

The Charlottetown Guardian

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24th, 1918.

THE FOOD SITUATION

In a bulletin recently issued by the Census and Statistics Office the real food situation is given in figures that all may understand. In the first place the quantity of wheat and wheat flour expressed as wheat on March 30, 1918, was 77 million bushels as compared with 126 million bushels last year; 197 million bushels in 1916 and 79 millions in 1915.

Of oats, including oat products expressed as oats the total quantity in Canada on March 30, 1918 was 156 million bushels as compared with 184 millions last year.

Of barley the total quantity on March 30, 1918 was 16 million bushels as compared with 15 million bushels last year. Of flax seed the quantity on March 30th was 2,420,000 bushels as compared with 5,662,000 last year.

Out of these totals in Canada on March 30, there remained in farmers' hands at that date, 32,000,000 bushels wheat, 123,910,400 bushels oats, 10,944,600 bushels barley, 491,800 bushels rye, 1,251,000 bushels buckwheat.

There was also remaining in farmers hands on March 30, of potatoes 24,130,500 bushels; of turnips 5,644,100 bushels. The 24,130,000 bushels potatoes is compared with 15,969,000 bushels last year.

These figures reveal the real food situation in Canada and should be given very serious attention. Of the grains suitable for export or that may be converted into exportable food for our soldiers and our allies there is an alarming shortage, such a shortage as will lead to serious consequences unless the whole country unites in a determined resolve to make up the shortage by substitution and by a decided increase in the production of this year.

There is a more favourable showing in barley as compared with last year. This is no doubt due to the belated order to use no more of this grain in breweries. There is a decided improvement as regards potatoes although many will no doubt regard the surplus on hand as an augury of lower prices. The only remedy for this is to use more potatoes. This will help greatly to increase the demand for potatoes and so help to steady prices.

Every housekeeper in the country should make it part of their religion to substitute potatoes and such other foods as they can for wheat and oats products, leaving these for export where they are much more needed than with us.

A glance at the figures will help our readers to realize the seriousness of the food situation, present and prospective and, realizing it, to do their best to avert the want that is surely coming if it is not guarded against. In this province we have denied ourselves little if any. Since the beginning of the war it has been a "Let us eat, drink and be merry" with us in our prosperity regardless of consequences, but let us not forget that the corollary of that in its original setting was "Thou Fool."

THE WAR

There is a comparative lull on the war fronts at present. It no doubt means preparation for another offensive and for further defence. The Germans, it is well-known, have secured some positions which are supposed to be of strategic value and they will no doubt use them as bases for further advances, if they see any prospect of cutting their way to the coast.

In our despatches this morning German prisoners are credited with having stated that leave will be resumed in the German army early in May, which is supposed to indicate that they had anticipated either a decision or an abandonment of the offensive.

Little reliance is to be placed upon what German prisoners say as to the promises of their officers. The higher command has studiously and deliberately deluded the soldiers from the beginning of the war. Even the Kaiser himself was to have eaten his Christmas, 1914 dinner in Paris, but he didn't. The Germans undoubtedly expected this drive to have succeeded before the first of May and they may still expect this. This was evidently the atmosphere of the army and all good things were expected after the army had cut its way to the coast. No doubt this was what inspired the hope among the soldiers that they should have leave early in May.

In any case the war is not over and we must shape ourselves accordingly. It will

be over when we have won it. Among public men in the United States there is general acceptance of the estimate that the war has only begun. No less distinguished a soldier than Major-General Leonard Wood urges the mobilization of an immense army to discount all possible eventualities as to time or character of attack. The Republic will stick it out, so will Great Britain, France, Italy, and Japan. With confidence unshaken we expect the outnumbered British army to give a good account of itself. But, even the loss of armies, should such overtake us, would not mean anything final. Even disaster would be regarded as temporary only, and reconstruction would begin. It may be that a long struggle yet confronts us. If so, we know our duty is to fight on, carry on, as they are doing over here. More men are being called to the colours, called because they are more needed there than anywhere else. It will mean hardship, possibly material loss to many, but it meant this also in the case of those who went two and three and four years ago. Of one thing we may be assured, the men are being called because the need for them is urgent, because they are needed to save the Empire and civilization.

BRITISH BULLDOG TENACITY

As in the days of old the bulldog tenacity and spirit of unbeatableness is being evidenced in the big drive now going on. And, as in the days gone by we still find the man who knows we can't hang on much longer. We are all warned against super-optimism, but we must not by any chance develop a spirit of pessimism. The much talked of Spring Drive has, so far, proved a failure for the Kaiser and his "kulturists"—and if the Allies are able, as they have been, to withstand the opening attempt—not knowing what to expect, it is a foregone conclusion that they will also be able to carry out their own offensive. Latest reports say that to the thousands of German casualties, the Allies have a very low percentage of killed and wounded. Conservation of man-power is the slogan of the Allies. To the German official mind men do not count.

