor has the right (as he has) to academic freedom, the university has the right to expect of him in his expression good taste, a decent regard for his colleagues . . . and that he will not descend to the plane of the propagandist."—Toronto Mail and Empire.

A motion picture film depicting the horrors of war from the air has been banished by the British censor and an appeal against his ruling will be taken to the House of Commons. At this range the banning of such a film appears to be inexplicable, because if there is one element to be avoided in the air is the civil population without whose influence there can be no assurance of peace. It is impossible to Hitlerize the British people in this day and generation.—Victoria Times.

"If you destroy the leisure class you destroy civilization," observed Mr. Morgan. This classical theory that a leisure class is the necessary bulwark of enlightenment and culture evokes here and there a skeptical snirk in these days of leftist intellectualism. Yet there is evidence from the slave-supported elegances of Greece and Rome to the aristocratically patronized artists of recent times that lends to support it. A great civilization usually survives by virtue of a nucleus of voracious who cherish its culture and inspirational flame. But with the advance of democracy it is no longer so easy as it was to identify the leisure class.—Christian Science Monitor.

The muskrat is actually a small beaver as far as his winter habits are concerned. When it comes to something to eat he probably prefers claims to anything else. His winter house is in the marshland along the river, part below and part above the water, and only on rare occasions does he burrow for a home in a bank. He has to protect himself against such animals as mink and otter, and trappers have told us that when the muskrat is born and not much larger than a mouse, the bullfrog will eat him, and the water snakes will do the same.—Walkerston Herald Times.

The shad, most delectable of fish, will soon be extinct if something is not done to provide them with pro-

holdings, without his being levied upon to pay the taxes of Mr. H's proteges?
 When Mr. Hemming charges these with a "lack entirely the community spirit" I am constrained to ask how far his "community spirit" has measured up to the performances of those who are paying the taxes? How many tenants is he housing free of rent, and paying their taxes? I have not raised the questions of economy, only those of equity, and have no call to reply to his figures or deductions.
 I am, Sir, etc.,
 ONE WHO PAYS.

CITY ESTIMATES
 Sir,—I have neither the time nor the inclination to continue a controversy with Mr. Hemming on civic finances which every one knows are not in a satisfactory condition. Mr. Hemming is not fair in his argument. He deliberately puts words into my mouth that I did not utter or write. He states that "in one breath" I said "that taxpayers cannot sell their properties" and in another I ask why the City does not sell these peoples' homes for their overdue taxes.

I never made any such statement nor did I use words that could in any way be construed as such. Mr. Hemming is simply putting up a straw-man so that he can proceed to knock him down—a very questionable method for an expert accountant to adopt. Whilst for years past, deficit after deficit have added to our bounded debt and as another fairly large deficit is in prospect for this year I am amazed that Mr. Hemming above all others, should cast business ethics to the winds and accuse those who differ with a "lack entirely of the community spirit," and he thus describes what in his opinion is the community spirit namely "that those who are able to contribute to the city's coffers will do so ungrudgingly and without trying to crush their fellow citizens who are in less fortunate circumstances." What nonsense!

The British government believes that the only way to save the Empire and to keep it in an efficient state is to have a balanced budget. Every government in the world on the same principle and are bending every effort to bring same about. I commend the chairman of the city finance committee in putting on an increase in taxation but at the same time there should be some evidence of the strictest economy, which is not shown by the Estimates recently made public and which are over \$5,000,000 above what was spent last year.

Mr. Hemming refers to an increase of \$32,000 over last year in the "City Hall" item and says this is for "urgent repairs"—such an explanation is not convincing. Mr. Art McDougall was chairman of the Property Comm'tee last year. It was his duty to see that all the City property was kept in good condition and it is needless to say that he performed that duty faithfully so that the statement of "urgent repairs" is not acceptable and this can be said as to every other statement made by Mr. Hemming. They are mere excuses to hoodwink the people. They do not come within the definition of explanations.

