

The Charlottetown Guardian

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About Potatoes

The following editorial from the Ottawa Journal throws light on a question which has occasioned a good deal of discussion recently: "Last week the lowly potato made the front page of most newspapers when certain persons whose business it is to know about such matters suddenly discovered, or thought they had, that Ontario and Quebec faced a serious shortage. Some even went so far as to talk of a "potato famine." Toronto dealers reported a "decided shortage" in storage stocks, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick dealers stated supplies in the Maritimes were depleted, that Ontario and Quebec need not look here for usual Spring requirements. The housewife had the matter brought to her attention when she was required to pay nearly double last month's price. The wholesale price per bag was near the \$2 mark in Montreal and Toronto on Saturday. March 1 prices were from 90 cents to \$1.15.

"Despite the price trend there appears considerable confusion as to whether a shortage really exists. The statistical experts in Government departments here in Ottawa fail to agree. Figures made public by two branches of the Government, separated it is true by a mile or more of paved street, differ so widely that some explanation is certainly required.

"Shortly after Toronto dealers and officials issued a warning about the likely shortage, and Maritime dealers backed up the statement by pointing to depleted stocks in the East, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics here issued a bulletin stating that according to figures compiled at the Bureau as on March 31 there were 11,447,000 hundredweight of potatoes then on hand in Canada. This was compared with 19,740,000 at the same date in 1935. The statement went further and pointed out the 1935 figure was abnormally large and, according to the Canadian Press report "officials felt there would be plenty of potatoes to go around."

"But the Dominion Department of Agriculture also issue potato statistics, and the weekly crop and market report issued April 9 states that the amount of commercial potatoes available in Canada on April 1 was 48,152 tons as compared to 246,673 tons on the same date in 1935. Going back over old copies of this report it was found 75,000 tons of potatoes on hand, 1932 some 182,000 tons; 1933, 91,000 tons and in 1934, 104,000 tons. These figures certainly indicate that the present stock is decidedly low.

"The strange thing is the wide difference between the two sets of figures. The Bureau of Statistics says there is 11,447,000 hundredweight on hand, while the printed report of the Department of Agriculture states there is only 963,040 hundredweight (48,152 tons). A little matter of ten million hundredweight to be explained as between two sets of figures.

"Possibly the explanation is as set forth in a letter to The Journal by W. B. SOMERSET, Ontario's Commissioner of Marketing. He says "The Bureau of Statistics figures include the large requirements necessary for seeding purposes as well as for table stock—the amount left for table use is very considerably lower than in previous years." He attaches a report by J. T. CASSIN, president of the Ontario Potato Growers', which would indicate unusually low stocks."

Youth And Democracy

It becomes increasingly evident that if our economic and other problems are to be solved, it must be with the help of the younger generation who are the chief sufferers today from the maladjustment of our economic machinery. Recently in Montreal, a signal demonstration of the interest which youth is taking in Canada's problems, political, social and economic, was given at a conference of delegates representing 135 local youth groups—including five French-speaking organizations, the Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Y.M.I.L.A., young peoples' societies of all church denominations, boy scouts, girl guides, junior boards of trade, and school and college groups representing from 8,000 to 10,000 young men and women.

The convention was addressed by Professor JOHN HUGHES, of McGill University, who among other things emphasized the fact that education and democracy must go hand in hand. "Looking to Europe we see nine dictatorships and only four democracies," he said. "We are more fortunate here and can meet like this and say what we think. But how long we shall continue to have that liberty one cannot tell. He would be an optimist indeed who would say, 'It can't happen here.' We must be ever vigilant to preserve such freedom while we may."

Democracy, he admitted, was not an entire success and was honeycombed with corruption; but that was not inherent in the system, nor inseparable from it. Democracies did exist which were comparatively free of corruption and graft, and that form of government was the only one tolerable to people who valued intellectual freedom.

What is the essential need of democracy in this country? Schofield, declares the McGill professor, "Not the present type, but the kind that will enable men to pierce the wiles of demagogues, to make up their minds wisely and sanely on problems of the day, and to analyze issues intelligently."

