

The Charlottetown Guardian

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MONDAY JANUARY 21st, 1918

THE BURNS' CONCERT

The Burns' Concert is one of the annual events to which the people of the province always look forward with pleasure. The different committees who have in the past managed these events have devoted their best energies towards maintaining the high standard set many years ago and as a result the Burns' Concert program invariably includes the best talent the province can produce.

This year's Concert will be no exception to the rule. A splendid program has been prepared and lovers of music and of the artistic will, we feel assured, find it a worthy link in the chain of brilliant Burns' Concerts that have been held under the management of the Calidonian Club.

The Burns' Concert is not a money-making institution for the Club. The funds resulting from it are devoted exclusively to philanthropic and patriotic purposes. From the proceeds of last year's concert the handsome sum of \$450.00 was handed over for charitable and patriotic objects, the Protestant and Catholic orphanages and hospitals and the poor of both denominations sharing in the benefaction. The Calidonian Club is entitled to generous sympathy and support in the fact that its aims and benefactions are entirely undenominational and that its charities are disbursed to the needy of all classes.

This year, it is to be regretted, the special train arrangements entered into with the railway have been cancelled by the authorities. This, as all our readers know, has been done on account of the necessity for economizing in coal. A serious coal shortage, due to congestion of transportation, prevails in Canada and the United States, in the latter much more seriously than with us. It will have been noted in our news columns that owing to coal shortage very many United States factories have been closed for five days with a prospect of still further curtailment in the immediate future. Almost similar conditions prevail in Canada and our authorities are now seriously considering the question of closing down such coal-consuming concerns as can best be dispensed with. Under these circumstances our loyal people will, we feel assured, adapt themselves as best they can to such temporary inconveniences as may be occasioned by restrictions which are unquestionably necessary. While no special trains will be permitted for any purpose, the regular trains will afford the necessary convenience at a little additional outlay to persons attending the Concert from a distance and we have no doubt that a great many of those who had purposed coming in by the special trains and returning the same night, will still find it convenient to come by the regular trains and return next morning. The treat in store will be worth the additional outlay.

THE FUEL SHORTAGE

A veritable furor has been created in the United States by the five days' suspension of operations in factories. Approximately 240,000 Detroit workmen will lose \$4,500,000 in wages by this order. In Chicago 400,000 persons are out of employment for these five days. In Pittsburgh 70,000 men are idle, and so on through the different cities east of the Mississippi, the state of New York alone having about 3,000,000 men thrown out of employment.

The situation is being thoroughly canvassed, the usual protests are being filed, resolutions are being passed and petitions being presented to congress and the President against the order closing the factories, but, the factories are closed, the country is suffering, the poor are shivering and there is no redress in sight.

What is the trouble? Everybody blames somebody else or some system for the trouble and at this distance it looks as if there were too much management. Statistics have been produced proving that the output of coal in the United States in 1917 was the greatest in its history, that 45 per cent. of the world's fuel was mined in the United States. This known, the railroads were blamed and the railroads come to the front and show that they have hauled and delivered 175,986 more carloads of anthracite and 925,691 more carloads of bituminous coal from April to November, 1917, than during the same months of 1916. Then the fault must be with the increased consumption in factories, munition plants, etc. These come forward with statistics to

show that the factories and plants were no more active in 1917 than in 1916. And still the evasive "nigger in the woodpile" escapes detection.

The Economic World very cautiously hints at what it believes to be the real trouble. It says:—

So far as we can see, enough coal is being produced to "go around," as the saying is—and that without any such pinch as the consumers are now forced to endure. Our guess, therefore, is that the fault lies almost exclusively in the domain of distribution—the domain in which governmental control is presumably for the most part exercised. If we are correct in this interpretation...

the Fuel Administration, though of course acting with the best of intentions and in an earnest desire to effect distributive justice in respect of the price of coal and of the division of the supply among the users of it, has yet in a practical sense succeeded only in impeding or in interrupting altogether the easy flow of coal through the channels which long experience has shown to be the best adapted to bring it to the consumers, wherever they may be, at such times and in such quantities as are best suited to their needs.

The Economic World goes on to say that a government office, however, intelligent has a mechanistic view of business affairs and of business men and his systems have removed from the distribution of coal the 'multiform free energy and initiative' that formerly enabled the coal trade to do its work.

