

The Charlottetown Guardian

Subscription and Advertising Phone132
News and Edit. Phone133

Head Office at Charlottetown, Branch Offices at Summerside, Alberton, Souris and Montserrat.

Morning Daily (founded 1891), \$3.50 per year. (delivered in advance); \$2.50 per year (mailed) in advance to anywhere in Canada; and \$3.50 (mailed) to U. S. A.

Evening Daily (founded 1907) \$1.50, (delivered or by mail) in Canada, and \$2.00 for U. S. A.

Saturday Weekly (founded 1887) \$1.00 per annum by mail in Canada or U. S. A.

Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1916.

OPENING OF THE HOUSE

More than usual interest was manifested in the opening of the Legislature yesterday, as was evidenced by the large attendance of the public and the keen attention with which the proceedings were followed. All the members were in their seats, the Government forces as usual to the left of the Speaker, and the Opposition to the right. Mr John S. Martin, member for Belfast, was unanimously elected Speaker, and escorted to the chair by his proposer and seconder, the Hon. J. A. Mathieson, Premier, and Hon. A. E. Arsenault. The new Speaker made a graceful speech in acknowledgement of the honour conferred upon him and another one when presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor. Governor Macdonald was in excellent form when delivering his speech from the Throne, but his voice was to a certain extent drowned by the music of the Eighty-Second Band, which was discoursing outside. Arrangements might with advantage be made on similar occasions in future to discontinue the musical programme while His Honour is addressing the House. The speech was eloquent and finely pitched, referring for the most part to the great struggle in which the Empire is now engaged. A note of optimism was sounded regarding the condition of agriculture, and legislation was foreshadowed in connection with sub-soil drainage. Consideration of means for the development of our fisheries was also promised; and notwithstanding the depletion of the official and inspectorial staff of the Education Department through enlistment, the Governor had the pleasure of recording the fact that the past year had been one of steady progress. On the motion of Mr James Paton, seconded by Mr A. D. McLellan, consideration of the speech was adjourned.

Like schoolboys fresh from a prolonged vacation, the old war horses of the Opposition, Mr John H. Bell, the new Leader, and Mr George E. Hughes, the legitimate leader, showed great anxiety to get down to work, and, like "fresh" schoolboys, made two bad breaks which did no redound to their credit. Mr Bell was anxious to know whether the Government had given preference to the claims of the returned soldiers in the appointment of officials of the House, and elicited the reply from the Premier that the only two available had been given such positions and that the policy of the Government was to give the claims of returned soldiers the first consideration. Mr Bell and Mr Hughes next submitted a carefully prepared motion suggesting that the report of the Special Committee for the purpose of selecting standing committees should be sent back in order that the names of two Liberals, Mr A. C. Saunders and Mr J. D. McInnis, and one Conservative, Hon. H. D. McEwen, should be struck out of the Public Accounts Committee, and the names of Mr J. H. Bell, Mr George E. Hughes and Mr J. J. Johnson substituted. Such extraordinary egotism has probably no parallel in parliamentary history, certainly not in the local legislature. Both Mr Bell and Mr Hughes alleged that they were more competent to discharge the duties than their two colleagues, notwithstanding that Mr Saunders is perhaps the most skilled legal accountant in the Liberal ranks to-day, and has been the trusted adviser of the ex-Leader of the Opposition, Mr J. H. Richards, for many years, besides having been Mayor of Summerside for two terms; while Mr McInnis was a member of the late Liberal Government and was considered by it sufficiently competent to be entrusted with a seat on this same committee. It is quite evident that the policy of Mr Bell is to constitute himself, Mr Hughes and Mr Johnson as the sole responsible Opposition, to the exclusion of the other members. Mr Saunders, it will be remembered, was a rival of Mr Bell for the leadership of the Opposition, and this move on the part of Mr Bell on the very opening day of the session was evidently an attempt to discredit his capabilities and competence for the position, for how could the Liberal party expect guidance from a man Mr Bell considered unfitted to discharge the duties of a financial critic of the Government? The Premier brought the new Liberal Leader smartly to book for acting contrary to the precedent of the House in proposing such a motion, and pointed out that the proper procedure was for him, as a member of the Special Committee, to have presented a minority report, a course which Mr Bell ultimately followed. The Hon. A. E. Arsenault caught Mr Hughes also napping, for the latter had pleaded that the Opposition should have three members on the Public Accounts Committee instead of two. Mr Arsenault pointed out that when the present Government was in Opposition they had made a similar proposal, and Mr Hughes not only opposed it but voted against it. Mr McInnis evidently had little sympathy with the aspirations of Mr Bell and Mr Hughes, for he bluntly stated that in his opinion two Opposition members could do all that was necessary on the Public Accounts Committee. On the other hand, Mr McInnis was not very complimentary to the electors of his district who returned him, when he described himself as a "backwoodsman."

