

The Charlottetown Guardian

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FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 1936.

Hon. Mr. Dennis The Ingenuous

Everyone must admire the apparent naivete of the new Minister of Agriculture in explaining away the deal for the Brewery Horse. Of course, Mr. DENNIS possesses the saving sense of humour, and we almost see the twinkle in his eye as he advanced the argument that "the end justifies the means" in getting a "good" sire from a "bad" business.

Mr. DENNIS merely substitutes "beer" for "oats," and gives our Prohibition propagandists a like answer. We hope they are satisfied. Meantime we like the ingenuous way Mr. DENNIS talks of salving his conscience. Dawes Brewery (we hope we shall not be prosecuted under the Prohibition Law for thus advertising them) acted philanthropically so far as our farmers and horse-breeders are concerned.

But the story got out, and the Government rued the bargain. Mr. DENNIS took over the portfolio, and found the Dawes Beer Stallions on his door step. He frowned on them, but had not the heart to chase them away; so he started to compromise. He would only keep one, to which Dawes Brewery assented.

Then Mr. DENNIS discovered that the Women's Institutes were raising ructions and protesting bitterly that a Prohibition Government should be in any way involved in the accursed Drink traffic. Next, too, Mr. DENNIS recollected that these Women's Institutes would be holding their annual convention in Charlottetown in July and that, as Minister, he would have to meet and address them.

This was a dilemma. How on earth could he meet and address them with an accursed Brewery Stallion on his conscience? The genial Minister is nothing if not astute. He does not believe in penance for himself, but the thought occurred to him that he might make the farmers and horse breeders who wanted Brewery horse service do penance in his stead.

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May we direct Premier CAMPBELL's attention to the declaration of Attorney-General HUGILL, in an address at Calgary that Alberta's debt problems will be forgotten in a comparatively short time and the province will stand ace-high in the markets of the world.

The progress of the German Dictator: HITLER, 1934. Elected with no opposition in the Reich. Four months later declared all opposition in the Nazi party to be treachery, and on "bloody Sunday" wiped out 60 Nazi radical leaders who differed with him. Faced with a potato shortage and financial stringency, HITLER in July tightened Government control and threatened military action.

This is how Mr. DENNIS saved two birds with one fee and salved his conscience besides. This, too, is why the honourable the Minister compares the Women's Institutes Annual Convention in July to Saint Peter at the Pearly Gate, counting upon their Prohibition watchfulness being allegedly as remiss and their judgment equally lenient.

It is quite excusable under the extraordinary circumstances of the Premier's atrophy to have recourse to SHAKESPEARE to "condemn the fault and not the actor of it":

"But man, proud man! Drest in a little brief authority— Most ignorant of what he's most assured, His glassy essence,—like an angry ape, Plays such fantastic tricks before high heaven, As makes the angels weep."

We have shown that as regards public expenditure and prohibition the Premier does not speak by the book, but merely makes assertions knowing there is no one in the Legislature to contradict him. Our correspondent, "Pro Patria," has shown conclusively that Premier CAMPBELL's knowledge of the B. N. A. legislation and procedure is fragmentary and inaccurate; and now we want to show that his refusal to see citizens of Prince Edward Island who may want to interview him on grievances, real or imaginary, is contrary to the constitution and practice of the British Crown.

Recently, our most gracious Majesty King EDWARD VIII., has inaugurated informal interviews with those of his subjects anxious to see

him. He has even resorted to the very plebeian habit of answering telephone calls.

