

The Charlottetown Guardian

Subscription and Advertising Phone 132
News and Edit. Phone 133

Head Office at Charlottetown, Branch Offices at Summerside, Alberton, Souris and Montserrat.
Morning Daily (founded 1881), \$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 16, 1916.

FEARSOME LIBERALISM

Why is it that the Liberal party as a whole are so anxious to discount the utterances of Mr Pugsley and Mr Carvell? No responsible Liberal member of the House of Commons has a word to say in support of their outrageous utterances on the Shell Committee, and even the responsible Liberal press disown them.

The Ottawa Free Press, the Liberal organ of the capital, sums up the reasons:

"Mr Carvell has become a past master in the art of using half-truths to make them appear as gospel; but this game when long continued, grows tiresome, and achieves its own undoing. A comparison of the speeches of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr Carvell on the same day tempts one to remark that 'fools step in where angels fear to tread.' If indulgence in reckless and irresponsible condemnation of opponents is an essential to political partizanship, there are not wanting tens of thousands of Canadians, especially just now, who will pray to be freed from political partizanship. LIBERALISM AS EXPUNDED BY A CARVELL IS INDEED A FEARSOME THING."

And yesterday the Patriot ranged itself on the side of the "fools."

The whole of these fireworks on the part of Mr Pugsley and Mr Carvell are set off for the temporary effect they may have on public opinion. There is nothing really substantial behind them. Mr Carvell stated explicitly that:

"We are not making charges against the members of the Government; we do not say that members of the Government made a million or two or ten million dollars out of the operations of the Shell Committee. No one makes such a charge, and no one says that any member of the Shell Committee stole anything, although I will try, before I get through, to show that they made pretty big profits. I have no criminal charge to prefer against the members of the Shell Committee; but I suppose that unless I can go that far my right hon. friend will tell me that I have not complied with his requirements, and so cannot have an investigation. We stand on our sovereign rights as representing the people and demand an investigation of the expenditure of our money"—without showing cause!

This is the grandiose language of Mr Carvell—although he knew perfectly well that not one dollar of Canadian money, not even a cent, has been paid for munitions of war.

The British Government, through the Rt. Hon. D. Lloyd George, Minister of Munitions, is responsible for the shell output in Canada, and before his appointment Lord Kitchener was responsible.

This is what Mr W. L. Hitchens, Mr Lloyd George's personal representative, has to say of the Imperial Munitions Board and its predecessor, the Shell Committee:

"The following gentlemen, with their consent, have been appointed members of the Board:

- J. W. Flavell, Esq. (Chairman with executive and administrative powers).
- Gen. Alex. Bertram (Deputy Chairman).
- Hon. Colonel David Carnegie.
- G. H. Dawson, Esq.
- C. B. Gordon, Esq.
- J. A. Vaillancourt, Esq.
- E. R. Wood, Esq.

"Mr J. W. Flavell has with great public spirit undertaken to make the work of the Board his primary consideration, and he has made the necessary arrangements to this end. I am glad also to be able to tell you that Mr C. B. Gordon, of Montreal, has kindly promised to devote a great part of his time to the work, and I am confident that his wide business experience and reputation will contribute largely to the success of the undertaking.

"I take this opportunity of giving public recognition, on behalf of the Minister of Munitions, to the valuable services rendered by the members of the Shell Committee in developing the resources of Canada for the production of munitions of war. They have been willing to lend their services during the period of development, when their experience, which has been freely given, has been of the greatest assistance in overcoming the initial difficulties. But these have now been surmounted, and the justification no longer exists for a Board of experts. At the same time it would be a great loss if the wide experience they have acquired were not made available to the new 'Imperial Munitions Board,' and I attach great value to the assurance they have generously given that they will be willing to afford every assistance in their power to the new Board."

Mr D. A. Thomas, who preceded Mr Kitchens as Mr Lloyd George's representative, was equally emphatic in his commendation of the Shell Committee. He stated that with regard to them he had not one word to say beyond this, that he believed them "to be MEN OF THE HIGHEST HONOUR AND OF PERFECT INTEGRITY, MEN WHO HAD TO THE UTMOST OF THEIR ABILITY, DISCHARGED WHAT APPEARED TO THEM TO BE A PATRIOTIC DUTY."

And it is left to Mr Pugsley of "sawdust wharf"

fame, and Mr Carvell of "hay contract" notoriety, to sling mud at them!

Truly in the words of the Liberal Free Press, "LIBERALISM AS EXPUNDED BY A CARVELL IS INDEED A FEARSOME THING."