Clearly, it is through the younger generation that progress in this direction must be achieved. They are one speaker at the Montreal convention declared, "are among the sufferers, whether from war, from unemployment, or from

the repressions of dictatorship resulting from absence of the right education for democracy." And another delegate made this pregnant remark: "We can make governments listen to us and give us what we want if only we can come to an agreement between ourselves as to just exactly what it is we want."

The Montreal gathering was preliminary to a National Youth Congress which is to be held at Ottawa on May 23 to 25 and an International Congress of Youth scheduled for Geneva later in the summer. At the Ottawa congress the following six-point programme will be discussed:

- 1. Is a socially useful life accessible to the thousands of youth leaving schools and universities?
2. Can slums and their demoralizing, delinquency-breeding influence be eliminated?
3. Is our educational system adequate? Are recreational and vocational training facilities in keeping with present day needs?
4. Unemployment and relief, their causes and influences as they exist in Canada, must be studied and understood. While unemployment exists can occupation and honorable means other than relief be found for youth?
5. Is war imminent? How can Canadian youth co-operate to preserve world order?
6. What are our political, cultural, and religious leaders doing to meet these problems? What can Canadian youth do to assist in their all-important solution?

Editorial Notes

This is Anzac Day.

Tomorrow is France's election day No. 1.

The roads are now fit for travel—at least the main ones.

Mayor TURNER worthily expressed the feelings of the citizens in his message to N. S. Minister of Mines.

It was a Kingly act for His Majesty to send his congratulations to the valiant miners at Moose River.

Our Lieutenant Governor knows how to do the right thing at the right time and in the right manner.

Farmers would still be well advised to reduce potato acreage this season, instead of increasing it, as many are inclined to do.

Potatoes were selling this week in Ontario at \$1.40 per bushel and in New Brunswick at \$2.40 per barrel. The improved roads are facilitating hauling.

Premier CAMPBELL was a little later than the others in sending the miners congratulations on their successful endeavours, but none the less sincere on that account.

The Sackville Tribune asserts there should be a speed-up on the Borden-Charlottetown Express of about an hour—an hour-and-a-quarter being long enough for 42 miles. It admits that the numerous stoppages is a serious handicap, but suggests as a remedy the running of a jitney.

WINSTON CHURCHILL has a proclivity for "making our flesh creep," but unfortunately there is ground for his latest outbreak in that direction. His warning has been anticipated in most quarters, and it is from this very forecasting that danger is to be anticipated. They are all doing it.

Summerside, which, as everybody knows, is the Premier's home town, has been provided in the Supplementary Estimates with \$29,000 for harbour dredging. What about the survey and dredging of Charlottetown harbour? Perhaps everybody concerned was too busy pursuing the will o' the wisp bridge scheme, to think of the necessity for our harbour improvement.

The TASCHEAU Government has been described by Mr. C. H. MOINEAU former president of the Mercier Political Association, as a "band of Ali Babas," responsible for all the wrongs in Quebec. Speaking at a meeting of the younger members of the Confederation Club Mr. MOINEAU said it was to fight against the "monster" that the Alliance Libérale Nationale had been created. Its mission was, he said, to "clear the parliamentary heavens first, then the political heaven."

It is anticipated in financial circles that British Columbia and Saskatchewan will speedily follow Alberta into the default column. The former has a \$3,500,000 loan maturing on May 15, and not a dollar in a sinking fund to meet it; while fifteen days earlier, May 1, Saskatchewan has \$2,000,000 coming due and in no better position to meet it. As both Provinces are averse to sacrificing their Provincial independence to secure Federal guarantee, Mr. DUNNING sees nothing for it but to leave them to take care of themselves as he has done in the case of Alberta. Both Federal and Provincial Governments are hopeful of having the situation cleared up by the end of the year; meantime Canada's financial reputation is suffering in London.

