

# The Charlottetown Guardian

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MONDAY, MAY 8, 1916.

## PROUD OF BEING A CANADIAN

It is a blessed privilege to be proud of one's country and more blessed still to have a country to be proud of. In this pride every Canadian with a drop of red blood in his veins can share abundantly. We have a country to be proud of, not only for its magnificent material wealth and opportunities but for the quality of its manhood and womanhood. For the first time in our history the mettle of our manhood—and of our womanhood also—has been put to the severest test possible to flesh and blood, the test of sacrifice, the willingness to lay down life for the nation and all that the nation stands for. And our men and women have nobly stood the test, our men have gone forward in thousands willingly and without compulsion to fight and if necessary to lay down their lives in order that the inheritance received from free men might be handed down unsullied and unfettered to future generations. For this every true Canadian can to-day hold up his head as proudly as did any old Roman when declaring his citizenship in the greatest nation of his time, and in the greatest boast of his time, "Civis Romanus sum."

And yet in the midst of our pride there are things to be ashamed of. The events of the past few weeks in our federal parliament at Ottawa have brought the blush of shame to many a Canadian cheek. While the best of our manhood has placed itself in the path of death for a noble and patriotic service a group of little Canadians elected to parliament by respectable constituencies have seen fit to besmirch the fair name of their country and their people in the contemptible hope of winning to themselves some little political profit. For a week both on the floor of the House of Commons and before a Royal Commission, this spectacle has been before the people of Canada side by side with that other spectacle in Europe the grim story of which reaches us night after night in an official casualty list which is read with mingled hope and fear in almost every home in Canada.

The last Hanzard report brings a sample of one day's work in the Commons. The House went into Committee to consider a resolution to provide \$250,000-000 for war purposes. The purpose of the resolution was fully explained, and, incidentally, the gallant work of the Canadian soldiers at the front was mentioned. Sympathy from both sides of the House was expressed to Hon. J. D. Hazen, who was absent because of the death of his son, reported killed in action a day or two previously. Many sentiments were expressed by members as to the conduct of the war, the cause, patriotism and the like when the "little people" took things into their own hands and the day was wasted with the silliest and most childish criticism, probably, that has ever wasted the time of the House or the pages of Hanzard. We regret to find in this this conglomerate criticism several full pages from our own Mr. J. J. Hughes who solemnly declared among many other equally unfounded statements that no Liberal in Prince Edward Island can get a look in on the

matter of army supply, medical inspection etc. He also read a full page report of an analysis of powder milk.

It is only fair to mention here that Mr. A. A. McLean promptly contracted Mr. Hughes and gave abundant proof of the inaccuracy of that gentleman's assertions. Others of the Hugh's variety of politician took up the strain and frittered away more valuable hours until, thoroughly red-sick and disgusted, Mr. Michael Clark, Liberal of Red Deer arose and delivered the masterly castigation to his fellow Liberals, a report of which appeared a few days ago in the Guardian and for which he was nearly read out of the Liberal party. This speech, in which Mr. Clark stated that he was "proud of being a Canadian citizen because of what the present government has done in connection with the war," changed for the time at least the current of the debate and gave the little Canadians a very uncomfortable night's rest.

But even this which it is to be regretted is an almost daily occurrence in the House of Commons, is trivial compared with what has transpired before the Royal Commission investigating the now notorious Kyte charges. It will be remembered that after a number of vague insinuations of Carvell, Kyte and others had been made and on which no action could be taken because no one had the courage to formulate a specific charge, Mr. Kyte startled the House and the country by making four specific charges, charges which if true would have been an everlasting disgrace to the Militia Department, to Major General Sir Sam Hughes, to the Government and to Canada. No sooner were these specific charges made than Sir Robert Borden appointed a Royal Commission and Sir Sam Hughes left England immediately for home to face the charges. As quickly as the necessary machinery could be got together, the Commission began its investigation. After eight days of thorough examination of all available witnesses the bottom has practically dropped out of every charge, so much so that it is announced that Mr. Kyte is to be put on his oath and compelled to tell the source of the information on which he based the scandal speech which threw the country into a state of hysteria and made Canada infamous in the eyes of the whole world, including our allies.