FOR A BALANCED BUDGET
BEER VS. T.B.
 Sir,—In his somewhat inflammatory epistle of Friday morning "Prohibition" reminds us, more than anything else, of the scene depicted by historians in which poor old King John of Bohemia, at the Battle of Crecy, blind and unhealed, rushes into the combat on foot with the fury of a cobra striking to right and left of him and presenting a perfect example of the futility of rage by inflicting damage on no one but himself. I find it hard indeed to reconcile the creator of order of scenes in his comic opera letter of the 18th inst. with the vituperative Vesuvius of Friday morning who belched forth so unceremoniously, spouting denunciations and abuse in different directions and in a most entertaining manner, in a letter contained "all the melancholy merriment of poetry without its inspiration." When I note the superecilious self-assurance with which he consigns others to an imaginary position of comparative inferiority by his application of such phrases as "liquor propagandist," "climax of stupidity," etc., I am forced to conclude that the reproaches of conscience must share with arrogance the full responsibility for the display of temper which made such a painful exhibition in Friday morning's "Guardian." It is not possible to understand how difficult it is for such a mind to be severe without at the same time being insolent and vulgar.

In my letter I called "Prohibitionists" attention to a passage in his letter of the 18th which was considered by many to reflect unjustly and unfairly on a very respected member of the Legislature of this Province. I had in mind at the time a very false impression that existed in certain localities in the minds of individuals who were not well informed on these subjects, but whose minds were influenced by impressions made by writers who were either careless in their use of words and terms or entirely ignorant of what they were talking about. I made absolutely no attack on "Prohibitionists" and in my letter I intimated my belief that his words might not have been meant to carry offence. I quote my own words: "I really prefer to believe that your correspondent did not intentionally create this false impression." I asked for an explanation and instead received a tirade of an idiot. He had full opportunity to set at rest any doubts as to what he meant by his sentences. He refused to do so but trotted out that gem from his first letter, not content with this he proceeds to conjure a defence by trumping up "the evidence given before the U.S. Judiciary Committee." This "evidence," he hints, places a connection between alcohol and tubercu-

osis. I may say there are in this Province today hundreds of men and women whose lips have never been tainted by alcohol and who are suffering from tuberculosis—men and women the latches of whose shoes no cheap traducer is fit to lose. In their name I resent this unmanly attempt to throw mud and to violate the sanctity of the sick-room. The most abandoned wretches in their crimes against humanity will sometimes pause at the threshold of the sick chamber where others become only bold and insolent. Shame, shame! "Hot-beds of T.B." No "reputable physician" would consider his statement worth answering! Before leaving this subject I wish to cite a few facts. These are not findings of the U.S. Judiciary Committee.

The average death rate on Prince Edward Island for the period 1926-35 was 93.6 per 100,000 of our population, a most appalling figure. In the year 1934 the death rate from tuberculosis for the whole of Canada was as low as 59.3. For the Province of Saskatchewan the death rate from this disease was only 30.5 as compared with the staggering figure of 104.5 for Prince Edward Island. In other words, P.E.I., the only Prohibition Province in Canada has the highest death rate from tuberculosis of any Province in Canada. The figures given are for every 100,000 of the population. In the classification of occupations of patients admitted to the Sanatorium suffering from this disease for the year 1935 we find that of housewives being the highest in the list with a total of twenty-two (22). The next highest in the list is that of labourer with a total of eleven (11).

This would seem to indicate that there are other factors than alcoholic dissipation entering into the cause of this disease. King Alcohol has, as a matter of fact, too much human misery, but he is not the father of tuberculosis. A minor, indirect agent, he is at times no doubt, but there his responsibility ceases. Tuberculosis can and does flourish where "regular, poverty and ill-nourishment" are entirely unknown. And my friend is welcome to any comfort he can derive from "evidence given before the U.S. Judiciary Committee."