The KING Government is to enlarge the powers of the Tariff Board, (established by the BENNETT Government under the Ottawa agreements) to include all questions of tariff. It is contended that the Tariff Board has been such an outstanding success that if all tariff requests are passed upon by the board, and that none of the proposed changes come only from the Department of Finance after deputations have been heard, or in response to some plea of political expediency, tariff-making would be divorced as completely as is possible from party politics. It might be urged that such a move would jeopardize ministerial responsibility. But it is apparent that such a peril is not real, for in any case the Minister of Finance and then the Cabinet as a whole would be obliged to pass upon the proposed changes arising from the board's finding of facts.

Notes by the Way

Distance is apparently no object to certain graduates of Indian universities, according to some "howlers" quoted by the Bengal Minister of Education at the opening of an "Education Week" in Calcutta. To question—How high is Mount Everest? one student replied—5,440 miles, and another who was asked the length of the Suez Canal gave the fine round figure of 2,000 miles. The members of Mr. Rutledge's expedition who are delegated to make the assault on the final 1,000 feet of the mountain may be inclined to agree with the student's estimate, were anyone who has traveled through the Canal in the height of summer may not think too harshly of the other figure.—Glasgow Herald.

In this matter of official salaries there is one office which, though all the rest went unrevised, ought to be more substantially paid—the office of the Minister of Education, the most important and most hardy-driven servant of the Realm; and yet, by a monstrous inconsequence, a financial burden is laid on top of his others. One of the Select Committees urged that the Prime Minister should receive 7,000 pounds the other 8,000 pounds; and the larger sum is none too much. Mr. Asquith told the 1920 Committee that Downing Street left him a far poorer man; Mr. MacDonald has observed that the same street is one of the highroads to poor law relief. If the First Minister in the Cabinet is to be recompensed for his labors, if he is merely to be able to command the duties of hospitality out of salary, his 5,000 pounds a year must be generously enlarged—a pension attached to a supreme office which, once assumed, traditionally debars the holder from pursuit of money.—London Morning Post.

The young man, coming fresh from college this Spring, is apt to think that all the good jobs have been filled. There are more jobs awaiting the right man, however, than there are men to fill them! The eternal yearning of the progressive employer is for better men—men with ideas who take pride in their work. Men who see ahead, men who have vision and ideas. Men who want to do better for themselves and their employers, and who are willing to pay the price of real success. The man who is never satisfied with what he does, and who continually strives to improve everything he does—the man who delivers the goods—he is welcomed the world over, and always will be.

The capacity of Canadian Governments to spend appears to be limited only by their ability to borrow. But when their ability to borrow comes to an end, then their capacity to spend is limited to the amount of their incoming revenue. The question of how much longer Canadian governmental institutions will have borrowing ability is a pertinent one. There are already signs of limitation. For instance, some municipalities are in default; four Western Provinces are practically limited to borrowing from the Government; and it is generally admitted that the London market is closed to the Dominion Government, while it appears doubtful if the New York market is open except for certain refunding operations.—George C. MacDonald, in Canadian Business, Montreal.

American and Canadian railways may be the victims of a British railway strike, but British railways are climbing rapidly out of their hard times, the four main companies making aggregate profits last year of \$160,000,000. As a result of the promising outlook the companies will this year start an expansion plan involving expenditure of \$250,000,000, part of which is to be met by government assistance. Nearly 100 miles of Southern Railway will be electrified.—St. Thomas Times Journal.

Without a contest to help in bringing people out, Roosevelt rolled up a vote in Illinois primaries nearly double that of the combined vote for Knox and Borah, aspirants for the Republican nomination. Observers are agreed that the President is regaining much of the popularity he enjoyed two years ago and later lost in some measure. It looks as if he will win again in November unless business slumps in the interval.—London Advertiser.

A local dentist tells the following fish story: Out trolling he got a strike. He reeled in his line and a 44-pound fish was on the end of it. Getting the fish into the boat, the dentist suddenly found the hook gone! Looking down the fish's throat he saw the tail of a smaller fish. Pulling out the little fish, he found the hook in its mouth. The little fellow weighed eight pounds. Fifty-two pounds of fish in one strike is good fishing.—Victoria Colonist.