Kyte formulated four specific charges. (1) That mushroom American contractors had obtained twenty-two million dollar contracts on which they had obtained two and a quarter million dollars' advance payments and had formally executed an agreement to, and had actually divided among themselves a million and a half dollars of the money advanced by General Hughes on behalf of the British government.

It has been proved that there is no such agreement and not a dollar has been divided as rake-off with bogus companies.

Even the grits concede that the bottom has completely dropped out of the first and most sensational scandal charge.

The second charge was an alleged bogus rake-off on the sale of rifles. It has been proved that no such sale was ever made and consequently no rake-off.

The \$20,000 rake-off on the Edwards Valve company contract falls to the ground from the fact that the contract was cancelled and not a dollar paid.

The announcement that Kyte is to be put on the stand and subjected to a merciless examination naturally brought consternation to the Grit camp. It will however be a lesson to such men as he and to the country at large and will probably bring to an end, more effectively than anything could, the disgraceful libelling of men and measures with which the Grits, both federal and local, have tried to climb into power and have made Canadians ashamed of their country even in the midst of deeds on the battle-fields that will make the name of Canada glorious in all future history.

## THE KYTE CHARGES ARE FLATLY CONTRADICTED

OTTAWA, May 5.—With the conclusion of the eighth day of the Meredith Commission to enquire into the Kyte charges regarding shell and fuse contract, the only evidence so far secured has been point blank denial by every witness called as to any improper profits. A vast amount of detailed evidence was collected which went to bear out evidence already given as to contracts and prices.

Col. Thos. Cantley was one of the most important witnesses of the day and gave evidence as to the position of the shell committee which he said, at the beginning he had considered was acting as agents for the war office. Later developments however showed that they had to also act as contractors. This Col. Cantley said, involved legal as well as moral liability for any possible losses and he explained the original difficulties they had encountered to the fact that first price of \$8.55 for 18 pounder shells was too low, when a similar contract was let in the United States at ten dollars. When this occurred he had consulted Premier Borden and Sir Sam Hughes at Valcartier as to their personal liability in case of a loss, and had been told to go ahead. Col. Cantley emphatically stated that while they had a liability in case of loss, Shell Committee has stated to "A high authority" that they did not propose to benefit by any profits. In fact, he declared, he had received not remuneration as a member of the Shell Committee and had not expected any. Col. Cantley also declared that there had never been any contract for puric acid with the Providence Chemical Company. He stated that there had never been any effort on any side to use influence on the committee with regard to any contract whatever. In cross-examination Mr. E. F. B. Johnston asked regarding the fact that the contracting

members of the Shell Committee had allotted certain work to their own firms. Col. Cantley said that any work done in that respect was done at exactly the same prices as those given to other firms. The whole trouble was that as this was a new line business it was impossible to decide whether the prices they fixed were such as to make a profit or a loss. But when they found there was to be a profit it was decided to turn it back to the war office. As far as the Nova Scotia Steel Company was concerned Col. Cantley said that they had carried out experiments with regard to the use of Basic steel and had succeeded in getting the War Office to accept this without which he doubted if a single shell would have been made in Canada except from imported steel. Col. George W. Watts, another member of the Shell Committee was examined along similar lines stating that at one time it looked as though there would be a heavy loss on the Shell Committee business for which they would have been responsible. Subsequently, however, considerable profits had been made but none of this went to the members of the Committee. Col. Watts was on the stand all the afternoon and examined regarding many details of contracts in which he bore out the statements of previous witnesses that the whole idea of the Shell Committee had been to secure fuses wherever they could get them in order to hurry up the delivery of completed shells.