But we quote from the reminiscences of Mr. WALTER MCRAYE, once well-known to many here as an entertainer, and partner of Miss PAULINE JOHNSON, poet and litterateur. In 1906 they were in London the guests of Lord and Lady STRATHCONA, and this is the quotation we make apropos of the Premier's ultimatum:

"London now had a new sensation that year in the visit of three Coastal Indian Chiefs who had gone across to lay their grievances at the foot of the throne. The Grand Trunk Pacific had run its surveys through the graveyards of their ancestors and their game was being restricted, so after a huge 'Potlatch' where much money had been raised, they started, against the wish of the Indian agent, the British Columbian government, and the government at Ottawa. After a rough passage . . . they arrived in England in their blanket suits and bits of bone and tin tied on. They represented nothing, stood for nothing, and were nothing. What was to be done? Lord STRATHCONA was in a quandary. He lodged them in the War office, and the Press could get nothing out of them. They were all too scared for utterance, but were sure of one thing; they had come 5,000 miles to see the King and were going to see him. . . . The old Chiefs were received after all by their great white father, EDWARD the Seventh, and his Queen ALEXANDRA, at Buckingham Palace—a tribute surely to the great tact and kindness that were part of England's Kingly diplomat. . . . We saw much of the old Chief 'Joe' after this and met him again in Vancouver years afterwards. The Chief's visit to the King left an impression on the old fellow that stayed. PAULINE would ask him about his visit. The old boy would smile and say with a knowledge never learned in books, 'Ah, Miss PAUL, in this world two kinds of men; number one kind, when you meet him, he stand still, make you come to him; number two kind, when you meet him, he step forward, shake your hand. King number two kind.' Enough said."

Editorial Notes

A cat may look at a King, but an elector may peep in on the Premier only at his peril.

Everyone was glad to see Hon. LUCAS R. ALLEN in the Legislature this week after his recent indisposition.

Mr. D. A. MacKINNON, Manager of the local branch of the Central Bank has returned from his visit to Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa, at the last of which he was decorated for long service in the Red Cross. While on tour the genial banker had numerous interesting experiences which will serve to regale his friends for some considerable time.

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May we direct Premier CAMPBELL's attention to the declaration of Attorney-General HUGILL, in an address at Calgary that Alberta's debt problems will be forgotten in a comparatively short time and the province will stand ace-high in the markets of the world. The reason? "We are going to try to live within our income." If the object is achieved a happier day will dawn for the Albertans, even though the debt problems are not completely forgotten. The policy which the Minister promises is a tried and proven one.

The progress of the German Dictator: HITLER, 1934. Elected with no opposition in the Reich. Four months later declared all opposition in the Nazi party to be treachery, and on "bloody Sunday" wiped out 60 Nazi radical leaders who differed with him. Faced with a potato shortage and financial stringency, HITLER in July tightened Government control and threatened military action. On death of HINDENBURG in August assumed the Presidency as well as the Chancellorship and issued a decree that he alone "shall determine who shall be" his deputy or deputies. He was now a full-fledged Dictator.

Progress of our own Dictator: Elected (as Acting Leader) in 1935 without an opposition. In October abolishes Prohibition Commission and assumed supreme control. In January 1936, on death of Hon. Mr. LEA, assumed the Premiership, and in February refused an interview with the Mayor and City Council. Later decreed that any one voting against his nominee shall be ostracised and deprived of patronage. In April abolished appeal to law courts on land disputes. Budgets "blank cheques" for unlimited expenditure without detail or explanation; and declares any one other than his own constituents, seeking to interview him on Government business shall do so at his peril.

Are we going to have a League of Nations all our own on the American continent? Proposals from three Latin-American governments that a league of American nations be formed to preserve peace in the western hemisphere were made public by the State Department at Washington Monday. They were among the specific suggestions sent to President ROOSEVELT by the heads of 17 South and Central American states in their formal acceptances of the United States Government's invitation to the forthcoming inter-American peace conference. Included also were recommendations for America-wide co-operation in limitation of armaments and mutual collaboration in the economic development of the respective countries. The conference is planned for this summer in Buenos Aires. Will Canada be represented?

Notes by the Way

No one appears to doubt that sooner or later, and sooner rather than later, the Nazi government will venture some bold stroke to recover a part, at least, of those great hordes of German population which the peace treaties separated from the Reich. The first objective would naturally be Austria.