THE NEW CANADA

After the war, when our soldiers return to take up again the burden of civil life we shall have a Canada in many ways different from what it was before they went away. There will be between three and four hundred thousand of them, scattered over the different provinces, a leaven sufficient to leaven the whole lump of Canadian life. These men will not return as they left us. They will have seen a larger, fuller life; they will have seen sacrifice and learned the meaning and the beauty of it; they will have stood face to face with death and with reality; they will have associated with real men doing real men's real work. The little things they had left at home when they went out on this great enterprise will look infinitely smaller when they come back. The hustling and jostling for a few dollars or a paltry office or a life of ease will loom exceedingly small to the man who risked his life in bringing in a wounded comrade from the hail swept No Man's Land; to the man who came back alone from a forlorn hope and saw his companions killed one after another in silencing an enemy gun. The dude fashions for the maintenance of which men and women are sacrificing their lives and their comforts will look contemptible to the man who for weeks at a time lived in mud and filth to hold the part of the line or to do the duty assigned him.

Will these men, when they return, be satisfied with things as they are or will they demand a manlier and more real grappling with the things that are worth while? We believe they will. We believe that when they are again absorbed into the civil life there will be many changes for the better. In the meantime they are returning slowly, gradually getting back, some of them maimed for life, some of them temporarily disabled, and all of them forming a nucleus around which the great bulk, the thousands that shall come, will begin to exert their influence on the national life.

It is encouraging to note that those returning are being organized and it may be assumed that as the others return they too will become united with this organization which has branches in all our provinces. The need of wise leadership can not be emphasized too strongly. These thousands of men when they return will have many aims in common, many opinions in common, many standards of living in common and most of these will be on a broader gauge than those entertained before they went away, on a broader gauge than that entertained by us who during their absence have busied ourselves with life on a different scale from theirs. They will exert an influence on Canada's future life. If wisely led their influence will be for good; if unhappily they come under the leadership of demagogues it will be to their own peril and that of Canada.

And we whose lives have been different, we whose work they did on the battlefields, we who have been saved from wreck by their sacrifice have a duty to perform towards them, have a house-cleaning to do in preparation for their coming. We must learn to put first things first, to pay less attention to the tinsel glory of wealth, real or pretended, to measure things by their worth rather than by their appearance and make Canada as a whole and each province in it a place worthy of the sacrifice they made and the price they paid.

UNION GOVERNMENT AND QUEBEC

Mr. H. F. Gadsby.

OTTAWA, January 18.—Some anxiety is expressed here at the stand taken by the Quebec Government in repudiating, as illegal, unconstitutional and ultra vires of the Federal Government, the Order-in-Council prohibiting for the time being all under-takings not essential to the country's full participation in the war and requiring that all provincial, municipal and private flotations be first approved by the powers at Ottawa.

Sir Lomer Gouin's attitude is that his is an infringement on provincial rights, and perhaps it is, but provincial rights are no more sacred than individual rights which are being infringed the world over though the necessities of the war. Every one of the War Measures Act of some sort of other which gives the Government of the day power to override all the usual customs, arrangements, statutes and constitutions of peace to the degree necessary for the proper conduct of the war. The danger is not that the old rules are declared off and new ones are made to meet the emergencies as they arise. In Canada, as in all the other warring countries, the central government, with the cheerful acquiescence of the people, exercises a right of eminent domain, so to speak, which it would dare to contemplate in times of peace.

It would be a matter of regret if Quebec further isolated herself by a rigid attitude towards the restrictions deemed necessary by the rest of Canada to conserve the resources of the country and give the most effect to the national endeavor to win the war. If Quebec will take a look at the United States she will see there much greater intrusions on state rights by the central government than anything Quebec suffers from the Dominion of Canada.

The hope is expressed that Quebec will see right reason and fall in cheerfully with the sister provinces in helping to make a success of this partnership of thrift and fortitude which is known as Union Government. The time for sulking is almost over. It has lasted now three weeks and the sharp edge of Quebec's anger should be considerably dulled. Count Drouin's comment that those who talk of separation are chasing a shadow goes to show that the Nationalist leader has a great deal of common sense when he chooses to see it.

