

The Charlottetown Guardian

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Monday, May 6th, 1918.

NO LOAFING

Our Ottawa despatches this morning tell us that Sir Robert Borden told a delegation of 300 farmers that the government, after giving serious consideration to the question of drafting farmers between the ages of 20 and 22 for service overseas, had decided that the necessity for reinforcements was even more pressing than the need for increased production.

The necessity for food production is admittedly great; without more food production on this side of the Atlantic—and this means on every farm in the United States, in Canada, in this province—there is danger of actual starvation. And yet there is a greater necessity than this, the necessity for reinforcements at the front.

The necessity for food production—should we rather say, the desire of farmers to retain all the help possible for the farms—is so great that a delegation of some three hundred farmers from different provinces waited upon Sir Robert Borden urging that the exemptions previously agreed upon should not be withdrawn. Sir Robert placed the whole matter with all the facts before the government and the government while recognizing the need of men on the farms decided that the need of reinforcements overseas was still greater and that the cancellation of exemptions must be adhered to.

If we on this side of the Atlantic could only realize the situation in this light we should have less compunction about letting our last man go, be he son or servant. Our position now is that of men, who, while providing their daily bread, are attacked by savages; they must leave their bread and fight.

This decision was not arrived at by the government without full knowledge of the situation. They had all the data before them both as regards the food situation and that at the front and after giving them full consideration their conclusion was that the provision of food must be left to those remaining at home, whether full handed or with little or no help; our men are fighting with their backs to the wall; fighting against overwhelming odds and their defeat would mean our ruin and the ruin of the world, therefore our physically fit men must go.

While this order has gone forth and is being acted upon another law has been put upon our statutes, namely that every man between the ages of 16 and 60 must be usefully employed. In other cities many arrests have been made for violation of this law and the arrests were not confined to the bums and the loafers and the toughs on the street; they included the bums and the loafers of the so called upper world who are living a luxurious life on the earnings of others. This is as it ought to be. The farmers and others of 20 to 22 years of age whose exemption has been cancelled are sorely needed where they are although more sorely needed on the battle-front. Are we to have loafers and bums on the streets while those others are called away, while farms must be neglected because the men have been taken? We have such right here in Charlottetown; they may be no good on the farm, perhaps no farmer would trust them. Then they should be given employment in road making or stone breaking where they can be watched by a gunman. In any case no loafer should be allowed to walk the streets when real men are obliged to take up military duty.

CLEAN UP WEEK

What has happened the Clean-up Week suggested and so strongly approved of some weeks ago? The weather is now doing its spring house cleaning, many citizens are doing theirs but the combined effort of the weather and the few lacks the snap that would be in evidence if all citizens were in it. The spring is now well advanced, the lawns are turning green, at least where some attention has been shown them but the City generally is unkempt and needs a good and comprehensive clean up and tidying. This can best be done by a united effort at a particular time. The setting apart of a week for a general clean up would raise an epidemic of cleanliness that is much needed and would undoubtedly result in a cleaner and better city. There is a general civic desire for a beautified city and if encouraged by the setting apart of a day or a week for a general tidying up it would

no doubt bring about the desired result. The healthy rivalry for betterment and the competition as to "who best can work and best can strive," are needed in this as in other things. Let us have a Clean-up Week between fixed dates and see what will come of it. Good results were obtained last year; better can be obtained this year.

"A PEACE OFFENSIVE"

Our telegrams today hint at a great German "peace offensive" against Great Britain on account of her failure on the western front. We are slowly learning the processes of the German manner of thinking and reasoning and from what we have learned, if our premises be right, the logical conclusion is the peace offensive. Germany now controls middle Europe—Russia, Austria, Roumania, Serbia, Turkey. Great Britain is her natural and most hated and most powerful enemy. Great Britain then must be got out of the way, if not now, then later, and the German mind has figured it out thus: The work of Teutonizing Russia must be proceeded with as rapidly and scientifically as possible. The fight against the Allies must be kept up, but that is only an incident in the process now that its original offensive has failed. The Americans cannot get in effectively before the summer of 1919 and in the meantime Germany must get in her fine work. This will be her peace offensive. She will offer to restore Belgium and Serbia; she will offer Alsace-Lorraine to France, and she will let England hold her African colonies. In fact her peace-terms will be so conciliatory that the tired Allies will be tempted to stop fighting on the restoration of these possessions. Italy will be satisfied somehow and the interests of the Allies will have been so divided that there shall no longer be an effective anti-Teutonic alliance.

The rest would be easy. The Teutonizing of Russia would proceed faster and the Russians would welcome the Germans for helping them out of their misery and not only Russia but the Balkans and Turkey would become Germany's for economic and military purposes. In time Germany could begin to get back what she has temporarily sacrificed for peace.