We have held the line, we still hold the line. That is the all important fact.

The Caesars did not win in a day; Napoleon, with all his successes did not win in a day. Nothing that is worth while is accomplished in a day.

There isn't the least doubt about our winning. If you must be a super, be a super-optimist—not a super-pessimist.

NOTES

Word has been issued from Hindenburg's headquarters that the dinner he ordered in Paris is to be put back in the oven, and the door left open.

German Socialist suggests making an agreement with the Allies to cease air raids on open towns. He doesn't know what the world thinks of a Hun "agreement."

M.P.'s who protest that the new power given to Mr. Speaker to censor Hansard will restrict freedom of speech seem to have got twisted. It will have the opposite effect. M.P.'s can say what they please. Mr. Speaker will see only that unwise sayings do not get to the "gallery." The mountebank may have good cause for complaint, but the office of King's jester has been dispensed with for the duration of the war.

Spring is here. The lawns already show the first threads of the green carpet that shall shortly cover them, and the ignorant and careless deliveryman drives ruthlessly over the soft lawns cutting them up and trampling them into mud patches. Strangely, there is no law against this particular species of vandalism except the law of force on the part of the owner of the lawn. This law should be mercilessly applied wherever needed.

The great nation against which we contended a hundred years ago is to-day our ally. France is with us in this war against military tyranny and will be to the end. The United States with its boundless resources has come into the struggle and her military strength is only beginning to be felt. We have on our side, two other great powers, Italy and Japan. In men and resources we are vastly superior to the enemy. It will take time to strike effectively but nothing like the time it took a century ago. To our ancestors this would not seem a long war. Our danger is lest we grow weary by the delay. We owe a stern tenacity in the fight to the men who confronted trials heavier than ours. At last they triumphed. We, too, shall triumph, if we but continue strong and resolute.

OUR OTTAWA LETTER

(From our Own Correspondent)

OTTAWA, April 17.—This is Prince Edward Island week in Ottawa, if one is to judge by the hotel registers. First there is the delegation representing the Provincial Legislature and the Boards of Trade which is here asking that the gauge of the Island railway be standardized in order that the full benefit of the car ferry may be realized and production stimulated. They have had several interviews with the Minister of Railways and others already, and at the time of writing are still actively engaged on the job. The delegation is composed of James Paton and James J. Johnston, representing the Legislature; Nelson Rattenbury and W. F. Tidmarsh, representing the Charlottetown Board of Trade, and J. LeRoy Holman and Creelman MacArthur, representing the Summerside Board. The two gentlemen last mentioned have their wives with them. J. J. Trainor, train despatcher of the Island railway, is also here with a delegation of railway telegraphers, presumably in connection with some matter of interest to the fraternity. And last, but by no means least, there is Hon. H. D. McEwen, who "blew in" the Capital yesterday. I don't know what this gentleman has in mind, but judging by appearances I don't think his health is the prime consideration. By the way, there is a report here that the friends of ex-Judge Warburton are pushing his claims for the Governorship of the Island province when the term of the present incumbent expires. It may be that Mr. McEwen would like to keep the position in King's County.

Speaking about the standardizing of the gauge of the Island railway recalls a letter I had the other day from a Charlottetown friend who spoke in terms of praise of the work done by the car-ferry. "There was not a day last winter that she missed a trip," he said, "often making the run from port to port in less than an hour without a lead of water in sight when she started out. But there's always something else to take the joy out of life. While daily communication with the mainland was thus established, inter-continental conditions went all to the bad, and on at least one occasion there was no communication with Borden for a week. With the gauge of the Island railway broadened and new rolling stock installed Prince Edward Island would be one of the best places in the world in which to live or do business. I hope the delegates who are about to proceed to Ottawa to fight this thing out with the Government will meet with success." I can tell my correspondent, as well as readers of The Guardian, that if the Island railway is not standardized this year it will not be the fault of the delegation now here. They are not letting the grass grow under their feet. Every wire is being pulled and every assistance requisitioned. The Island representatives in Parliament are also exerting themselves along similar lines, accompanying the delegates in their calls upon the ministers and doing everything possible privately as well. A. A. Lefurgey, the defeated Unionist candidate for Prince, another Islander in Ottawa this week, "buted in" to the good work and lent valuable assistance. Here's hoping.

That gay young cavalier, Captain Read, of Prince Edward Island, is determined that no newspaper will have the chance of printing his speeches in blank. Captain Read has been "around the horn" several times and has seen a great deal of this old planet. He has also imbibed much wisdom at the hands of the best authors, and has

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson

PASS IT ON

When you read anything that you think might be of help to some other person—and that he might otherwise never see—Do you clip it out and send it to him? It would be a good plan for every large business house to encourage this custom among its employees—especially among those in charge of a division of the business.