Appropriations for the United States national defense during the coming fiscal year are close to \$1,000,000,000—the greatest peace time appropriation this country has ever made. That amount of money is really enough to make Americans look around and try to find out whom they are defending themselves from.—Christian Science Monitor.

The British people have now learned in the school of experience that there is no short cut to increased employment. The Labour Party was taught that lesson in its first term of office, although it still clings pathetically to its doctrine that if only we had Socialism there would be no poverty and unemployment. The majority of people have today out our vain hopes of quick remedies for our ills. America provides the wisdom of this course.

That Body of Hours

By James U. Barton, M.D.

SEARCHING FOR THE CAUSE AND CURE OF ASTHMA

Less than ten years ago a group of asthma sufferers began writing to the press in Great Britain about the lack of knowledge of the causes of asthma. Sufferers of high and low estate got together, appointed a committee of sufferers, and physicians, and organized what is known as the Asthma Research Council. Funds were collected to enable research physicians and practicing physicians to investigate the causes and best treatment of asthma.

This program of research included (1) formation of asthma research centres, (2) investigation and study of (3) asthma in children with vomiting that occurred at regular intervals, epilepsy, migraine (one-sided headache) and skin disease, (4) being sensitive to animal, vegetable, or other foreign matter, (5) physical methods of treatment including the breathing in of medicated substances, use of ultra violet rays, diathermy (electric heat to inner tissues), and breathing exercises, (6) relation of asthma to other chest ailments (bronchitis, tuberculosis), (7) the effects of diet, (8) various cures including secret remedies, (9) family histories.

Since the formation of this Asthma Research Council in 1927, investigation along these lines has been the means of bringing relief to a great many sufferers.

Thus in locating the causes of asthma, defects in nose and throat, being sensitive to various substances, the eating of certain articles of food, have all been definitely shown to be the cause in a number of cases. Correcting these defects, avoiding these substances, and omitting these articles from the diet have kept many free from asthmatic attacks.

The breathing exercises mentioned before have been so helpful that the Council has issued a booklet at a shilling a copy obtainable from their headquarters, King's College Hospital, London, England.

All the patients attend the asthma clinics for a period of two months before any special treatment is given. During this time they are given general advice as to diet, exercise, feathers or horse dander, which is shown by skin tests to be probable causes of the attacks.

During a two months period of observation about half the patients lost their asthma or had fewer attacks. Of those who improved about one in four had a relapse six months later.

The Poet's Corner

SALT TANG OF SEAWEED

Now, as the children gather home together, How good to see them—strong and fresh and young, With eager eyes and looks that match Spring weather! And hear their voices across the sunshine flung Like arrows winged with Fancy's fighting feather— Words of a song as yet but all unsung! And now, as time runs out and they are scattered Once more in distant haunts at something or play that doubtless little mattered— Gesture or tone unheeded on the day— Throbs through our heart swift as through clouds wind-tattered— The eager sunlight floods the morning grey.

So from our own past youth—all sequence scorning Sudden unbidden, like a madcap fool— Some trifle, long forgotten, without warning Leaps to remembrance— poignant, wonderful, Sweet scent of clover from far fields of morning. Salt tang of seaweed from a wave-washed pool. (Sir Patrick Ford in Chambers's Journal.)

What the world needs today is more business between all the nations. In a world of artificially closed markets it is not possible to build up vigorous industry and commerce.—Belfast Telegraph.

Detroit customs officials have returned a Van Dyck (spelled Van Dyke in despatches) picture to Toronto to ascertain why the artist could not sign the customs declaration in person. The other day Rumanian peasants called for the author after a play by Shakespeare, and probably Detroiters joined in the laugh.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

BREWERY VS. HEAVEN

Sir,—There are a great many who are not only doubtful about the motives of the Montreal brewery in making a high class stallion available to this province, but are also concerned about the results of being under obligation to liquor manufacturers.

