

The Charlottetown Guardian

Evening Daily (founded 1867) \$2.00 (delivered or by mail in Canada, and \$2.50 for U. S. A.)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 1917

TODAY'S ELECTIONS

This is election day in the Third District of Prince and the Fifth District of Kings. The issues before the people are not new, they were threshed out two years ago at the general election.

As to the criticisms of the present administration by those who are looking for office, they have been met and refuted over and over again and the fact has been established beyond cavil that, under the present administration the affairs of the province have been economically and prudently managed.

STANDARDIZATION OF P.E.I.R.R.

Yesterday morning we published the replies of Premier Borden and Hon. Frank Cochrane, Minister of Railways to the request of the Charlottetown Board of Trade for the immediate standardization of the P.E.I. Railway.

As was anticipated the necessity for economy and retrenchment and the impossibility of borrowing money either from Great Britain or the United States during the war is urged as a reason for delaying this work.

At the instance of the National Service Commission and in conformity with their own patriotic impulses our people have this season prepared for the largest crop in the history of the province.

Now the point is that this crop cannot be moved satisfactorily with the transportation facilities we have at present and unless arrangements are made for taking full advantage of the great capacity of the Car ferry we may be face to face with a similar experience to that which befel last fall.

Last year some thousands of bushels of perishable freight were caught by the frost and became a total loss through inadequate means of transportation and this year the difficulties may even be greater owing to the increased production.

In the event of the work not being undertaken in time care must be taken to

provide ample facilities for carrying on the work of transfer at Port Borden without any unnecessary delay. We understand that Mr. C. A. Hayes, General Superintendent has been invited to come to Charlottetown to confer with members of the Board of Trade and no doubt he will be in a position to state authoritatively what the government intend doing in the matter.

THE SUPREME ISSUE

The Toronto Globe, the leading Liberal organ in Canada has little use for the time wasting tactics of the "Laurier Liberals". The Globe is heartily in accord with the "War Liberals" section and fearlessly supports the Military Service Bill as indicated by the following double headed editorial in its last Saturday's issue under the title "The Supreme Issue."

"The third reading of the military service bill has been fixed for Tuesday. It is to be hoped there will be no dilatory or partisan amendments, and that the majority for the bill will be so decisive as to convince the country of the sincerity and determination of the House of Commons.

"The military service bill is a fresh dedication of Canada to the cause of liberty, sanctified by the bravest blood of free nations. It is a pledge of her resolution to sustain her gallant sons who are in the fiery furnace of war, and to summon all her remaining power for the crucial phase of the world struggle.

"The laurels won by the valor of her children on the battlefield must not be snatched from the brow of Canada by her own hands on the very eve of victory."

CANADIAN OUTLOOK

The July letter of the excellent series of monthly letters issued by the Canadian Bank of Commerce is of special interest at present, showing as it does, from well informed sources the crop outlook in Canada.

The total acreage under oats, barley and flax this season is 22,310,000 as against 22,748,000 in 1916 a decrease of 193 per cent.

Referring to the wool output the letter says:

More attention has been given to sheep raising during the past two years as a result of the high price not only of wool but of mutton, and during July and August the sales of wool in Canada will be on a slightly larger scale than usual. Approximately 2,000,000 fleeces will be available for the market, or about 10,000,000 lbs. of wool.

Foreign trade in April and May, the first two months of the fiscal year, amounted to \$408,606,873, as compared with \$269,590,915 in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year, an increase of 51 per cent. Imports were greater by \$75,000,000 and exports by \$65,000,000.

NOTES

The most hopeful sign of the times in the war situation is the grand revival of Russia and her armies on the eastern front. Russia has really come to life again, and her soldiers are battling with the common enemy in a spirit and with a determination never heretofore exhibited.

The prosperity and the progressiveness of a community is gauged by its roads; the value of the farms is enhanced by good roads, is reduced by poor roads and now that everybody is travelling either by car or carriage the roads are taken note of more than ever and it is up to our people, both for the sake of their horses and their own good name to see that their roads are as well kept as possible.