Hundreds of good suggestions are to be found in the thousands of papers and magazines that fall like snow flakes on every hand.

It is clearly impossible for one person to read them all. But if two hundred persons were making memoranda of their observations it would virtually give each the benefit of the good thoughts discovered by all. I am never more pleased than when some friend points out to me a new idea which I can adapt to my special needs. Many a time have I found just what I wanted in a clipping sent to me by some kind friend. Some of the best suggestions I have ever received have come from clippings from newspapers and magazines.

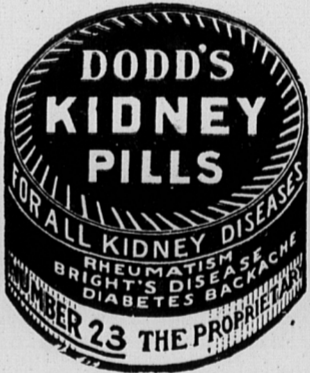
—Waldo Pondray Warren

many things tucked away in that cranium of his with which he often surprises his friends. By virtue of his travels and his reading he considers he has a license to project himself into every subject under discussion in the Commons. Although the session is but a few weeks old he has already addressed the House on many topics including the riots of Quebec, woman suffrage, etc., etc. The patronage question was given another airing in the House a day or two ago, and of course he broke into that. While Government supporters were declaiming against the so-called patronage evil and declaring that the monster had been strangled, the member for Prince arose in his place and quietly told the House that early in November he had written to a member of the Government on this very point and read from the reply which advised that so far as any patronage in connection with the railway was concerned there was not the slightest doubt that those Liberals and Conservatives who supported the Union Government would receive every consideration! The reading of this letter was followed by cries of "name," "name." But the Captain was not to be stampeded. "No," he replied, "I will not give the name of the writer, for while the lamp holds out to burn the vilest sinner, may return. Then he sat down, and as he stroked his beard which by the way, the envy of the press gallery, he looked at peace with all the world."

The war news these days is surely not encouraging. Conditions on the western front are most disturbing, to say the least. Parliament is having secret sessions to consider the situation and is taking drastic measures to meet it. Exemptions are being cancelled and classes changed to meet the exigencies of the times, official reports of the debates of Parliament are being censored with a view to the elimination of any possible word of comfort to the enemy, and all criticism of a kind which might tend to interfere with the winning of the war, whether spoken or written, are strictly prohibited. Provision is made for the seizure and destruction of press, plant, machinery or material used in the publication of any matter which in the opinion of the Secretary of State constitutes a hindrance to united action in the winning of the war. In this connection it is pointed out by the Minister of Justice that newspapers are still at liberty to make critical statements, providing they are statements of fact, but they must take the responsibility of establishing their truthfulness.

Ever since Mother Eve tempted old man Adam in the Garden of Eden, and made us all "children of wrath," we

(Continued on page two.)



YOUR PROBLEMS SOLVED

BY REV. T.S. LINSKOTT, D. D.

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Dr. Linscott in this column will help you solve your heart problems, religious, natural, social, financial and every other anxious care that perplexes you. If a personal answer is required enclose a five cent stamp. No names will be published; if you prefer, sign your initials only; or use a pseudonym.

SAFETY FIRST:—A lady wants to know how much attention a single lady may receive with safety from a married gentleman. Just as much and

no more than a well-bred gentleman should give to every lady. Just as much in private and no more than he and she would feel justified in giving and receiving in public. The first step toward any undue familiarity is forbidden by the new popular law "safety first."

UNSATISFIED CHRISTIAN:—I have read your letter telling of your sinning and repenting and of your strong desires to live the "Victorious Life." The teaching that no person can live without displeasing God is a dangerous heresy, based upon the other heresy that God requires the impossible. If you exercise faith in God to keep you from sin he will do it. God only expects you to be controlled by love, and if you are, He will be well pleased with you.

Advertisement for W. K. Rogers Company, Ltd. titled "INSURANCE THAT INSURES" and "Outline of New Progressive \$5,000--\$10,000 Life Indemnity Disability Contract". It details policy terms, including a minimum indemnity of \$25.00 a week or \$1,300 a year for life, and fixed amounts for accidental death or illness disability. It also mentions "DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS" and "Military Service Act 1917 INSTRUCTIONS".

Advertisement for Military Service Act 1917 INSTRUCTIONS. It states: "All men within Class one, who were twenty, twenty-one or twenty-two years of age on registration, are hereby notified to make all necessary arrangements at once in preparation for being called to the colors. No leave will be granted for such purpose after they have been taken on strength of the Depot Battalion." It is signed by W. W. STANLEY, Registrar, M. S. A.

Advertisement for SPRING FOOTWEAR by GOFF BROS. It lists various styles of shoes for men and boys, including Ladies Mahogany and Gun Metal Boots, Neolin and leather soles, and Men's Neolin sole shoes. Prices range from \$3.50 to \$7.50.