THE WAR

Last week odds of two to one were offered at Lloyd's that the war would end in August. This, however, is not going to end the war. It is not even proof that the end is in sight. It will be remembered that similar odds were offered and taken more than a year ago that a few more months would see the end.

Many military authorities see in the battle now raging at Verdun evidences of the approaching end. The effort that is being made by Germany to force a passage here is not war, it is slaughter and looks like a despairing determination to gain what may be acclaimed as a victory no matter what it may cost. The cost is terrible and the hoped for result appears as far off as ever. Unless we are gravely misinformed, unless we are deliberately deceived by our authorities the capture of Verdun, even if accomplished, which we are told is impossible, would be an empty victory, would not bring the enemy appreciably nearer to Paris or Calais. And the German offensive is weakening, according to our latest despatches. It is true they have driven men in thousands against apparently impossible positions, and to be practically annihilated. In the face of all these things, after a battle raging incessantly since the first of March, under the eyes of the Kaiser, and with nothing to show for it but hundreds of train loads of wounded and dying returning home, train loads of bodies returned home for cremation, it is quite conceivable that the morale of the German army is breaking down. It is conceivable also that the German people are beginning to murmur and that discontent to the point of rebellion is threatening.

But there are other, to us, inconceivable things. The question is being asked why it is that with so much of the German strength engaged in the sector around Verdun an effort is not being made by the Allies somewhere else along the long line to break through. We can only believe that the Allied leaders understand the situation and are content to hold off the Germans until the new army that is increasing by thousands is fully trained and equipped. One thing especially must be borne in mind: we are only beginning where the Germans began nearly forty years ago. They have had forty years of preparation, we only two. They were preparing for "the day" and believed they were ready when they sprang this mine. It was only when "the day" arrived that we began to prepare. The fact that the Germans did not overrun France, as they had hoped to do in the first few months, is one of the marvels of the war and shows that they too met obstacles they had not counted on and made mistakes as we did.

They have learned many valuable lessons since then and have done wonderful things, but these things after all were but batterings against a wall that cannot be broken. Nevertheless, within that wall, they have acquired a great deal of territory and although it was far short of what they had figured on, they are building upon that possession their hopes for a favourable peace or at best an inconclusive one. But they want to add to it a signal victory, one that they can celebrate throughout the country to boost up the flagging courage of those who are beginning to murmur. That is the evident meaning of the Verdun holocaust. With her financial fabric tottering into bankruptcy, her trade demoralized, a ruinous debt staring her in the face and no hope of securing the indemnities she promised her people that she would secure, she has reached the point where a desperate effort must be made. And it is known that desperate armies have more than once snatched a victory from the jaws of defeat. She has at best one last throw of the dice, and that throw is being made at Verdun.

THE CAR FERRY

During the debate on supply in the House of Commons the other day Hon. J. D. Reid, Acting Minister of Railways, made reference to the Prince Edward Island car ferry terminals. He said, "The work connected with the provision of a car ferry service to Prince Edward Island has not made such progress as was desired and expected. The New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Railway has been acquired, and is being put into shape to form an adequate link between the main line of the Intercolonial Railway and the ferry landing with the existing system of island railways. The contract with the Armstrong, Whitworth Company was satisfactorily completed, and the steamer Prince Edward Island delivered over to us during the summer notwithstanding war conditions. Its appearance has been the subject of high praise from all those who have examined the vessel. The situation has not been as satisfactory with respect to the terminal works. At the outset a season was lost at Carleton Point through the default of those to whom the contract for this terminal was at first awarded. Further serious delays have resulted from the stormy weather and exposed conditions under which the work has necessarily had to be carried on. With the advance of the breakwater these conditions improve. At Cape Tormentine the principal work remaining to be done is the completion of the breakwater, the dredging, and the placing of riprap on exposed places of the pier head. At Carleton Point several more cribs are necessary to complete the steamer landing, some dredging is to be done, and further work done on the breakwater and rock approach pier. The contract for the steel transfer bridges, to connect the deck of the steamer with the pier, has been let, and works are ready for their reception. The total estimated cost of the car ferry and terminals is \$2,850,000, of which \$1,975,000 has been expended.

PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE FULL REPORT

(Continued.)
THE CHAIRMAN.