Meanwhile the fact remains that the French-Canadians who number nearly half of our population, are practically unrepresented on the government side of the House of Commons. Some may say that this is their own doing but that does not make it any the less the concern of their English fellow-citizens. The sure of Canada hangs on the way his political opinions. To allow the people of the second largest province in Canada to stand aside from the preferences of their national citizenship simply because they have expressed an unwillingness to share its burdens, is to foster a condition which is a menace to the common weal. The Union Government can neither justify itself by offering foreigners on Quebec's own terms nor can it pursue a policy of indifference toward Quebec which would make of it another Ireland, a thorn in the flesh. It may be taken for granted that Union government will consider the question of Quebec on its merits, seeking only to do what is best for the whole people. The French are with us—they must be made of us to the extent requisite for the common good. Quebec is pre-eminently a use for that cool, detached, impartial, non-partisan, unparochial vision which Union Government is supposed to embody.

The roots of the present trouble go back to the days when an English Government, engaged in the long fight for national life which filled the entire eighteenth century, forgot that he "few acres of snow" might be some use for some other purpose than as a military outpost to guard the American colonies. Let it be remembered that England's policy toward Quebec and it was confirmed by the sharp lesson of 1776. And so Quebec remained Quebec. The English-speaking settlers were too eager to reach the fertile valleys of Ontario to do more than wonder at the un-English atmosphere of Montreal. Later on the plains of the West gave them plenty of elbow room. The

stormy days of Confederation gave us some glimpse of the problem but even then the country did not wake up to all the facts of the situation. It was with a shrug of the shoulder that we conceded the apparently non-essential points of language and education. In a word we did all we could to create a separate Quebec and were lost in amazement when it showed the symptoms.

Canada has the bad old Anglo-Saxon habit of muddling through. We pride ourselves on never crossing a bridge until we come to it. This leads to another difficulty when we come to the bridge, there is no bridge to cross. We have neglected to build it. Quebec's boasts of undying loyalty to the British Crown were read to mean undying loyalty to the national ideals for which the Crown stands and when the South African War and the 1911 election gave unmistakable evidence of a very different sentiment we attributed it to the intrigues of a few demagogues and self-seeking politicians. All wrong of course. The demagogues were not leading public opinion. They were playing their usual trick of finding out which way Quebec slanted and the getting out in front and hollering.

Then came the war. It took a long time for the fact to become generally known and appreciated that only eight provinces had declared war on Germany and that Quebec was more neutral than Holland. What it did dawn upon us was the roar was terrific. From abuse to the flabby business of the Bonne Entente—from threats to the Military Service Act—we ran the whole gamut of folly, winding up finally with Union Government with Quebec on the outside and not even looking in.

It is not generally admitted that voluntary recruiting in Quebec made every mistake that was possible to the mind of man. One colossal blunder was the appointment of a very worthy but very Protestant and very English clergyman to recruit in Montreal. Another blunder was to ask the French citizens of Quebec to risk their lives in a cause for which they obviously lacked enthusiasm on the same grounds as we asked the British people of Ontario and the West to fight for all that British people the world over held dearer than life. We did not use the argumentum ad hominem which might have touched Quebec's heart. But these are the errors of a past sordid with party politics while Union Government has clean hands and an overwhelming mandate.

Many people in Quebec realized the necessity of compulsory service and did not fear the revolution threatened by a few blunders like that they did believe that this sudden attempt to reverse the policy of generations would create an unfortunate cleavage. Such a cleavage it did create and this cleavage is the business of Union Government to heal. The Government is backed by a unanimous opinion from English Canada. It must realize that, no matter whose is the fault, we can expect little love just now from our French compatriots. It will doubtless appreciate the folly of temporizing and the equal folly of violence and will take measures to command respect and confidence by a prompt but fearless enforcement of the Military Service Act or whatever other laws may be needed to oblige French-Canadians to bear their share of the white man's burden.

It is utterly hopeless to endeavor to compel their participation either by abuse of cajolery. Efficient administration of the public service, the removal of notoriously incompetent or insincere public officers, and a strict but fair interpretation of the laws concerning sedition will immediately win to the side of the Government the best elements among the French. Scrupulous adherence to the spirit of the Federal part can be maintained without sacrifice of the urgent needs of the cause of civilization in the war, but petty and non-essential points of procedure, as for example the absurd delay in setting the officers of the Federal police to do the work of arresting offenders which has been so openly shirked by the local police, must be waived aside.

The problem of the relations of the races in Canada will take generations for its solution, but the problem of preventing the division of the races from delaying the national effort in the war can be faced at once and faced with a proper appreciation of its magnitude. The present cabinet is probably strong enough for the task. If they set to work to the best of their ability, the country can ask no more at present.