Mr Bell gave a rehash of some of his Souris speeches in support of his motion, and it fell correspondingly flat. On a division the minority report was defeated by 16 to 13, and so the new leader registered his first double defeat. The House stands adjourned to ten o'clock this morning when the debate on the address will be opened by Mr James Paton and Mr A. D. McLellan.

THE WAR

The attack on Verdun, reported in our despatches yesterday morning, appears to have been the most violent yet made by the Germans in that sector. It came after a period of comparative quiet, in which doubtless all possible preparation had been made, in which all the devices at the disposal of the enemy were brought into action—and they failed. They not only failed in breaking through the French defences, but they suffered serious losses. Along the other fronts also, while desperate fighting has been in progress, and while there is little change in the relative positions of the contending armies, the Germans have been losing heavily in men, while failing at every point to make any gains in territory or in advantage of position.

The attempt to break through at Verdun, while not yet abandoned, is now conceded by all military authorities to be hopeless. The French are so entrenched here as to give them the utmost confidence.

What, then, is the German hope? To all but themselves the war spells disaster and failure to them. The Russian steamroller is more aggressive than ever and all the encounters during the past two or three weeks have resulted in serious losses to the Germans. On the Italian front, while there is little if any advantage to either side there can be no German hope of victory.

The only successes that Germany has met with are those of piracy at sea, the sinking of ships, mostly neutral, and all non-belligerent passenger ships. Our despatches yesterday announced that in this species of warfare they sank in the last fortnight 70,000 tons of shipping with the loss of several score of lives. These "successes," which may satisfy the mind of pirate Germany, are of no military value and only serve to more effectively damn her in the eyes of the civilized world, if further damning were possible. Her pirates at sea might sink thousands of innocent women and children and other neutral passengers without having the slightest effect upon the war or its outcome.

One effect, however, of her latest achievements in this line is likely to be to range the United States among Germany's enemies. In the sinking of the Sussex and the Englishman, several American citizens lost their lives. What the United States will do in this, not new development, but in the persistence with which she has repeatedly violated all her solemn undertakings with reference to submarine warfare, remains to be seen. The relations between the two countries have reached a point where they cannot remain, regrettable as either action that the United States may adopt, shall be.

On this point the London papers are very outspoken. In the eyes of Englishmen there is only one way out. This also is the view held by many Americans, although an open rupture with Germany and the possibility of plunging the country into war, cannot but be viewed with the gravest concern. The London Daily Chronicle sums up the British view of the situation as follows:—

"Germany's naval policy stands exactly where it stood on the day the Lusitania was torpedoed—ten months of negotiations between Washington and Berlin have not altered it a jot or tittle, and the diplomatic exchanges have never been for Germany anything but an affair of masks and pretences. Obviously no more direct or defiant challenge was ever handed by one nation to another, than that which Germany has now launched at the United States. Whether the United States picks it up, or lets it lie, the world, and all the belligerents, will now know, with a clearness hitherto lacking, precisely where the greatest of the neutral countries stands."

Why Germany should thus openly challenge the United States is one of the riddles of the war. That the few passenger ships she can sink would compensate her for the open hostility of the United States is unthinkable unless she regards the United States as absolutely helpless. That she should invite the hostility of the United States in order that, with the whole world arrayed against her, she would have a better excuse to give her own people for suing for peace, is more likely. It is possible, too, that she hopes that the German element in the United States would, in the event of the severance of diplomatic relations, cause such an uprising both in the United States and Canada as would result in a world-wide demand for peace. In any case the next few days should determine the future relations of the United States and Germany.

NOTES

There is only one way to minimize the work of the knocker, and that is to snub him. Knockers, like all men of misery, love company, and the most lonesome thing on earth is a knocker with no one to knock to. A knocker is harmless in himself, but he is a breeder of more knockers. Snub him to death; cut him cold, and he will cease to knock from sheer loneliness. A knocker must tell his troubles or there is no fun in knocking. The reason Emporia as a town prospers, and is the best town of 10,000 people in the world, is that the knocker has to weep on his own bosom. When a man has to sob into his own ear, he quits sobbing. That is the Emporia secret.—Emporia Gazette.

PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE FULL REPORT

(Continued)

A SUGGESTION BY THE PREMIER.

In regard to the proposing of resolutions, I would like to suggest to the meeting that perhaps we would do better on the present occasion to enquire what our opportunities are, and then to form an organization to carry on a continuous effort for the development of those things that are beneficial to the province, and leave to a later time the consideration of resolutions. If we begin passing resolutions at this meeting, I am afraid we will not be able to overtake our programme and get from those who are present the new light that we would hope to have shed on the various problems before us. I am not objecting to what my friend Mr. Agnew puts forth. I think it is just the kind of suggestions that is of value; but I would put it before the meeting that perhaps it would save contention and leave room for further and fuller deliberations if we would not introduce resolutions at all. One of the curses of this province is the tendency of every little meeting to pass resolutions, until when we get to Ottawa they look upon us as a people who have reduced to a science the method of annoying the different departments. A resolution comes from one part of the Island asking for something and another small meeting passes a resolution calling for something else; and so we go on sending resolution after resolution, one contradicting the other, and in the end doing the very thing we wish to avoid. If we are going to attain one beneficial result by this meeting, it will be by uniting ourselves in regard to the things we desire, and with joint effort pushing forward their accomplishment.

Mr. AGNEW: What practical benefit would there be without something of this kind? The last resolution appealed to the Local Government to take the matter up; this one appeals to the Federal Government. We should be assisted and should encourage immigrant fishermen, so that when they come here they will find it worth their while to stay.

Mr. MCFADYEN: I am rather inclined to agree with our Premier's suggestion that resolutions be put off at this meeting. I clearly understood that this meeting was called together as a Conference, and I had no idea we would have to formulate ideas and put them into the shape of resolutions and stand by them, whether they were voted upon hastily or not. I think it would be better to exchange views and leave the matter in the hands of the Government to be dealt with by them. The changes that will occur when this war is over will be a revolution all through our country. There is not a province that will not experience it, and I hope this Island will as much as anywhere else; and it is up to the Governments to get together and adopt some wise, sane and prudent policy for the management of future affairs. Returning to the question of fisheries, I think Dr. Gauthier's suggestions may be a good idea, and in fact, among ourselves, we have often discussed it,—how much more comfortable it would be in the spring of the year we could stay at home and let the lobster fishing stay over until later in the season. But the scientist has been at work on the lobster and has decided that the spring is the right time in the province for canning, and to leave it later you are liable to injure the business. It is too valuable to us to take any risks in passing any revolutionary measures on, hastily and without careful consideration. At the present time I would not like to see any resolutions passed such as that proposed to-day.

MR. BIRCH'S VIEWS.

Mr. J. E. Birch next spoke on the subject of Fisheries. He said: This is the most important question that has been before the meeting this evening. You may enumerate all the industries you like, but I think they are insignificant when compared to the fisheries. If you went into the grocery stores you would see at least nine or ten different kinds of prepared fish, and every one might be produced on the coast of the Island. All that we require is, that the Government should take some initiatory steps to provide the plant and assist the fishermen to prepare their products to meet the demands of the market. The very idea is absurd, of fish going from our shores to New Brunswick, Maine and Provinces and coming back, and our buying them, when they might very well be cured right here. There is one thing we should start right on. In the first place, we want the fishermen to go to the shores in spring of the year and not stop till the snow flies. In the fall of the year the best cod fish are caught and are mostly easily cured. I have in my mind one man who eight or nine years ago came to Alberton with \$300 in his pocket; today that man is worth five thousand dollars. No farmer in Prince County, with the small capital he started on, could show the same amount now; and what that man has done every fisherman in Prince Edward Island may do. I think lobsters are the last fish that ought to be caught. There is a great deal of illicit lobster fishing going on; and lobsters caught late in the fall of the year are ahead of those caught in early spring, I don't care what your specialists may say. I think the order of fishing them should be this; the herring first, the cod fish and mackerel next, and the lobster, quahaugs and oysters last; and I hope the Government will interest themselves in this matter and get a class of fishermen who will go to our shores and stick there. Our own fishermen, I am sorry to say, grow tired too quickly. They start out with the lobster first, and then after a while suddenly they leave the lobsters and the packers in the lurch and prosecute mackerel fishing a little and then go on to the cod fish. I think that if the order were reversed the fishermen would be more prosperous and would be in a better position than they are today.