Germany's fear of Russia is perfectly genuine. She knows Russia's manpower and that it is now trained and equipped as it never was when she with difficulty saved herself from being crushed by the steam roller. Nazi-ism is founded on fear and hatred of Communism; it blames the latter for Germany's defeat, and most of her subsequent troubles. "Berlin might easily in a few hours be reduced to a heap of ashes by a Russian air attack before the League or any other body would've had time to discuss the question of how to deal with it." This apprehension must be taken into account. It may also be used to bring Germany to some appreciation of France's state of fear and hatred of her which is as genuine as Germany's sentiments towards Russia.

A Jewish cattle dealer has been sentenced at Nurnberg to six weeks imprisonment for wearing brown trousers, or rather pants, the reason being that they might have been mistaken for Nazi stormtrooper garments. If the judge had a sense of humor he would have known that no decent Jew would dream of imitating a Nazi soldier's uniform.

Crews, the railway city of Britain, is to be the centre of a new creamery which will be one of the largest in the country. It will have an output of over 20,000 pounds of butter a day. A circle of federations will be established within a radius of 25 miles, but milk will be drawn from the farms as far as 50 miles away. The Danish system whereby the cream is separated from the milk at the creamery or at separating stations, of being adopted, since it gives a quality of butter for which the public is prepared to pay a higher price. The New Zealand system whereby only the cream is sent to the city is cheaper as it eliminates the cost of returning the separated milk to the farms, but it is not considered to give good results.—St. Thomas Times Journal.

Happiness arises from unselfishness, consideration and appreciation of the lovely things in this world. Money cannot buy understanding and appreciation. To such as have these gifts, however, money can add to them, but it is not an essential. The child is as happy with a penny toy as with one that has cost a hundred dollars, because he knows nothing about false values.

A matter that is causing considerable anxiety in international circles is the recent treaty of friendship and commerce between Austria and Italy. It does with the new pact or bond or league (or whatever you like to call it) which now unites Austria with Italy. Reading between the lines of the news, one can see a very clear connection between these events.

The story is of a semi-annual miracle. On March 19 the swallows of San Juan Capistrano Mission return to their winter haunts, although where they may be even the most astute ornithologist have not been able to determine. For sixty-eight years those beautiful birds have arrived promptly almost on the hour, driven out the swits that have made homes in their "last year's nests, and settled down for the Summer. On October 23, as they have also done for the past sixty-eight years, they suddenly take to the air in a body and go winging their way to a destination unknown. The following March 19 they are back again, regardless of weather conditions. This year, once more, their arrival was as always. Nothing more than this need be said. Perhaps to the bird-minds of the swallows there is nothing wonderful or remarkable, or any cause for excitement, in this undeviating schedule of arrivals and departures. But for men with the wit to ponder it, a world of meaning, and of beauty, is therein.—New York Times.

It is indicated that strange and unexpected divisions and alliances have been caused by the problem which the French position has raised. Thus, although it might be supposed that because of its strong anti-Fascist position, Labour would favour France, it seems that the three leading exponents of the French thesis, outside of the Cabinet, are Tories.—Winston Churchill, Sir Austen Chamberlain and Sir Samuel Hoare. On the other side are mentioned such names as Sir Walter Layton, the Marquess of Louthian, the Marquess of Londonderry and Labour's parliamentary leader, Major Alee. Plainly the issue is not peace—since all Englishmen unite in wishing to preserve that—but how to preserve peace.—Baltimore Sun.

Recently the House of Representatives approved an appropriation of \$545,226,318 for the army for the fiscal year 1936-37. This was a peacetime high record. But the Senate Appropriations Committee has increased the sum by \$58,000,000, bringing the figure to \$603,226,318. The United States professes to be isolated from the warring nations of Europe, and other danger zones, but it feels the need, as do the nations much closer to areas of impending conflict, to expand its fighting forces. The cost to the American people of the army in the year 1936-37 will be 50 per cent greater than at any time since the end of the war, more than twice that of last year. The United States with other nations

That Body of Ours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

RESTORING SIGHT TO THE BLIND

Physicians and others who come in contact with "blind" individuals and "deaf" individuals will tell you that those who are blind are more cheerful than those who are deaf. The explanation is that while the blind cannot see people and surroundings they are aware of their presence and enter into the conversation of those about them, thus becoming a "part" of the company and surroundings. The deaf, on the other hand, while seeing those about them, are unable to enter into the conversation and are not therefore a "part" of the company. This has the effect of making them look and think inward with its harmful effects, mental and physical.