In formally opening the meeting the Chairman said: We all regret the unavoidable absence of Mr. Justice Hazard, who is presiding at the Supreme Court in Georgetown. His high standing in the community, his long connection with the Charlottetown Driving Park as Director and subsequently as President, and his knowledge of agriculture, pre-eminently qualify him to preside at this important Conference. However, you have done me the honour, gentlemen, of placing me here today and I shall strive, with your indulgence, to discharge the duties which fall to me as Chairman to the best of my ability. I trust that this Conference will prove an onward mark in the history of this Province, and that it will lead to happy and beneficial results. The subjects that will be treated today are agriculture, fisheries, transportation, immigration, trade and commerce, technical education, rural communities, improvement of towns and villages, special industries, new industries and returned soldiers; and the gentlemen who will introduce these subjects will be allowed twenty minutes each, while those who will follow afterwards will have ten minutes. The first subject is Agriculture, and I will call on Professor Reek.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Premier and Gentlemen:

In speaking before this Conference today I feel like offering an apology because there are many men who know the possibilities of the Province and its conditions much better than I do. But probably the reason I have been asked to address you is that I have been studying a particular branch of agriculture for the last four or five months, and one which, if adopted, would bestow great benefits upon the island. I do not intend to deal with general agriculture but with farm drainage or tile drainage.

Now, we are gathered at this Conference to consider ways and means and methods of development whereby the entire island may receive benefit. We are here not to mince matters but to talk plainly, to say just what we believe in a concise intelligent manner. I have certain things to say and suggestions to make regarding farm drainage which if carried out will cost money but will repay any expenditure necessary many times. Farm drainage is practised but little and still less is really known about the principles and actual operations. As a precedent for advocating such a procedure I will call to you South Western Ontario where there has been more done in the way of drainage than in any other place in Canada. Ten years ago land could be bought in some sections for \$20 per acre; \$10 per acre would have cleared it and \$20 per acre has drained it and today it is selling for \$100 to \$125 an acre. Now, there are thousands of acres of land in Prince Edward Island equally fertile but it requires drainage. A few years since 45,000 acres of land north of Burlington, Iowa, sold for \$2 to \$4 to \$6 per acre; \$9.00 per acre was paid for reclamation and now it is one of the finest sections of the State. Drainage was required. There are innumerable examples in England, particularly in Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and in Norfolk: Those who have travelled through those few countries will agree that they are very fine. Cross the Straits to Holland and you find a low lying but very fertile country reclaimed from the sea. There are Canadian pumping schemes which when installed cost from 60c to \$1.00 per acre per year for maintenance. We have areas which are in swamps that can be reclaimed by similar methods and when such is done it will be the best land on the island. Our best soil is that which is rendered useless due to an excess amount of soil moisture.

CONTROL OF SOIL MOISTURE.

Come back to general agriculture and what are the principles underlying the growth of crops and successful agriculture. Some may say, live stock, while others will say the growing of grains. These are necessary, but the things which control the kind and size of crops, are, first, altitude, — the height of land. Mexico offers an excellent illustration of this influence on agriculture. The second great factor is the proper control of soil water or the amount which goes to feed our plants. Can we control that to a reasonable degree? We certainly can. On the island at present we have no control whatever on the low lands. Many farmers west of Summerside are wondering what kind of a season we are going to have next year, whether wet or dry and whether they will get their crops in by May 24th or if it will be the middle of June. That can be avoided.

A farmer on such land can control the amount of water which is going to be supplied to his crops—barring, of course, extreme conditions,—without any difficulty; and extreme conditions come once or twice in a lifetime. That is being accomplished in several parts, and we can do it in Prince Edward Island. Just consider our situation a moment. For three years many fields have not produced a crop. The farmers have worked the land and paid, in some cases, 75 cents to a dollar a bushel for good seed oats; but pedigree oats are not proof against water, and they have lost their crops. These men, in a great many cases, are seriously thinking of leaving the island. Now, if we can in any way keep these people in the province it is our duty to do so, and if we do not make an effort we are shirking our responsibility.

We have to do something or lose many of our best settlers. I have heard the argument that these men should sell out and buy some of our higher lands. Who will buy them out when an excess of water is forcing them away? We must find another remedy. Under-drainage will, I believe, relieve the situation. The soil moisture which is available for farm crops can be controlled very largely by the farmer. Tillage operations will be commenced on drained soil from ten days to three weeks earlier in the spring and in many cases will ensure a crop instead of failure. When labor is scarce the earlier start makes a considerable difference. A warmer soil will be had because the heat used in the evaporation of water should be utilized to warm the soil. A warm soil is necessary for optimum germination. Drained soil is much easier to work—it is easier on horses, machinery and men. A few years ago we were told to cool milk by allowing it to come into contact with the air—since the science of Bacteriology has been developed such a view is discarded. We have also learned that the preparation of plant food depends greatly on the action of bacteria. In a well drained soil with a reasonable amount of moisture and fresh air a beneficial class of bacteria exist but in cold, wet, soggy land the bacteria are of a class which allows the nitrogen to escape into the air as ammonia.

TWO-FOLD VALUE OF UNDERDRAINS.