That in outline is the way in which the German mind is thinking it out, and it might be folly to say that the scheme is not without its possibilities. There are so many possibilities in a war of this kind that any scheme may be said to abound in them. But they may also abound in difficulties. In some respects the German calculations may go astray. They generally have. Dividing the Allies will not be as simple a matter as dividing Russia. Disposing of the United States in 1919 may not be as simple as it looks. Even the Teutonizing of the Russians may meet obstacles, for the German cannot dispense with his autocratic methods and the Russians, having sacrificed so much for a chance at democracy, may not prove as tractable as the Germans suppose. But the "peace offensive," if this be what it means, will be worth watching.

THE UNPROFITABLE LIE

As nearly as can be made out from the vague statements of the differences between the German and Dutch governments the dispute does not concern the arrangements which have existed for the exchange whereby Germany gets dairy products in return for coal and other commodities Germany can furnish. It is mainly due to the unwillingness of Germany to give Holland proof that the Berlin government is not lying.

The transportation of sand and gravel through Holland for Belgium was originally fixed by a treaty, but, last year the English government claimed that the material was used for military purposes and the transportation was therefore a violation of the neutrality of Holland. Germany stoutly denied this, but when the Dutch government asked to send representatives into Belgium as an assurance to the Allies that the material was not used for military purposes, the Germans absolutely refused, and this is the point of contention.

The principle established by Frederick the Great that when lying is useful it should be indulged in, governs German conduct, but of course, it could not longer be profitable if the Dutch were allowed to discover it.

NOTES

Kaiser William may be a degenerate, but up to the present the German people seem to be inclined to fight for that sort of thing. So long as their tastes run in that direction, it will be very necessary for us to buy bonds, pay taxes, build ships and flying machines, draft and equip armies, and make the best navy in the world.

HOLLAND ARRIVES AT JUMPING OFF PLACE

Germany has no grievance against Holland except that Holland is small. This in itself is enough to justify the Hun in declaring war upon her. The Netherlands is given the alternative of fighting against Germany or fighting for her. That she can continue her present policy of neutrality until the end of the war is very unlikely. This policy, by reason of her geographical position to Germany, and particularly to territory conquered by Germany, has been favorable to the Kaiser, and before this has led to protests on the part of the Allies. Holland has been supplying Germany with great quantities of sugar, coffee, cocoa, fish, cheese, beer, wheat and other foodstuffs. The German Government has had a central buying agency at The Hague for three years, which has been offering in the open market prices for supplies that the Hollanders could not approach. The result is that Holland has been starving herself in order that her bullying neighbor might continue the war.

Using Holland as a Road

The present crisis between the two nations is due to the shipment of gravel through Holland to Belgium. Last October the British Government called the attention of Holland to the fact that she was committing an unneutral act in permitting Germany to carry over Dutch railroads and canals copper, sand and gravel to Belgium, where it was used for military purposes. The result of this use of Dutch carriers was, as Mr. Balfour pointed out, to relieve the strain upon German railways and waterways. Germany was sending copper ore through Holland to Belgium, where she was extracting the metal, and sending it back to Germany for use in munition factories, and therefore was using Holland for military purposes. As regards the sand and gravel which Germany was using in the manufacture of concrete, her defence was that the concrete was employed for civilian purposes in Belgium. Mr. Balfour said that the amount shipped through Holland was far in excess of any civilian demand, and also that Belgium herself could continue to furnish all that was required for the uses of her own population.

Raising the Limit

This was not the first protest that the allies had made to Holland on this score, for in 1915 Great Britain had filed a remonstrance. At this time Holland appreciated the reasonableness of the complaint, for in the summer of 1916, she limited to 75,000 tons a month the quantity of sand and gravel that could be shipped through her territory. Later on this limit was raised to 450,000 tons a month, on Germany's assurance that the material was not to be used for military purposes. In order to satisfy the allies or maybe to assuage her own conscience, Holland sent officers with the gravel to Belgium to make sure that she was not assisting to build German fortifications. This mission was fruitless, however, for the Germans refused to allow the Dutch representatives to enter upon military territory, and they could only guess as to the destination of the materials.

Defying the Dutch

After the result of renewed protests against the unneutral use of Dutch highways, the Hollanders took up the question with Germany again, and it was then understood that Germany had given satisfactory pledges that the sand and gravel would be used exclusively for civilian purposes. It appears now that Germany values the belligerency of Holland less than her need of using the Netherlands as a military road, and has insisted that the Dutch shall close their eyes to the violation of neutrality to which they are being coerced. But Holland's difficulty is that on the other side she has the Entente allies to consider. If she violates the laws of warfare and permits Germany to use her railroads and waterways without restriction she will be regarded as an enemy and her ports will be blockaded. If she adheres to The Hague conventions, she is likely to find herself invaded, with Germany taking as a military measure everything that she now asks for, and also treating the country as Belgium has been treated.