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It never fails to relieve and cure promptly.  
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quarters.) On the 18th morning of the 18th April 1916, I came before Capt. C. M. Williams on these charges (1) Absence without leave from 6 a m 6th April, 1916, until 10 p m 17th April, 1916; (2) Breaking barracks while under open arrest. I was awarded twelve days detention with No. 1 field punishment. At eleven a m I started my first hour's field punishment which consisted of having my wrists handcuffed to a plank five feet ten inches from the ground allowing me some leeway in which to ease myself. My feet were firm on the ground. I was released in one hour. I received no bodily injury whatever, and with the exception of a tired feeling in my arms felt none the worse for punishment. I further state this to be my sixth offence against military discipline since coming to Trenton, N. S., on the 15th of March, 1916. The punishment was remitted that afternoon, one hour's punishment being all that I did.

(Sgd.) WM. P. CHAPMAN.  
 F. D. Dodsworth, Capt.,  
 Officer Commanding,  
 Composite Co., 106th Batt.,  
 C. E. F. Trenton.

Witnesses:  
 Jno. D. Grant, Mayor of New Glasgow.  
 A. T. Logan, Mayor, Trenton.  
 J. W. H. Sutherland, Editor Evening News.

Don. F. Fraser, Eastern Chronicle.

Captain Dodsworth asked if any further information was wanted. Mr. Sutherland said he had heard it stated that Captain Williams had inflicted more severe punishment than he was allowed to. Captain Dodsworth said that being in command of a unit Captain Williams had the full power of a commanding Officer and could give 28 days detention and 28 days field punishment if he saw fit to do so. Mayor Grant asked Pte. Chapman if he could use his hands all right and he replied that his wrists were sore the day after he had been punished but that was all.

Captain Dodsworth deleted a paragraph of Captain Williams' report in which that officer said that ex-Mayor Strickland had started the howl of disapproval, and incidentally he paid his respects to Mr. Strickland in no uncertain tone.

Captain Dodsworth also said he had had some trouble owing to some of his men getting drunk. Punishment would be meted out for such but the punishment would be remitted if the men would inform him where and from whom they got the liquor. He had found that method of dealing with the drunk evil effective elsewhere and he thought it would work in this district. If evidence was secured against anyone for selling liquor to any of his men such evidence would be used in Court against such offenders.

## RIDICULOUS STORY RE CAPT. C. M. WILLIAMS OFFICIALLY DISPROVED

With reference to a ridiculous rumour which emanated from Trenton, N. S. and eventually reached Charlottetown, through a false report published in one of the Nova Scotia papers, relative to Captain C. M. Williams who is well known here, the Officer Commanding the Battalion, Capt. F. D. Dodsworth recently called a meeting to finally clear the matter up by giving publicity to the official facts. No one who knows Capt. Williams gave any credence whatever to the exaggerated story which originated in an incident common in every regiment and his many friends in Charlottetown will be glad to read the following from the Trenton Daily News of the 29th April, giving the whole unvarnished and official story.

A meeting was held at the Town Hall, Trenton, yesterday at 11.30 a. m. Present Captain Dodsworth, Lieut. Walker, and Private Chapman, of the 106th Battalion, Trenton, Mayor Grant, New Glasgow, Mayor Logan, Trenton, J. W. H. Sutherland, of the Evening News and Don F. Fraser of the Eastern Chronicle.

Captain Dodsworth said there had been a good deal of adverse criticism in regard to the punishment meted out to Pte. Chapman, and he wanted the facts of the matter fairly placed before the public, and had taken what he considered the best method of doing so. He wanted the Mayors and the representatives of the press to hear Pte. Chapman's statement.

Captain Dodsworth then submitted the statement regarding the matter, which had been made by Capt. Williams, which was as follows:—

New Glasgow, 19-4-16  
 O. C. Composite Company,  
 106th "Overseas" Battalion, C. E. F.  
 Officer Commanding,  
 106th "Overseas" Battalion,  
 C. E. F., Truro, N. S.  
 No. 1 Field Punishment, No. 715631  
 Pte. W. P. Chapman.

