

THE Charlottetown Guardian

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President... Managing Editor...

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PROSPECTIVE ELECTION

The Liberal press is greatly concerned at the prospect of a June election. From Winnipeg to Charlottetown the same howl of assumed indignation has gone up...

In ordinary circumstances we would heartily agree with our Liberal contemporaries as to the inadvisability of an election at this time. The country would be better employed husbanding its resources...

That is the condition prevailing in the United Kingdom. The Conservative Opposition has pledged itself to sustain the Liberal Government unreservedly while the war lasts. In parliament no contentious question has been introduced...

Would that the same could be said of Canada. We entered the conflict, it is true, with similar high ideals, but alas before many months the Liberal Opposition succeeded in putting petty party issues before the interests of the State...

The Government has three substantial reasons for going to the country should it so desire: First, whether there be a dominion election or not, there are bound to be provincial elections from Prince Edward Island to Manitoba...

In our opinion the lesser evil is an immediate appeal to the country for a vote of confidence in the Government's war policy.

THE AGGRAVATING ICE

It is scarcely to be wondered at that the people of Summerside are becoming impatient with the unparalleled conduct of the ice this season. With the strait clear of ice west of Cape Traverse and Tormentine and the way clear for uninterrupted communication between Summerside and Pt du Chene...

This is annoying and as is quite natural there is a disposition to blame the politicians for it. It must be gratifying to these burden bearers, however, to feel that this is at least one grievance that they cannot be blamed for. The politicians have nothing to do with it, nor during the coming election campaign can they include a promise that similar conditions shall not occur again...

CALL FOR HELP

In another column we publish a letter from Mr. Herbert R. Hill, Secretary Militia Y. M. C. A. St. John, N. B., which explains itself and which should appeal to every loyal Canadian.

outgrown the acute stage, that there is less shuddering over our casualties, less anxiety over the result than there was during the early stages of the war. We read daily of and fighting and complacently regard the progress of the war as satisfactory, yet the events of the past few days should convince us that much may happen yet before we are through.

Granting that, for the time being, the odds in these two battles were in favor of the Allies, what, after all was the gain? A few yards or a mile or two and the battle still rages. Our Canadians fell in these two battles in hundreds. The casualty list is growing daily and anxious hearts in every province of Canada are watching daily for the news it may bring.

In view of these things, in view of the fact that the relative positions of the belligerents are not materially changed since the early stages of the war, that no real progress has been made and that, so far as can be foreseen at present, a long and bitter struggle is yet before us, should not we in Canada put forth a greater effort, make a little more sacrifice than we have yet done?

The motor ambulance asked for by the St. John Y. M. C. A. would be but a trifling gift and yet it would mean much. Contributing to this is one way in which we can help. Let us all do it who can. There are other ways also and when the call comes we trust the response will be commensurate with our duty and our obligation.

GERMAN SPY SYSTEM

During the early stages of the war there was a good deal of talk and even fear about the amount of information gathered by German spies throughout the British Empire. The information they collected was no doubt voluminous, but it is now a joke. Dr. Dillon, of the Contemporary Review, says that shortly before the war...

The spy system is weak in that the spy, like the ordinary private detective, usually reports only what his employer wishes to hear. It was apparently believed in Berlin that if England ventured on war a succession of labor riots would occur all over the country and that the suffragettes would set fire to the royal palaces as well as to military camps like Aldershot and the Curragh.

Another astonishing mistake was the notion that Canada and Australia were 'on the eve of seceding' because of the efforts of British statesmen, beginning with John Bright, to 'impose Imperial Federation, i.e., free trade with England, upon them.' The reader knows that Bright did not favor Imperial Federation in any form. In the last speech he delivered in Birmingham, in 1888, he spoke of it as a 'dream and absurdity' because it would or might entail some relaxation of the British free trade policy.

NOTES

One leading Ontario newspaper finds it necessary to refer to one contemporary as an incorrigible falsifier, and to advise a political friend in the Legislature to bring an action for damages against another journalistic viper which accused him of promoting a deal by which the country lost money. Things seem to be heating up for an old-fashioned election.

Scotsmen have cause to be proud of Robbie Burns; he knew something. One hundred and twenty years ago—there or thereabouts—Burns wrote his ideas of the Germans to the Rev. Dr. McGill, of Ayr. 'Ignorance, superstition, bigotry, stupidity, malevolence, self-conceit, envy,' said he, 'are all strongly bound in a massive frame of brazen impudence. Good God, to such a shield, humour is the peck of a sparrow, and satire the popgun of a school-boy. Creation disgracing scelerates, God only can mend and the Devil only can punish. Oh, for a poisonous tornado, winged from the torrid zone of Tartarus, to sweep the spreading crop of their villainous contrivance to the lowest hell.' There was about Robbie on occasions a simple piety and a tenderness of accent, which all must admire.