The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea

In fact Holland is scared stiff, and we ought not to blame her. Her greatest fear is a German invasion. That her brave army might kill many thousands of Germans before her conquest was complete is not a thought that the Hollanders can take much comfort in, and that Ger-

OUR OTTAWA LETTER

(From our own Correspondent)
OTTAWA, May 1.—It is reported here that when the Cabinet is reconstituted there will be a new portfolio to be known as Minister of Food. Under this Department will be placed the Canada Food Board, the inspection of Cold Storage Warehouses, the Cost of Living Commissioner, now under the Minister of Labor, and several other odds and ends all relating to the same subject, but scattered through various departments. The idea is apparently to co-ordinate the work of these important branches, a work which promises to become greater as the war progresses. At present the Canada Food Board is under Hon. T. A. Crearer, Minister of Agriculture. That gentleman, it is claimed, has worried enough of his own managing the Department of Agriculture without having the Food Board saddled upon him. There has already been some clashing between the Cost of Living Commissioner's Branch of the Food Board, which shows the necessity of these two departments being co-ordinated. Dr. McFall, the new Cost of Living Commissioner, has been assisting the Food Board for some time so that there is likely to be more co-operation than there has been in the past. While this change is being discussed there is not likely to be any immediate action. Sir Robert Borden will not have time to consider the question of cabinet reconstruction until his return from England, and there is little likelihood of any changes until the summer is well advanced or early in the fall. In the meantime, there will be nothing done either in regard to an increase in labor representation, additional Liberal members, re-organization of the Conservative end of the cabinet, or filling the vacant Quebec portfolios. Hon. Arthur Sifton will continue to act as Minister of Inland Revenue, as well as Minister of Customs, and Hon. Pierre Blondin will remain for the summer as Postmaster General, absent on overseas duty, even though he does not hold a seat in the House.

The mobilization of labor for Canada was the subject of an interesting discussion in the Senate the other day. Valuable information was given by Senator Robertson, who participated in the negotiations with the United States for the use on Canadian farms of surplus American labor. Speaking for the Government Senator Sifton said that an arrangement had been completed between the United States Department of Labor and the Canadian Department of Immigration and Colonization for the exchange of agricultural laborers. An agreement has been reached between the two countries whereby Canada is to receive agricultural labor, and in

many will lose the war in the end is not a reflection calculated to stimulate her to deeds of heroism and martyrdom. Holland has been insulted and injured by Germany for more than three years. The New York Times says that when the United States declared war against Germany, Holland had lost nearly three times as much shipping by means of the illegal use of U-boats as had the American republic. Holland was not placated with any apologies. She was simply told that at the end of the war her losses would be adjusted, as Belgium was told that if she permitted Germany to use her as a road she would be recompensed in the future. Holland is near the jumping-off place.

Following the announcement by the Canada Food Board that no manufacturers in Canada will be permitted to use for the manufacture of candy more than 50 per cent of the average monthly quantity of cane sugar, and that drastic restrictions have been imposed on the use of wheat flour, sugar and shortening in the manufacture of biscuits, cakes or sweet dough products, the Board has issued a circular that no persons shall make in Canada, for private consumption, French pastries, feed cakes or biscuits, or cakes with icing of cane sugar between the layers or added to the exterior; and no person shall use cane sugar for making for private consumption what is commonly called candy. The penalty for a violation of this order is not less than \$100 or more than \$1000, or imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months, or both fine and imprisonment.

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.

A STUDENT OF NATURE wants to know how prayer can be answered in a universe governed by law. Probably our friend has in mind an answer to prayer by miracle involving an interference with nature's order. There are no such answers to prayer in these days. Prayer is effective and is often specifically answered, in that the very objects desired, and asked for are received, but not by annulling any natural law. Prayer starts forces in the human soul, and in other minds into activity through the operation of which the answer comes.

A DIETARIAN—It is difficult to answer your question as to how to keep people from gluttony. We speak of the horrors of starvation but its actual evil results are not one per cent of the evils of gluttony. "A glutton is one who gluts himself with food." The majority of physical ailments have their origin in over eating. "If people would eat only what the body needs it would be hard on my profession", a noted physician once said to me. A man should feed himself as he does his horse; eat enough to keep in good condition.

der this arrangement several thousand farm laborers have already gone to the Canadian West. The agreement covered exchange of skilled workers, with the restriction that skilled laborers can be exchanged only when each Government is satisfied that the workmen cannot be obtained in the country wherein their services are needed, and even then it is up to the authorities to determine whether or not the transfer shall be made. Senator Robertson pointed out further that it was impossible to say at this date how far the man-power registration will be used to govern this exchange of labor, but he thought it would be of value in determining what class and what amount of labor shall be allowed to leave Canada as well as what class and what amount of labor it will be necessary to import. Speaking with special reference to the proposed inventory of the man-power of Canada he said it was no small undertaking to organize for the registration of five million persons in one day, and that it was to be at a certain special day in June.