Mr. W. F. Tidmarsh was the next speaker. He said:— I entirely endorse the views of my friend, Mr. McFadyen, as put before this meeting, relative to the proposed changes in the lobster fishing season. I regret very much that I was unavoidably absent when he delivered his principal address, but I am fully in accord with what he has just said. I do not believe that it would be advisable to change the lobster fishing season from the spring to the fall, and those who advocate it, have not, in my opinion, fully considered the conditions. If lobster fishing were permitted in the fall only, it would have a tendency to disorganize the market. It is during the spring months that the lobster output is purchased. Every season brings its own particular business. After July the fruit season comes in, and the large dealers in canned goods are engaged in the purchase of fruit; after that comes meat, and so forth. If all the lobsters were packed in the fall, my opinion is that it would seriously affect the market. Furthermore, we do not know what effect this would have on the industry in other respects. I am very doubtful if lobster fishing could be carried on on the North Shore of P. E. Island during the month of September. My experience in the cod fishery would lead me to conclude otherwise. It might, however, be advisable to lengthen the lobster fishing season, putting it back to where it was before the recent change was made; namely from the 20th of April to the 10th of July. There never was and there never will be a law formulated that will suit the general conditions of the Maritime Provinces any better than the law that was in force prior to the recent change.

The argument that lobsters spawn in the spring time, and that datching

(Continued on page six.)

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louison.

TREASURED

There are so many things to make me glad:
Remembered music, snow and daffodils;
A one-day meeting with a barefoot lad
With two limp-hanging fish (such pride he had)
And once-trod foot-trails high among wild hills.

There are so many things to make me good:
Easters, and Junes, and freight rev-er-ies;
And August shadows in a fragrant wood
And swimming in cool waters; oh, and trees.

That spoke to me as only comrades could!

There are so many things—each laughing day
More sweet with little gladnesses has been:
A friend's hand touching mine, a word to say,
A laugh to hear, a flower along the way;
And memory to keep my treasures in!
—Mary C. Davies.

Attention 105!

All our goods are REGULATION. We hold the largest stock of this class of goods on P. E. Island.

Officers' Goods

Sam Brown Belts, Officers' Uniforms complete British Warm, Great Coats, etc.

Khaki Semi-Riding Breeches

for Infantry, best quality Khaki, \$5.00, \$6.00 and \$7.00.

Here are a few of the every day necessities:—Buttons, Bachelor Buttons all ready to snap on, Large Hooks and Eyes for Neck of Tunic or Overcoat, Brushes, Belts, Money Belts, Photo Cases, Kit Bags, Puttees \$1.90 and Foxes at \$2.65, Officers' Caps, Trench Caps for Privates, Whistle Cords, Whistles, Cap Covers, Cap Protectors, Chevrons, Canes, etc., etc.

Uniforms made to measure—guaranteed delivery in ONE WEEK.

PATONS

The Military Store.

Let Us Equip You For That Hunting Trip

You start off with every chance of success when you equip yourself with our game—getting guns. In guns, particularly shot guns, you get real quality and sure satisfaction first, last and all the time, when you make your selections here.

Good shot guns are here. In single and double barrelled styles, hammer and hammerless types.

And everything you could desire in shells, shot, powder, U. M. C. shells and loading outfits.

Fennell & Chandler

Richmond Street

Victoria Row



Imperial Fox Biscuit

An all-the-year-round fox food
Wholesome, fresh and easily digested
Ranchers using these biscuits find foxes fond of them. Produce a glossy Coat and keep foxes in fine Condition. Sold at wholesale price to introduce.

Ross & McMillan

Opera House Building, Charlottetown

MAGIC CREAM---The Brighter, Better and More Durable Polish For Any Wood Surface

There is a polish that we have used on all our organs and pianos with such excellent results that we believe you will find it as useful as we do.

It is MAGIC CREAM—a bright liquid polish that will give new life to the finish of your piano, organ, sewing machine, furniture, phonograph, picture frames or any good wood surface.

Applied with a cheesecloth, it removes all dirt and discolorations and leaves a bright, durable polish that will last for many days.

Hundreds of customers are using MAGIC CREAM with good results. Try a bottle at 25c

MILLER BROS., 123 Kent Street

Prepare for Sloppy Walking RUBBERS 'RUBBERS

Buy the best "The Merchants Brand." To fit all kinds of boots. Rubbers to wear well must fit well. Ladies ask for our red heel Rubbers.

Job lot of Men's Rubbers
6c. Women's 2 1-2, 3,
4 1-2 7 at 5c. Infant's
size 6 1-2 only 2c.

GOFF BROS

To make room for new stock
Ladies' \$3 & \$4 boot going
at 2.25. See our counters
for other bargains.