Underdrained will undoubtedly give control in a wet season. What about a dry season? "The will make land drier in a wet season and wetter (Continued on Page Six.)"

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louisa.

UNAPPRECIATED

(By Walt Mason)

The young man labors hard at home, and writes a story or a poem, and, hoping to receive long green, he sends it to a magazine, or maybe to some daily sheet, which wants "hot stuff that's keen and sweet. Then back it comes, by early mail, and how that writer makes his wall! The editors are all combined to bar that great and fertile mind! Or else they didn't read his stuff, but—calmly set it down as guff, and shipped it back with his own stamps—what wonder tears are in his lamps? I used to talk that way myself, when viewing bundles on the shelf of tales and other gems of thought, which editors returned as rot. But, friend, the editors were right! The editors are mostly white, and if they see in man or dame a symptom of the genius flame, they do not

douse the glowing spark with bitter sneer or cold remark, but try to fan it to a blaze, and nourish it with amile and praise. (These metaphors, of course, are mixed, but when I've time I'll have them fixed) The editors, all o'er this sphere, are looking, looking, year by year, to find the writers who can write and finding one brings keen delight. So, if you cannot sell your junk, it is because the junk is punk.

MEN OF THE 105th Visit Our Military Department We Will Save You Money On RIDING BREECHES

- Chivrons (Stripes), 12c bar
- Khaki Ties, Silk or Knit
- Khaki Handkerchiefs 2 for 25c
- Whistles and Cords 50c ea.
- Khaki Gloves 85c
- All Wool Riding Breeches \$9.00
- All Wool Heavy Riding Breeches \$5.00
- Worsted Crowns 50c a pair
- Metal Stars 25c each
- Money Belts 75c
- Photo Cases 50c
- Waterproof Cap Covers \$1.00
- Officers British Warm (Short Overcoats) \$22.50
- Rank and File Breeches \$5.00
- Khaki Shirts \$2.50
- Fox Spiral Puttees \$2.75
- Swagger Sticks 25c
- Walking Sticks 50c to \$2.00
- Knitted Puttees \$1.90
- Officers Great Coats \$27.00
- Officers Trench Caps \$3.75 up (With Screen) \$4.50 up
- Sam Browne Belts (Single Brace) 7.50
- Double Brace \$9.50
- Officers Great Coats \$27.00 to \$40.00
- Also all kinds of Badges

Brass Buttons

All Breeches are made according to the regulations as specified by the Ordinance Department at Ottawa. All Wool \$5.00.

PATONS

A SHORTAGE OF PRINTERS' INK is a serious shortage of printer's ink, which may affect New York newspapers. They say that the shortage has been caused by freight congestion and the embargo placed by some of the railroads upon carload lots of the materials used in making the ink.

"The Haberdashery" For the 17th of March



We show the most complete parade accessories If you wish to look your brightest patronize us,

- Silk Hats specially imported for the occasion are here in the latest shapes.
- Black Overcoats handsome spring overcoats in black vicunas 10.00 and 12.00.
- White Shirts in stiff bosoms 95c and 1.25.
- White Pique stripes \$1.50.
- White Gloves either in kid at 85c and 1.15 or White lisle, dome buttons at 25c.
- White Bows strap or hook on 10c.
- Collars all styles 2 for 25c. White Cuffs 25c pair.
- Lawn or Linen Handkerchiefs 10c up in fact everything one requires to appear well dressed is here fresh and new.

Henderson & Cudmore

Sunnyside

CARPENTER-MORTON ROOFING GIVES SATISFACTION

MADE FROM NATURAL ASPHALT THAT COMES FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES. THE GREATEST WATERPROOFING AGENT KNOWN TO SCIENCE.

YOUR ROOF TROUBLES WILL BE OVER IF YOU USE CARPENTER-MORTON ROOFING FULLY GUARANTEED FOR A TERM OF YEARS DEPENDING ON THE THICKNESS USED.

For Good Wall Board, Come Here

We can satisfy you on the quality and please even the most particular on the price of our wall board.

There is just a few things about the line of wall board we sell—

It is stronger, more durable, and looks better than any other kind of wall covering you can get anywhere at our price.

FENNELL & CHANDLER

Victoria Row

RUBBERS RUBBERS

Merchants Brand Vacuum cured Rubber Boots for fishermen. The soles are made solid by Vacuum process—no air or open spaces in the soles to let water through or to cause quick wear but SOLID SOLES for SOLID WEAR. Same prices as the old style. Short Boots \$4.00. Storming 3-4 length \$5.00.

GOFF BROS

128 Richmond St.

Just Received Tan Military Rubbers Price \$1.60.