FOUND MONEY STOLEN FROM ARMY BANK.
CAMP FUNSTON, Kansas, Jan. 16th.—The money taken from the army bank at Camp Funston by Captain Lewis Whisler, last Friday night after he had killed four employees and injured a fifth, said to have been more than sixty-two thousand dollars, was found hidden in the walls of Whisler's quarters in the barracks here.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

SHOVELING COAL

Shoveling coal, shoveling coal, into the furnace's crater-like hole. Thus goes the coin we so wearily earn, into the furnace to sizzle and burn; thus it's converted to ashes and smoke, and we keep shoveling, weeping, and broke. Oh, it's a labor that tortures the soul, shoveling coal, shoveling coal! "The house," says the wife, "is cold as a barn," so I must migrate, muttering "burn, burn," down to the furnace, the which I must feed; it is a glutton, a demon of greed! In to its cavern I throw a large load—there goes the money I got for an' ole! There goes the check that I got for a pome, boosting the joys of an evening at home! There goes the price of full many a scroll, shoveling coal, shoveling coal! Things that I need I'm not able to buy, I have shut down on the cake and the pie; most of my jewels are lying in soak, gone is the many for ashes and smoke; all I can earn, all the long winter through, goes in the furnace and then up the flue. Still says the frau, "his us cold as a floe, up in the Arlie where the birds grow." So all my song is of sorrow and dole, shoveling coal, shoveling coal!

WALT MASON



BURNS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Under the Distinguished Patronage of His Honor, Lieutenant-Governor Macdonald. Under the Auspices of the Calidonian Club of P. E. I. in the

People's Theatre, January 24--25

PROGRAMME.

- 1. Bag Pipe Selection
- 2. Pipe Major McKinnon and Piper McKenzie
- 3. Overture Scotch Airs, Orchestra
- 4. Dance Highland Fling
- 5. Katherine McLennan, Helen McMillan, Constance McFarlane, Elsie Biffin, Avila Mathieson, Helen McDonald.
- 6. Song I Love thee, Annie
- 7. Miss Gwladys Bell.
- 8. Duet Bonny Doon
- 9. Miss Blanchard and Mr. W. J. Brown.
- 10. Solo Scotland for ever
- 11. Mr. Charles Earle.
- 12. Reel of Tulloch
- 13. Misses MacFarlane, Biffin, Mathieson, McDonald, Masters McMillan, McCorrigan, McKinnon, Cameron
- 14. Solo "Dumbarton's Belle"
- 15. Master L. McMillan.
- 16. Solo Logie O'Buchan
- 17. Miss M. Ross.
- 18. Quartette Kerry Dance
- 19. Mrs. Bentley, Miss Amy Earle, Mr. C. Earle and Mr. Geo. Moore
- 20. Ghillie Callum
- 21. Solo and Dance Harry Lauder Selection
- 22. M. Power

INTERMISSION.

Orchestra.

- 23. Bag Pipe Selection
- 24. Pipe Major McKinnon
- 25. Solo McGregor's Gathering
- 26. Mr. W. J. Brown.
- 27. Hornpipe
- 28. Misses McFarlane and Biffin
- 29. Solo My Willie and Me
- 30. Miss Dorothy Sutherland.
- 31. Duet Bonnie Mary Hay
- 32. Miss Amy Earle, Mr. Chas. Earle.
- 33. Solo Jamie
- 34. Miss Blanchard.
- 35. Highland Schottische Six Lassies
- 36. Duet The Keel Row
- 37. Misses Sutherland and Ross
- 38. Quartette Annie Laurie
- 39. Farewell—Goodnight, all Soloists
- 40. Prof. S. N. Earle—Musical Director.
- 41. Director of Dances—Miss Reta McDonald.
- 42. Curtain rises at 8 p. m. sharp.

Tickets on sale Jamieson's Drug Store, Tuesday, January 22nd at 10 a. m.

THOS. WHITE, President.
T. M. McMILLAN, Secretary.
D. F. BETHUNE, Chair. of Com.

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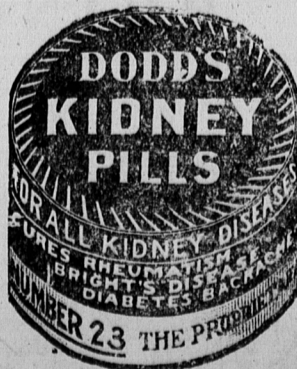
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