PREMIER'S STAND

A GRAND LEAD

Lord Bishop Sees Highest Encouragement in Sir Robert's Action

HOLDS UP EXAMPLE

All Should Unite With Premier to Purify Public Life of Canada, Driving Out Unrighteousness.

"It is a grand lead that Sir Robert Borden has given us in this present crisis," said His Lordship Bishop Farthing at St. Mathias' church Montreal, "and I would appeal to all political parties and all sections of the community to sink every other consideration and unite with him to drive out unrighteousness from the administration of public affairs, and to purify the public life of Canada— to put country before party and God before self-interest."

His Lordship referred to the Premier's stand with regard to graft in war contracts. When seen by a reporter with regard to the address which had been given after a confirmation service, His Lordship said he wanted the point emphasized that he thought Sir Robert Borden's action was one of the grandest, and that there was shame for those who would be little the Premier for party reasons.

The Bishop spoke but briefly, his words not being in the form of a sermon.

"This is a time of crisis," he said, "not only in the Empire in the physical struggle taking place in Europe but also in the church."

"We are all suffering in the present war, but what is pressing upon my mind and causing apprehension is the question, 'What if this suffering should all be in vain—What if this people turn a deaf ear to God and when the war is over, go back to worldliness and covetousness and unrighteousness?'"

"There are signs of discouragement and signs of great encouragement. Our hearts are oppressed when we see the carelessness and the covetousness which prevails in some quarters, when men who even risk injuring the efficiency of our soldiers and endangering their lives in order that they might add a few dollars to their profits."

"On the other hand, there are great encouragements. When we see the noble response made to the appeal for men, when we see the self-sacrificing labors of so many one feels that there is much indeed to encourage. But there has been no sign of greater hopefulness than when the Premier of this dominion placed himself at the head of the movement for national righteousness, when he so scathingly denounced the graft which was revealed. That his denunciation of the wrong within his own party should have caused surprise only reflects upon the low standard prevalent in our political life."

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"Then will the future of this dominion be bright and our sufferings will not be in vain."

BIG SHIPMENT OF LOBSTERS FROM YARMOUTH

YARMOUTH, April 28.—Another monster shipment of live lobsters is going across on the boat to Boston tonight. It consists of 1,700 crates, 500 larger than the big shipment of last Wednesday. There have been several good arrivals of fresh fish, during the last day or two, and a shipment of almost twenty-five tons is being made.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR READERS OF THE GUARDIAN

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

TRUST

Build a little fence of trust, Around today, Fill the space with loving work, And therein stay.

Look not through the sheltering bars Upon the morrow, God will help thee bear what comes Of joy or sorrow.—M. F. BUTTS.

Friend, you may have seen these two verses before. Briefly, let me advise you to commit them to memory, you will never regret it. On the contrary, the fact of accepting, and following the plan suggested, will bring a blessing to your life, and enable you to be of real help and comfort to others. Let us all try to get the best out of life, with the return of spring time. S. S. B.

LIBERALS AND TEACHERS

The Patriot takes up the subject of Education, as one who had laboured long and successfully in the profession and acquired that knowledge, which comes from mature experience and scientific study.

To his aid it summons a "Teacher," whose letter in a recent issue of the Examiner it copiously quotes from to show, that supplements and bonuses are not, from this teacher's point of view, a satisfactory way of increasing teachers' salaries.

Now, the fact that the latter grant depends upon the inspector's report of the teacher's work is not objected to by teachers who are conscientious in their work and enthusiastic in the schoolroom. This same system of paying, with some modification, obtains in England, Scotland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta.

This brings us face to face with the question, whose opinion is worth following; the educational authorities of those countries named or the writer in the Patriot, whose practical knowledge on educational matters is yet to be acquired?

It would seem that the efficiency test is objected to by the Patriot. Of course efficiency was never considered by the party for which it speaks, especially on matters relating to education. The efficiency test in paying bonus and supplement is unfair and unsatisfactory, we are told in the letter of "Teacher," and by the Patriot. They say this is a fad of the present Government, and the Patriot makes "Teacher" believe the Liberals would not do things that way; in fact, Liberals do not believe in efficiency in schools, never did, it is not Liberal dogma.