However by the use of hearing aids many of those who are "hard of hearing" are now able to enjoy moving pictures and the radio, use the telephone, and hear ordinary conversation.

And just as the Society for the Prevention of Hard of Hearing, New York City, is helping partially deaf people, so the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, Philadelphia, is doing an excellent work for those whose sight is so poor that they are considered blind. In a paper read at the Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association some months ago Drs. Conrad Berens and Misses C. Edith Kerby and Evelyn McKay of this organization were able to show that much relief can be given to many who are considered blind. "Some two years ago four of us made a survey of the Illinois School for the Blind. We found that of the 246 pupils in that school 26 per cent were there unnecessarily, their eyesight was of such quality that they could continue their education in the seeing world, or could be restored to the seeing world by simple corrected or remedial measures."

Another 25 per cent we estimated could be restored to the seeing world by surgical remedial measures, and in the past two years we have tried to carry out those remedial measures. As a result we have decreased the population of the Illinois School for the Blind, by about 40 per cent.

To take up the space that was thus left at this school the State Government gave us authority to introduce two sight-saving classes available to children who live in communities that have no sight-saving classes of their own."

This work of getting partly blind children out of a "blind" institution into the seeing world, and establishing classes to prevent others entering these institutions is a work much worthy of public and private support.

The Poet's Corner

A desolate shore, The sinister seduction of the Moon, The menace of the irreclaimable Sea. Planting, tawdry and grim, From cloud to cloud along her breast, Leering her battered and inveterate leer, She signals where he prowls in the dark alone.

Her horrible old man, Mumbling old oaths and warning His villainous old bones with villainous talk— The secrets of their grisly house-keeping Since they went out upon the pad In the first twilight of self-conscious love. The growling, obscene and hoarse, Tales of unnumbered Ships, Goody and strong, Companions of the Advance.

In some lone alley of the night Waylaid and bludgeoned— Dead. Deep cellared in primeval ooze, Ruined, dishonored, spoiled, They lie where the lean water-worm Crawls free of their secrets, and their broken sides Bulge with the slime of life. Thus they abide, Thus fouled and desecrate, The summons of the Trumpet, and the while These Twain, their murderers, Unravined, imperturbable, unsubdued, Hang at the heels of their children—she aloft As in the shining streets, He as in ambush at some fetid stair.

The stalwart Ships, The beautiful and bold adventurers! Stationed out yonder in the Isle, The tall Policeman, Flashing his bull's-eye, as he peers About him in the ancient vacancy, Tells them this way is safety—this way home. —W. E. Henley.

is forced to pay the price for international insecurity. — Buffalo Evening News.

Scouting continues to grow in India. "Scouting for Boys," the Boy Scout's handbook, which already has been translated into several Indian languages, is now being written in Kanarese. Similarly the Wolf Cub (Junior Scout) handbook is being translated into Mahara.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

A CAMPBELL MISSTATEMENT

Sir—Premier Campbell is reported as saying that \$8,000. has been saved by abolition of the Prohibition Commission. I challenge that statement, and dare him to produce the details in proof of his assertion. I challenge him, or any one on his behalf, to show where one half, or even a quarter of this amount (\$2,000) has been saved by this act. I am, Sir, etc., C. R. T. C.

CHICKENS COMING HOME

Sir—What never before occurred in a budget speech in this Province was the Premier's vicious attack upon those who elected him and his party. Denounced and described as parasites and pests of unbearable kind, he cracked the whip over them with no mincing of words and phrases.

