

The Charlottetown Guardian

Evening Daily (founded 1907) \$2.00 (delivered or by mail in Canada, and \$2.50 for U. S. A.)

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 1917

THE SITUATION AT OTTAWA

We have every sympathy with the Liberal press in its present dilemma over the situation at Ottawa but, with all due respect, it must be admitted that their inane vapourings and so-called efforts at solution are neither creditable to themselves nor helpful to their readers or the cause which every loyal Canadian has more at heart than any question of political advantage.

We are being told that coalition under present partisan administration would be futile, that Sir Robert Borden's invitation to Sir Wilfrid came too late, etc, etc. Is not coalition in any case the union of political partisans, a union in which partisanship is for the time being laid aside in order to wholeheartedly and unitedly develop the larger problems in which both parties have a common interest?

We are told that the invitation to Sir Wilfrid came too late. At what period in his career, may we ask, could Sir Wilfrid have accepted an invitation to participate in a coalition government, whose policy was conscription? Sir Wilfrid was asked in October, 1916 to co-operate with Sir Robert Borden in the formation of a "Parliamentary National Service Committee to be composed of representatives of all the political parties in Parliament," one of the objects of which was to make "a strong and explicit call to the manhood of Canada of military age and fitness to enlist for overseas military and naval service," and Sir Wilfrid refused.

He is now asked to unite in a coalition government on equal terms with Sir Robert Borden and he has refused. One of his reasons for refusing was that Sir Robert Borden's conscription policy was announced before the invitation was extended to him. The inference is that if he had been invited before conscription was announced he would have joined forces with the Premier in a coalition government.

The action of Sir Wilfrid's ablest and most prominent followers in the House in abandoning him and uniting with Sir Robert Borden for the enactment of conscription, is the best commentary on the situation. Whether the solution of the regrettable affair will be the formation of a Unionist or a Coalition Government, with or without Sir Wilfrid Laurier, every red blooded man in Canada will stand behind the new government in the enforcement of conscription, which at this stage of the war is the only thing in sight to save Canada from a humiliating back down in the most serious crisis ever faced by any nation.

If Canada is to continue in the war to the end, if the men we have sent, or rather who went voluntarily for us, are not to be abandoned and sacrificed we must send at least another hundred thousand and possibly more. If these do not go voluntarily, which they will have an opportunity to do before conscription comes into effect, then they must be sent and all loyal Canadian in France, in England, in the hospitals and in the homes in Canada are demanding it.

Then let us give up all this rot about "precipitate" action; They have had three years in which to choose; give up all the rot about getting Sir Wilfrid "to pull the government out of a hole," if Sir Wilfrid is not himself in the hole he is perilously near the edge of it and his wise followers are backing away from it.

INCREASED PRODUCTION

The increased production campaign appears to have been entered into whole-

heartedly by the people of the province generally and, notwithstanding the somewhat backward weather, we are informed that there is a considerably larger area under cultivation than in former years. In some sections the more than ample showers have hindered operations to some extent but, generally speaking, in the lower lands the acreage under cultivation will be up to the average. The season is some two weeks later than usual but this only means that the growing and ripening period will be pushed two weeks further ahead.

The summer care of the growing crops has, after all, more to do with the quality and quantity of the harvest than the matter of late or early planting. Our Farmers have had this so constantly preached to them and so many of them have proven it in their own experience that any mistakes or neglect in this respect will be inexcusable.

It has been demonstrated over and over again on our Experimental Farms both in this province and elsewhere that many thousands of bushels of potatoes have been sacrificed yearly through neglect. The way to avoid this loss is now known to all our farmers. A few dollars expended in spraying throughout the season will ensure not only an increased yield but a better quality of potatoes, guaranteed against rot both in the field and in storage. The rain in this one item alone is incalculable. Dealers abroad are looking for a good keeping rot-proof variety of potato and once a reputation for growing such is established our market and top prices are assured.

The experience of last fall should not be lost sight of. It will be remembered that owing to an early rush to market many thousands of bushels of potatoes were shipped in an immature condition with the result that large quantities rotted in transport and the fame of our province as a potato growing country suffered almost irreparably. This must be avoided this year and it is up to our merchants to guard against it. Owing to the present scarcity and the almost prohibitive prices of potatoes there will be an early demand for potatoes this season. This demand should be curbed and on no account should any shipments be made until they are sufficiently matured to stand storage and transportation.

Co-operation on the part of farmers and shippers, both parties aiming at the permanency of the market rather than grasping at the present dollar, will overcome all the handicaps that have heretofore militated against the interests of both. The shippers should insist upon the proper care of potatoes while growing; farmers in their own interests, present and prospective, should see to it that their potatoes are properly sprayed during the summer as it is positively known that such spraying not only increases the yield but improves the keeping qualities of the potato, that in fact it makes them rot proof.

Increased production means much more than increased acreage and harder work; it means better care of what is planted, looking forward to the permanency of the market, building up a provincial reputation for reliable and honest products, for the best that the market demands. These persistently aimed at will mean increased production in the largest and best sense, a better return for labor and a better country to live in.

ELIGIBLES FOR MILITARY SERVICE

An interesting article on the number of males between the ages 18 to 45 in Canada is contained in the last issue of census and statistics issued monthly, by the census and statistics office of the Department of Trade and Commerce. The table shows that in the census of 1911 there were enumerated 1,720,070 men of available military age of whom 1,109,385 were Canadian born, 306,377 British born, and 304,310 foreign born.