This leads "Teacher" to believe he has found an enthusiastic advocate of his views and he asks the editor for a review of what was done by the late Government for education. The following is the answer:—

"When we, the Liberals, came into power in 1891 there were only 444 schools in this Province with 22,230 pupils, an average enrolment of 50 pupils per district. In 1911, when we went out of office we left 478 schools with an enrolment of 17,398."

"You see the enrolment decreased 5,000, but we created 34 new schools. They were called by some 'grit' schools, but they were really only political schools; and we never objected to giving a school where it was asked for."

"Of course some of these schools were vacant. In 1904, 28 of those were vacant, but that was no fault of the late Government, and as for teachers' salaries, well the Liberal Government did something for their salaries. You understand there was a rumour circulated by some (opposed to supplement) that there was crooked work in paying supplements, and the Government of that day decided that if there was any crooked work to be done the Government was more capable of doing it than anyone else."

"So teachers' supplements were dropped. "But the increase in subsidy? "Yes, the Farquharson Government got \$30,000 and the Peters' Government got \$70,000—just \$100,000, the same as Premier Mathieson."

"But you see we never believed in increasing teachers' salaries when we were in power, because we could use the money more profitably and to better party advantage in other departments and get better results."

"It may seem that we were working in inverse ratio when the enrolment decreased 5,000 and schools increased 34, but that was our policy, and time has proved the wisdom of what we did."

Exit "Teacher" profoundly impressed by Liberal liberality and justice.

PATRIOTIC PLEDGE APPROVAL

Sir,—Having many years experience in the enforcement of the Scott Act and Prohibition Law I know the difficulties contended with. The quantity of the liquor people is always dangerous and the criticism of others is not pleasant. The services of detectives has been tried and is condemned by many, so now there remains only the evidence of the drinkers to secure convictions by, and experience shows that to be practically useless. The search process is too slow at best and does not apply to drug stores. The fight therefore is discouraging and well-nigh hopeless."

This new movement comes as a relief to many like me. It is the better way, and I am sick of the old way. I hope the new movement will be carried out well and liquor business banished from our fair land.

I am, sir, etc., S. O. T.

NORTH LAKE BOAT HARBOR ASSURED

Sir,—It is a cause of great satisfaction to the people of Eastern King's, and to Island fishermen in general to learn that through the efforts of Mr. A. L. Fraser, the contractor for the building of the boat harbor at North Lake is about to be tendered for. Mr. Fraser, who was the first mover in his efforts to obtain this great boon for this part of the island, so greatly in need of shipping and fishing facilities. Under date of the 24th inst., he writes:—"I may say that I was in Ottawa on the 20th of this month and saw Hon. Mr. Rogers about the North Lake boat harbor. He promised me faithfully that it would be taken up and gone on with. In fact, while I was there, he instructed his secretary to see that tenders were called for immediately, so I think this will be quite satisfactory to you. I was very much pleased to receive such a favorable reply to my request." Well done! Better than trying to kill the project by enlarging upon possible or imaginary private damages. I am sincerely yours, RESIDENT.

EVERYONE HELPS TO COMBAT GASES.

LONDON, April 9.—The War Office has issued an invitation to the heads of British households to make supplies of the simple respirators which are required by the troops at the front as a protection against asphyxiating gases. The respirator is made of gauze or fine wire, and is worn over the nose and mouth. Such devices are frequently used by laborers who are compelled to work in

Butterick Whispers



WAIST 7618

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CABLE STEAMER SIGHTED A LARGE NUMBER OF GIANT BERGS

HALIFAX, April 29.—After about two weeks at work repairing the St. Pierre Miquelon cable of Cape Race, the French cable steamer Edouard Jeremac arrived in port yesterday, the chief purser of the Jeremac, told a reporter of The Herald yesterday, that he had seen many giant icebergs in the waters off Cape Race, about 50 miles off shore. Some

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of the bergs were estimated as being 300 feet high. Several days at sea were accompanied by thick fog, but no rough weather was experienced by the Jeremac.

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Boys' Norfolk Suits

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Henderson & Cudmore

Sunnyside

Canada's Fire Loss Is Higher Than Any Other Country in the World, According to the Report of the Conservation Commission at Ottawa

This should bring home to every property holder the necessity of Fire Insurance. Have you ever stopped to think how you would feel to have your accumulations suddenly obliterated? A fire may produce this result. The only absolute protection is Insurance. The cost is so trifling no one can afford to be without it. If you own any property liable to be destroyed by fire, it is a duty you owe yourself and to your family to insure it. A fire loss is always a misfortune to an honest man.

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