OUR OTTAWA LETTER

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA.—Well, the die is cast and the efforts of Premier Borden and his administration Canada is to have a wartime election. This was resolution of the vote on the extension of the military service bill.

Before the election is held there is much work for Parliament to do. There is considerable legislation of a contentious character to be enacted before the House can be dissolved and those who follow the political game know that oppositions are not disposed to facilitate Government measures on the eve of an election.

A year ago, when the life of Parliament was nearing an end and there was talk of an election, the House voted unanimously for an extension. Sir Wilfrid Laurier for an extension of the military service bill.

Now, what is to be the issue in this election? Is it to be the winning of the war. This cannot be. Sir Wilfrid declares that he is in this war to the end. "The issue is what the Prime Minister also says. Upon this point, according to the leaders, there is no difference of opinion.

Another issue must therefore, be found. Is it a desire on the part of the opposition for power? There is no other issue in sight. But in a conflict of this character desirable under the circumstances? Is it advisable to swap horses crossing a stream? Should Sir Wilfrid be returned to power would the driving forces behind him stimulate activity along recruiting lines? Would a discussion of the Government's mistakes in the prosecution of the war, and undoubtedly mistakes have been made, help our soldiers to win the war? Would a Government led by Sir Wilfrid Laurier enforce a measure of conscription in the interests of the men at the front? Experience has shown that without conscription it is impossible to supply the daily wastage among Canadians. This being the case what are the people going to do about it? Are they ready to abandon those who have sacrificed everything to fight our battles? Are they prepared to allow the graves of our honored dead to be desecrated? Are they willing to allow the hearts of the widow and the orphan to be wrung as the bodies of their dear ones have already been wrung? These are some of the things to be thought over between now and election day. They are worthy of the most serious considerations.

Dr. Clark, of Red Deer, made a truly dynamic speech in the Commons the other evening against the holding of a general election in Canada while the issue of the war remained in doubt. Here is a short passage: "Those who are notoriously doing the least to win this war are forcing the country into the turmoil of a general election when the world and all that is best in it is animated by a spirit of service, of sacrifice, and unselfishness, for the most selfish reasons—to satisfy petty personal ambitions when the fate of the world is at stake. I for one hesitate to stand forth as one of a group of the only selfish men to be found in the British empire or in the civilized world today."

Announcement is made that in the interests of economy the pruning knife is to be applied to the Civil Service. It is said that about 1,750 employees of the Government stand a good chance of losing their jobs. And those who are left may possibly have their hours of work increased without an increase of salary.

The O'Connor high cost of living report, which has caused such a sensation throughout Canada, is to be investigated by a judicial commissioner. This investigation was demanded by Sir Joseph Flavelle, President of the William Davis Company Limited, whose alleged profiteering in bacon was a feature of the report.

The civil Service here is furnishing the farmers with lots of help with the haying. But these are not the only volunteers. Ottawa doctors are fairly tumbling over each other to get to the front. Apparently hay fever has no terrors for them.

VIENNA.—Austria-Hungary's ideas on peace were made known to the constitution committee of the Reichsrath in an address by the premier, Dr. Von Seydler. After referring to the unbreakable unity between Austria and her allies, Von Seydler declared parliament would work for the aim for which Austria is fighting, namely, the unshakable sacred right of her peoples to decide for themselves their internal destiny.

"This task, at the same time, will be a long stride in the direction of an honorable peace, which we desire to create on the basis of justice, moderation and conciliation—the firm unity of all civilized peoples and their

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uniform endeavour to abolish those in the constitution. This, he said, was the cause of the political troubles for the world war. We are all longing for this peace. Until then we are determined to hold on in firm co-operation between front and homeland. Dr. Von Seydler referred to the usefulness of all past efforts to carry out the principle of equal rights of all nationalities laid down

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