Almost every voter, either by personal canvas, radio address, or newspaper promise was assured that they had but to vote Liberal and they would immediately be ushered into an elegant apartment and employment, government spoils and an abundance of all that goes to make happy the lives of those who win.

They took him and his colleagues at their word, and sent him 100 per cent strong to fulfill his promises. Now, instead of showing pride in the confidence they had given him and his pledges, he turns Turk upon them, and warns them by wholesale to keep clear of his apartments where the back door will be always open to eject them.

It is his own and the party "chickens coming home to roost." Why not be decent and take them in and feed them as he promised? I am, Sir, etc., UNBELIEVER

WHY MORE TAXATION?

Sir—Why the increase of taxes on one half the citizens? At the civic election there was unanimous promise that there would be no increase. Why are those increases tacked upon that half of the people who pay their taxes, and the shirking half allowed to go Scott free? I am told there is \$125,000.00 uncollected taxes. We who pay are now asked to put up another 1-4 per cent to pay for the defaulters' taxes in addition to our own.

Those whom the Council propose to muck are less able than ever to stand the strain. Amongst the smaller tenants it is safe to say that landlords do not get an average of half the rents due them. Many houses are idle. He can't sell them, for no one can buy, and there is no market for real estate. Yet more taxes are demanded from him, in many cases more than the rents he gets.

And why is that \$125,000.00 uncollected? Isn't the property worth it? Haven't they the amplest power to sell? Other towns and cities are collecting every dollar, and reducing tax rate. Our economists are collecting from half, and taxing them extra to pay the taxes of the other half.

I note that tax legislation is being asked for. While this bill is in hand we may not wipe out the baronous machinery of a \$100.00 bill of cost can be soaked onto a poor man's \$5. tax bill on a tax sale? Why not adopt the system of all intelligent cities; list a hundred tax sales on a publication now absorbed by one. Sell from day to day as many as the auctioneer can handle. When the shirking defaulters find that it is pay up or lose his property, you will find most of them paying up, and few actually sell. It is because the easy Canadian let them get away with it that they dodge payment.

I am, Sir, etc., ONE WHO PAYS.

THE PRICE OF BREAD

Sir—When the price of bread was jumped up to 10c some years ago, the excuse was given that flour had advanced in cost. It was then about a dollar a barrel more than it is today. Now another jump to 11c is announced, with the same excuse, although flour is costing less, and everything else in the making of a loaf.

Note the increasing number of bakeries opening up under the aegis of higher profits. Note also that no cake or advance prices alone, but a combine must be formed to make the pace. That it is the poor who are unable to pay more, without their servants and home bakeries whom this pinches the most.

Is flour \$5 per barrel higher here than in Summerside? How comes it that bakers there, only 40 miles away can sell better bread for 3c a loaf, less than the combine in Charlottetown asks? If consumers take a tumble to themselves, especially the poor, and bake their own bread, saving in the vicinity of \$15 on each barrel of flour they consume, the saving in the year will be very material, and bakers combines will tumble to the fact that consumers can not be fooled all the time, and return to moderate prices.

I am, Sir, etc., INTERESTED

ENDANGERING PRESENT SAFEGUARDS

Sir—One of the greatest safeguards heretofore existing against the invasion of provincial autonomy by the Dominion Parliament has been the right to apply to the courts to obtain a declaration as to whether or not a statute is constitutional. This right exists by reason of the fact that under the present Constitution the Dominion Parliament has a right to legislate only with respect to the subjects set out in the Constitution, the

B. N. A. Act. Since the right of legislation is strictly limited, the court declares whether or not Parliament or the legislature went beyond its limit of power. When found to be within the limit, the legislation objected to is declared to be in force and constitutional; when found to be beyond the limit, it is declared ultra vires and unconstitutional. This most valuable right and privilege has been exercised on many occasions since 1867; a great number of the cases being decided by provincial courts without further appeal; many by the Supreme Court of Canada, and many by the Privy Council in England.