Sir.—As directed by the Adjutant by telephone to-day, I have the honor

to submit the following report giving full particulars of the marginally noted punishment.

Pte. W. P. Chapman, originally of "A" Company, reported for duty with the Composite Company at Trenton on its organization on March 15th. Since then his record has been as follows:—

On the 16th of March, the day after coming here, he was charged with absence without leave and on appearing before me was admonished.

The following day he was again before me on the charge of absence without leave and breaking out of barracks while on the sick report. For this offence he received 7 days C. E.

On the 24th of March he was again up for office charged with breaking barracks while a defaulter and received 72 hours detention.

On the 31st of March he had another charge of absence without leave placed against him and was sentenced to 4 hours punishment drill.

While on the defaulter list he was found out of barracks and placed under open arrest. The following day he reported sick and of course could not come up for office. That night he again absented himself remaining absent for 12 days. On his return he appeared before me with three charges against him. (1), absence without leave; (2) breaking out of barracks while on the sick report and (3), breaking out of barracks while under open arrest.

In view of his past record and more especially his determination to force me to transfer him back to Truro, I considered it advisable to make an example of this case and accordingly sentenced him to 12 days detention with No. 1 Field Punishment.

On the morning of the sentence, 18-4-16, he underwent one period of the punishment being handcuffed to a small tree in front of the barracks for one hour. In daily orders in the afternoon I remitted the remainder of the field punishment as I considered the example sufficient.

I personally made certain the punishment administered was not of such a nature as to cause him anything but temporary physical discomfort. The disgrace of having to undergo such punishment was the chief object of administering it. In the afternoon he carried on with the general fatigue work together with the other detention prisoners.

Several times lately I have had to mount a guard with several men short because of absentees. Pte. Chapman is the worst offender in this regard as shown by his conduct sheet while in the Composite Battalion previous to his being transferred to the 106th and also as shown by his record since transferring to the Battalion. One similar charge was placed against him in Truro, and I know of still another while there for which a charge was not placed against him. In view of the importance of the work in which we are engaged and the unfortunate effect such an example has upon the remainder of the men, I considered the offence sufficiently grave to be dealt with severely.

(Sgd.) C. M. WILLIAMS.

Next he submitted a statement prepared for Pte. Chapman which he read, and asked Pte. Chapman if it was correct and in accordance with the facts. Pte. Chapman said it was and signed it in the presence of the two Mayors and the newspaper men. Pte. Chapman's statement was as follows:—

Statement of No. 715631 Pte. W. P. Chapman, Composite Co., 106th Battalion, C. E. F.  
 Trenton, N. S., Apr. 28, '16

I, No. 715631 Pte. W. P. Chapman state that I left the barracks at Trenton, N. S., without leave on the 6th of April, 1916, and that I did not return till 10 p. m. 17th April, 1916. At the time I went absent I was under open arrest, (not allowed to leave

## DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Purnished by W. S. Louson.

### FIRST THINGS FIRST.

These great days are calling us—yes, even driving us—to prayer. Surrounded by problems, faced with difficulties, challenged with great opportunities, we are forced to have recourse to the great source of power. This is a time when above all others we need guidance, and in no other way can we get that Divine wisdom which alone can chart the times through

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which we are passing. This is a time when we are striving to achieve great things and to pray for us as the method of Divine appointment by which results are attained. This is a time when we have to fight, and we turn to prayer as the greatest weapon forged for our spiritual warfare.

Let us then not put the lesser methods first in the tasks, both small and great, that lie at the hand of every worker in the King's business to-day. Let us put first things first, do things in God's way, and see what He can achieve. Let us approach every problem first with prayer; let us undertake every enterprise first with prayer; let us choose our course first by prayer, and let us meet the events of God's Providence first in prayer.

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