"While these figures represent conditions existing on June 1, 1911," says the monthly, "yet, because of the heavy British immigration in 1912-13-14 as well as to the known tendency of young countries to maintain a high birth rate, they also show fairly well the numbers from which eligibles for military service may now be expected."

BATTLE STORIES FROM THE WEST FRONT

AN IRISH REGULAR.

It was not difficult to get this Irish soldier talking. He made room at once on the bench on which he was sitting, and seemed to welcome the prospect of a quiet chat. His speech was as frank as his Irish face and he was bubbling over with good humor when he told his story.

"My regiment is the Royal Dublin," he said. "Ah," I said, "you're a regular soldier then?" "Deed and I am sir, I've done eight years in the army."

"From start to finish. An' here's a queer-like thing. I've been two years exactly on the field, I was hit on the same day two years after I landed on the Peninsula."

"That's a curious thing—two years exactly to the day!" "Two years exactly to the hour. I landed on the Peninsula at half-past four on the morning of the 25th April, fifteen, and I was hit at half-past four on the morning of the 25th April, seventeen. That's more than that, sir, I just was a year in the firing line in France, but not exactly to the day."

"Then you were in France for the Somme push?" "We were there all right. It was a bit of a starter after Egypt, but we got on all right. I mean with the cold. We had a bit of time until the first day of the push and the we went over the top. We didn't get very far last year. I was a bit disappointed with our bit, to tell the truth, but the General told us we had done all right. We got a regular soaking all the same 'machine guns' in deep dug-outs. This time it was different since the morning we've been pushing forward steadily and we've made the Germans leap. As sure as God made small apples, we have."

"We weren't in right at the start of this push. We came up from a good bit. It was queer passing over the old No Man's Land, but once you were over, the place was different: the shell holes, instead of being close together, were more scattered like, getting fewer and fewer as you got up to Old Hindenburg's line. We held that bit of the line for a day or two and then went back for a rest; just a day. Then we went up at night meaning to go over the top in the early morning."

"It must have been about half-past four when our barrage lifted to let us go into the German first line, and we were no sooner over the top than the Germans put on the nearest barrage you ever saw, crack to the minute. It was better work than their usual, but it didn't stop us. We were in their front trench as if the devil was after us; we'd only about two hundred yards to go. We cleared that out as far as we could see, in passing, and then we made for the second line where we were to stop—it must have been about eight hundred yards further on."

"About half way over, something hit me—a of a smack in the arms here and about ripped the pack off my back. The thing was that my arm was useless and I knew it was no good going forward not able to use my bayonet, so I just turned and strolled back to the first German trench. There was the regimental stretcher bearers there, and one put my field dressing on my arm. We took off what straps there was left on me and I got on my feet under my arm to support it. They told me the bone was broke, and deed there was a big enough hole in my arm."

"I legged it back to the dressing station, but I had to sit down half way beside some of the gunners that had come up. One of them wasn't so busy but that he could give me a drink—my water-bottle had been knocked off me. I was lucky, I be cause it looked as if I'd got in the way of a hall of splinters, all my equipment was in tatters, but the arm was the only wound I had. The Germans began to pay attention to the guns and nine-tens began to drop round about. I says to myself, 'This is no place for me, it's too dangerous beside the artillery.' You couldn't see my heels for dust after that. I didn't stop running."

Trees, birds, flowers. Spring is such a lovely time of the year, more especially in Prince Edward Island, which is so full of lessons, if we but use our eyes and ears. Tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in everything. The trees teach us how much may come out of little. The oak sprang from the acorn, the elm from a tiny seed, which the light breeze carries far.

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CANADIANS WON AT BASEBALL GAME LONDON—One of the star attractions for the visiting American doctors and nurses today was a baseball game on the estate at Clivedon of Waldorf Astor, M. P., at which the American doctors suffered a defeat at the hands of the more skillful Canadian contingents. The game ended at the close of the sixth inning when the Canadians had piled up fourteen runs. The Canadians gave the game a touch of the real thing in baseball by wearing regulation uniforms. "We have just received a few carloads of good Charlottetown County Hay, which we are selling at lowest prices. A. HORNE & Co. 924-6-9M31.

White Footwear For the warm days White poplin and canvas boots high and medium cut pointed or round toes, white enamelled leather, or canvas covered heels. Prices ranging from \$2.00 to \$3.75. Pumps and Oxfords in the very latest styles also a big showing of rubber sole sporting shoes. Canvas boots for the growing girl. High cut with low and medium heels. We sell Holeproof Hosiery, silk and luster, in black and white. GOFF BROS. Class Repairing Done Here.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS Furnished by W. S. Louson. TREES, BIRDS, FLOWERS. Spring is such a lovely time of the year, more especially in Prince Edward Island, which is so full of lessons, if we but use our eyes and ears. Tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in everything. The trees teach us how much may come out of little. The oak sprang from the acorn, the elm from a tiny seed, which the light breeze carries far.

There is a blackbird in the apple tree. I may not see it there, for I am blind; But its rich song is rising clear and free. There is a blackbird in the apple tree. There is a lily in my garden ground. I may not see it there, for I am blind; But its perfume the breezes bear around. There is a lily in my garden ground. There is a God in heaven, and prayer is heard. I may not see Him there, but, oh, I know. The lily's perfume and the song of bird. There is a God in heaven, and prayer is heard. ERNEST H. A. HOME.