Swift and to the point is the action of the Militia Department in dealing with the young men who come under the recently adopted amendment to the Military Service Act. Through-out the Dominion thousands of young men aged 20, 21 and 22 years in Class A are being called to the colors from May 1st. Arrangements of the most systematic nature are being put into effect in the calling up of these men so that the influx of draftees will not be rapid enough to overflow the accommodation provided for them. If more troops are required than can be brought together in the rounding up of "A" men only, then the next category men will be called upon. In their case the exemptions which have been virtually over-ruled by the new Order-in-Council will be considered insofar as unexempted men will be called upon before those who have old exemptions. But under the latter case required by the Department their exemption papers will be of little service to them. Those men who have not been medically examined will be regarded as belonging to "A" category until they are proven by the examining papers to be unfit for service in that class. They will be called up under the present order of things to undergo their examination, and if they are found to be below the standard they will be released. Young men of the ages mentioned who live in cities will be called up before their country cousins. In connection with this recruiting "drive" it may be pointed out that farm laborers in medical categories lower than category "A" may be granted temporary leave of absence from military service on the authority of the officer commanding the District.

The statement officially made that Sir Robert Borden and Sir Thomas White, during Sir Robert's visit to New York, succeeded in raising a necessary credit in Canada for the British Government to purchase the entire exportable surplus of Canada's cheese production for the present year. The amount of credit will be \$40,000,000. This arrangement will mean a certain market for Canadian-made cheese at a price already fixed. Sir Thomas is now in Washington discussing other matters of international importance with the United States Government.

There is a possibility that the Railway Bill will have to go over for another session. It has been introduced in the Senate, and it is thought that these amendments will not be acceptable to the Commission. The Senate is standing like adamant for their views in regard to clause 374, which deals with the control of municipalities over street cars. Parliament is anxious to go home as early a date as possible. The measure, therefore, may have to be jettisoned.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson

NOT VERY FAR

The following verses accompanied by a beautiful wreath, were placed on the coffin of the late Mrs. Gladstone by the Princess of Wales:—
It seemeth such a little way to me
Across that strange country, the
Beyond;
And yet not strange, for it has grown
to be
The home of those of whom I am so
fond;
It makes it seem familiar and most
dear
As journeying friends brings distant
regions near.

So close it lies that when my sight is
clear
I think I almost see those who have
gone from here
Come close enough sometimes to
touch my hand;
I often think but for our veiled eyes
We should find heaven right round
about us here.

And, so for me, there is no sting to
death
And so the grave has lost its victory;
It is but crossing, with abated breath
And with set face, a little strip of sea
To find the loved ones waiting on the
shore.
More beautiful, more precious than
before.

I cannot make it seem a day to dread
When from this dear earth I shall
journey out
To that still dearer country of the
dead,
And join the lost ones so long dream-
ed about.

I love this world, yet I shall love to
go
To meet the friends who wait for me,
I know.

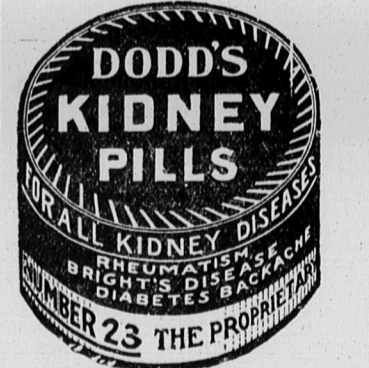
I never stand above a tier, and see
The seal of death set on some well-
loved face,
But that I think one more to welcome
me.

When I shall cross the intervening
space
Between this land and that one over
there—
Once more to make the strange be-
yond seem fair.

DOUBT MURDER

KIPLING, SASK.

REGINA, SASK., May 3.—According to information which was reached the provincial police, a double murder was committed yesterday near Kipling. Peter Gulux, a Frenchman, walked out to the farm of John Boris, and it is alleged, deliberately shot Boris as he was harvesting in a field. Walking back to the farm house, Gulux emptied the other barrel of his double-barrelled shot gun into John Peter Boris, the father of the young man previously shot. Both men were instantly killed. Gulux was arrested a few hours later by the provincial police, who now have his signed confession. He claims he received a dirty deal over the renting of the farm by the elder Boris.



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