If a change in the Constitution should ever be made by which in an Act of the British Parliament it should be declared that it will not in future be necessary to resort to the British Parliament to amend the Canadian Constitution, and that such future amendments may be made in Canada, a new and a very important question may well arise whether any such constitutional question heretofore can in future be raised regarding the validity of future statutes enacted by the Dominion Parliament, whether such statutes be passed in amendment of the Constitution or otherwise. This question would need to be carefully considered by any who might be tempted to waive present rights.

In England, such questions as are raised in Canada regarding the constitutionality of Acts of Parliament do not arise. There, the powers of the Crown when acting in association with Parliament are unlimited. The King in Parliament is the sovereign power in the state. It is for this reason there is no law which the King in Parliament cannot make or unmake, whether relating to the Constitution itself or otherwise; there is no necessity for the existence of, or for any resort to, a judicial body to determine whether any particular legislative act is within the constitutional powers of Parliament or not. In England, laws affecting the Constitution itself may be enacted with the same ease, and subject to the same procedure, as ordinary laws. Thus the tribunal which entertained the B. N. A. Act, the British Parliament, has the power, at least before the Statute of Westminster, to amend the B. N. A. Act at will. It is true, as has been shown, it has invariably observed the amenities and has never amended the Canadian Constitution in any way which would destroy or injure provincial autonomy granted by the original Act. But if the British Parliament had ever been so inconsiderate as to do so, could any court have declared its legislation unconstitutional? Not even Premier Campbell would contend that.

If changes are made, as has been suggested, what is to become of this sovereign and unlimited power to legislate and to change the Canadian Constitution? Is it to remain with the British Parliament? According to the proposal it will not. Would it be transferred to the Canadian Parliament? That, it seems, is the proposal. If that were done would not the situation now existing in England exist here, namely, that the legislation of the Canadian Parliament in Canada, just as the legislation today of the British Parliament in England, might amend the Constitution at will, and be immune from interference by the courts, as the courts would no longer have power to declare any Act to be unconstitutional? If the powers of the Canadian Parliament to amend the Constitution were plenary, even although conditions be attached regarding consent of the Provinces, could the right of questioning the constitutionality of Dominion legislation continue to exist or would it disappear? This is a question of the utmost gravity to Provinces.

If jurisdiction to amend the Canadian Constitution is granted to the Canadian Parliament, and there be no residuum of power or jurisdiction remaining in the British Parliament to legislate upon the Canadian Constitution, any provisions which might be inserted regarding the consent of Provinces might well be regarded as merely directory or procedural and not as affecting jurisdiction. If so, no question of jurisdiction could be raised and the sole remedy for an abuse of power would be for the people through their votes, and would not lie through the courts. The influence of Prince Edward Island, with less than one per cent of the population of Canada,

would in such circumstances be infinitesimal. P. E. I. as a Province might be wiped out entirely. Hon. Mr. McNair, the Attorney-General of New Brunswick, (himself a good Liberal), takes serious objection to the proposals on the ground of the effect the proposed arrangements would have upon the status of Provinces. There would appear to be substantial grounds for the objection.

Under the present B. N. A. Act, the provincial legislatures within the limit of their jurisdiction as defined in the Act, have been declared by the judicial committee to possess "quasi-sovereign" powers "as plenary and ample within the limits prescribed as the Parliament at Ottawa or Westminster itself." What becomes of this provincial sovereignty when a Province's right to legislate may be taken away by the Dominion Parliament without the Province's consent?

Today, provincial legislatures do not in any sense derive any authority from the Dominion Parliament. There is nothing in the nature of delegated authority in a provincial legislature as there is, for instance, in a municipal corporation. A province which today may have power, and tomorrow may, without its consent and against its will, be shorn of its power by the Dominion Parliament, can only by euphemism be called "quasi-sovereign." Its powers and its autonomy, its very existence as a province, would be wholly dependent upon the goodwill of the Dominion and of sister provinces. Safeguards to provincial autonomy, under such a plan, would thus appear to be most doubtful if not altogether illusory and non-existent. I am, Sir, etc., PRO PATRIA

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