I desire to say before I close that unless my friend attempts to deny that tuberculosis is produced by infection in a body in which resistance is lowered by varied causes

That Body of Yours
 SHOULD ALL ADRESSED TEETH BE REMOVED?
 When a patient is getting an examination by his doctor or dentist and the special light or the X-ray shows abscesses at the root of one or more teeth there is just the question as to whether or not these teeth should be removed.
 If the patient is languid, cranky, tired, has pain in muscles or joints, blood pressure very high or very low, the physician will advise the removal of the teeth, and in the majority of cases the dentist will agree with him. If the dentist feels that by certain treatment he can save the tooth or teeth, so that strong chewing surface will not be lost he will likely advise against removal.
 However when despite the presence of the abscesses the individual feels strong and well, has a good digestion, is not inclined to oversleep, heart beat is normal, blood pressure is normal, there are no aches, pains or numbness anywhere in the body, should the dentist or doctor advise removal of the teeth?
 When the X-ray and a careful examination by the dentist satisfies him that the abscesses are definitely there, most physicians are inclined to advise the removal of these teeth even if the patient has no symptoms whatever. They feel that trouble is there which may attack the patient at any time causing rheumatism, followed by heart disease, stomach ulcer, inflammation of the gall bladder, inflammation of kidneys and bladder or other troubles. They think of the patient as actually sitting on a volcano which may erupt at any time.
 The dentist, on the other hand, knows that there is nothing "just as good" as the patient's own teeth. Also, he has seen teeth, in similar condition to those of the patient in which no symptoms were present over a number of years. Naturally he is not so ready to remove the teeth as is the physician.
 What should the patient do when the physician and dentist disagree?
 I believe that as the patient is the one that counts most, he should try to get the dentist and doctor together. The dentist may be able to satisfy the physician that he can "treat" and remove the infection safely without the removal of the teeth. As all the physicians want is to feel sure that the infection is removed, everybody will be satisfied.

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 FOR HORSES AND CATTLE
 Tones up the system, cures all skin troubles and gives a glossy coat of hair. For swollen legs, purifying the blood and as an Eradicator of Worms, it is an unfailing remedy.
Macs Pig-Worm Powder
 A very effective remedy in the treatment of worms.
Macs Blood Food
 For Pale and Thin People.
 A combination especially valuable in the treatment of those diseases, when their origin is traceable to an impoverished condition of the blood. For those who have lost their appetite Macs Blood Food will prove the restorative.
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 Mail Orders Given Prompt Attention.
 Phone 315.

The Poet's Corner
 A LITTLE BOY IN THE MORNING
 He will not come, and still I wait.
 He whistles at another gate.
 Where angels listen. Ah, I know
 He will not come, yet if I go
 How shall I know he did not pass
 Barefooted on the flowery grass?
 The moon leans on one silver horn
 Above the silhouettes of morn.
 And from their nest-sills flings
 Whistle,
 Or, stooping, pluck the downy thistle.
 How is the morn so gay and fair,
 Without his whistling in its air?
 The world is calling. I must go.
 How shall I know he did not pass
 Barefooted on the shining grass?
 —Francis Ledwidge.

and not from a oohol, that drink is only a minor and indirect cause, and that the majority of victims are not the products of the "hot-beds" he mentions, so far as this Province is concerned, this correspondence is at an end for my part. I will not be drawn into any controversy bearing on Prohibition or politics.

His designation of my letter as "liquor propaganda" is well worthy of contempt if so richly deserves it. It is contemptible that he will again erupt and judging from his last I have little reason to expect either the polished refinement of the philosopher or the natural politeness of a gentleman. But when he next volunteers to the public another tirade of coarse ribaldry I trust he will have some little respect for the sanctity of the sick-chamber. I cannot part from him without applying to him the words of the poet: "Grave yet trifling; zealous yet untrue; And even in penance planning sins anew." I am, Sir, etc.,
 TRUDEAUIST

LEAVES FOR OTTAWA
 SAINT JOHN, N.B., April 26—(C.P.)—Hon. A. P. Paterson, New Brunswick Minister of Education, Federal and Municipal Relations, left for Ottawa today on the first official business of the new government department. The purpose of the trip was not stated.

For the 18th time the expatriated guest rang the bell marked "Porter" in the seaside hotel. At last there came a shuffle of feet and the aged porter appeared.
 Now, sir, he admonished, it ain't no use goin' on summoin' me like that when I've other jobs to attend to.
 Summoning you? exclaimed the guest wearily. Good heavens, I gave that up long ago. I thought you were dead and I've been tolling for you.

DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS
 Mr. Tea Pott Says:
 For a Delicious Cup of Full Flavoured Tea use BRAHMIN Orange Pekoe Tea