While it has been pointed out that this deal will bring immediate advantage to the horsemen of our Island, the more remote results may be quite the opposite. It is no our advantage to look a little further than the end of our own nose.

The comparison of an entrance into Heaven and the "generosity of this company," made by Hon. W. H. Dennis, is about as full of sentiment and devoid of reason as anything we have read for a long time. There is no similarity between the goodness of God and a gift from a brewer. The first is above suspicion. The second is most certainly not. There is nothing to fear on entering Heaven. There is abundant cause for being doubtful about the designs of the brewers. The word "generosity" sounds fine but the fact that it is advertising cannot be so easily disguised.

Increasing friendship with the brewery industry is apt to do far more harm than good to the farmers. It is the rural sections of the province which have shown the largest proportion of the people supporting the cause of Temperance. It is up to them now to beware lest a trip is being laid for them. We may accept the bait and be caught in the clutches of the brewers.

Those who think of the Great Beyond must know that it is more important to lay up treasure in Heaven than treasure on earth. But since the liquor business has been very efficient in preventing the common people from obtaining either, the good the breweries do is increasingly under suspicion. If I either willingly or by my negligence, were to assist the liquor business, which has destroyed such multitudes in both body and soul, I would have very little hope that St. Peter would ever permit me to pass through the Pearly Gates.

It is up to those who have been elected to responsibility over us, not only to scrutinize the motives of those who would do business with us, but to guard the results of that business may be both financial and moral loss to our Province. I am, Sir, etc., T. R. GOUDGE.

CIVIC FINANCES

Sir,—"One Who Pays" in his first letter complained that "we who pay are now asked to put up another one-quarter percent to pay the defaulters' taxes as well as our own." In his second letter he tells hard luck stories of a widow with a tenant thirteen months behind in his rent, and of an owner of ten tenancies with three of them idle and three with defaulting tenants. If these stories are true, and I presume that they are, and if there are many others in the City of a like nature is there not all the more reason why "One Who Pays," and others who are able to pay, should gladly make up by higher contributions to the City Treasurer what the less fortunate citizens are unable to pay? He calls those who are behind in their taxes "shirkers," scarcely a fair term to be applied to tax-payers whom your correspondent describes as "honest and would pay if they could."

"For a Balanced Budget" says that "my arguments are not original." Of course they are not. They are as old as the hills. Everybody knows that if they want a good thing they must pay for it. If the Charlottetown people expect efficient City management they have no choice but to contribute the necessary taxes.

Like his fellow correspondent, "For a Balanced Budget" complains that many property owners are behind in their taxes and says in one breath that these owners cannot sell their properties as there is no demand for them, and in another he asks why the City does not sell these peoples' homes for their overdue taxes. If there is no demand for these properties why should the City try to sell them, and what about the poor people whom he proposes to have thrust into the street? Both of these gentlemen, who are still unwilling to disclose their identity, lack entirely the community spirit. What everyone in Charlottetown desires is a well governed City, safe, clean, healthy and beautiful, and having as many of the modern advantages and conveniences of life as may reasonably be expected by an aggregate of thirteen or fourteen thousand people. Moreover, the desire should be general that poverty and unemployment, which is reduced to a minimum, all of which means 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.

In any event general criticism is of no avail. If your correspondents know of any specific cases of extravagance on the part of our civic authorities, by all means let them point them out. I have recently obtained the figures for this year's budget and have compared them with the 1935 expenditures and find that, so far as controllable items are concerned, the estimated figures for almost all of the department are lower than those of a year ago. There is a small increase for the City Hall up-keep, necessitated by urgent repairs. The School Board is also calling for more money and interest on the City debt is higher.

In the matter of income, I feel that in making their estimates the Finance Committee has been decidedly sanguine for it expects to collect \$270,005.55 as against \$219,906.88 last year, an increase of \$50,148.67, or almost 25%. To obtain

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Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes items like 1/4% increase in tax rate, Personal and miscellaneous taxes, Poll-tax collected 1935, Estimated for 1936, To be collected from past due taxes.

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