

THE Charlottetown Guardian

Head Office at Charlottetown, Branch Offices at Summerside, Alberton, Souris and Montague.
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TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1916.

NEW BOOK ON THE WAR

"My Year of the War," is the title of the latest book from the pen of the noted writer and war correspondent, Frederick Palmer. Those who have read Mr Palmer's "The Last Shot," which appeared only a few months before the present war began, will have seen in it a prediction of which this war is a fulfilment. This alone would be a sufficient inducement to secure at the earliest possible moment a copy of his "My Year of the War." "If sometimes," modestly says the author in his preface, "an incident seemed a page out of my novel, I was reminded how much better I might have done that page from life; and from life I am writing now."

From the first sentence in the preface, the book grips one because first of its honest sympathy with the Allies, a sympathy which is all the more soothing because expressed by a neutral, for Mr Palmer is an American. "Between right and wrong," he says again in his preface, "one cannot be a neutral. By foregoing the diversion of shaking hands and passing the time of day on the Germanic fronts, I escaped having to be agreeable to hosts warring for a cause and in a manner obnoxious to me. I was among friends, living the life of one army and seeing war in all its aspects from day to day, instead of having tourist glimpses."

Mr Palmer was in Mexico during the days immediately preceding the outbreak of the war. When a telegram announced that a general European war was inevitable he hastened to New York, took passage on board the ill-fated Lusitania for England on the night that England declared war on Germany, and arrived in England "before the war was a week old." From England he proceeded at once to Belgium, where the first horror of the war was being experienced. From that point to the end of "the first year of the great war," which he declares "is the longest year I have known," he tells the story of the war as he saw it, and it has been the lot of few war correspondents to see as much. He had been selected by Lord Kitchener as the only American war correspondent to go to British headquarters in France, and for the greater part of the first year he was the only American correspondent permitted to visit the British lines. To say that he had exceptional opportunities and exceptional material for a book would be putting it mildly. That he made good use both of his opportunities and his material, those who have read any of his former books or of the correspondence from him which appeared in American magazines and American newspapers need not be told. He saw both sides of the struggle, saw Germans and Germany before and after the war began; saw Belgium when it was a peaceful, busy, industrious and happy country, saw it in the process of being ruined, starved, slaughtered; saw the starving Belgians cared for and fed and clothed; saw them tempted as well as terrorized, for Germany tried to Germanize Belgium. He also saw some of the most sanguinary battles of that first year, visited the ruined cities, saw hundreds of thousands of fugitives in their flight from their homes, and he tells the story with the graphic and descriptive pen of a great writer. An idea of the scope of the book may be had from such chapter titles as "Who Started it?" "Mons and Paris"; "Paris Waits"; "Christmas in Belgium"; "In Neuve Chappelle"; "My Best Day at the Front"; "On a Destroyer"; "On a Fleet Flagship"; "Hunting the Submarine." These are but a few picked out at random from a series of chapters of absorbing interest in a book that is calculated to live long after the full story of the war has been written. His description of the British fleet, which he visited, is alone worth securing the book for and studying it.

Here is a paragraph: "Now a sweep of smooth water at the entrance to a harbour, and a turn—and there it was: the sea power of England! But was that really it? That spread of greyish blue-green dots set on a huge greyish blue-green platter? One could not discern where ships began and water and sky which held them suspended left off. Invisible fleet it had been called. At first glance it seemed to be composed of baffling phantoms, absorbing the tone of its background. Admiralty secrecy must be the result of a naval dislike of publicity. Still as if they were rooted, these leviathans. How could such a shy, peaceful-looking array send out broadsides of twelve—and thirteen—five and fifteen inch shells? What a paradise for a German submarine. Each ship seemed an inviting target. Only there were many gates and doors to the paradise, closed to all things that travel on and under the water without a proper identification. Submarines that had tried to pick one of the locks were like fish who found going good into a trap. A submarine had about the same chance of reaching that

anchorage as a German in the uniform of the Kaiser's Death Head Hussars, with a bomb under his arm, of reaching the vaults of the Bank of England."

Then the description of the fleet. But space will not permit further reference. Reader, get the book.

COMMENDATION

Mr James White, Assistant to the Chairman and Deputy Head of the Commission of Conservation, Ottawa, has our thanks for the Report of the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Committee, held in Ottawa on January 19th and 20th, 1915. The report deals exhaustively with the work of the Commission and the methods adopted for the conservation of the natural resources of Canada. The administration of the Agricultural Instruction Act is treated most interestingly by Mr C. C. James, C.M.G., L.L.D., Agricultural Commissioner for Canada. In the course of a chapter on "Agricultural Education in Prince Edward Island," dealing with administration of the grant of \$27,000 for agricultural education, Mr James says:

"There is going on at the present time on the Island an agricultural movement that would surprise the other provinces of Canada. Prince Edward Island is one province in Canada that has yet to learn that we have been passing through hard times for the last two years. It is an island of farmers alone. All these movements have been taken up in a wholehearted way, the Dominion and Provincial officials co-operating most thoroughly, and among the things contributing to their improvement we can truly state that the expenditure of this Dominion money has formed a very important part."

TRAINING THE YOUTH

Of the activities encouraged and promoted by funds provided under the Agricultural Instruction Act of the Dominion none is more worthy than the improved means which have been made possible for the development of the juvenile mind. There is but one way that the boys and girls can be riveted to the soil, and that is by strengthening their attachment for it. This can only be accomplished by the inculcation of knowledge presented not altogether in utility fashion, but in a manner that will emphasize the brightness, the wonder and the attractiveness of the works of nature. This the boys' and girls' clubs are doing; this the school fairs are doing. This the nature study classes in the public schools are doing; this the school gardens are doing. They encourage association and sociability in the first instance, a desire for emulation in the second, a favourable disposition for the outdoor life in the third and an appreciation not only of the marvels, but also of the beauties, of creation in the fourth. All four divisions of the work receive substantial support in every province from the grants derived under the Agricultural Instruction Act. In Prince Edward Island, the sum devoted to these purposes in 1913-14, the first year the Act was in operation, was \$5,529; in the third year, or in 1915-16, it is \$10,050. In Nova Scotia the sum thus employed under the Act in 1913-14 was \$6,700; in 1915-16 it is \$10,000. In New Brunswick in the first year it was \$1,500; in the third year it is \$10,000. In Quebec the first year it was \$3,000; in the third year it is \$8,000. In Ontario it was \$10,000, it is now \$20,000. In Manitoba it was \$2,000, it is this year \$5,200. In Saskatchewan it is \$2,100. In British Columbia \$1,000 was so used in 1913-1914, but this year for boys and girls' competitions, fairs, etc., and instructions in public schools, \$17,000 is to be spent from the grants. It must be understood that while in some of the provinces the money is directly employed for the purposes set forth, in others it is used in other ways and the sums required for school fairs, school gardens, and so on, are received from provincial and municipal sources. The figures, however, are in themselves abundant indication of the far-reaching benefits conferred by the Act.

MUNITIONS AND MEN

At the outbreak of war Germany had great accumulations of all kinds of munitions, from the smallest rifle cartridge to the enormous long range ordnance, firing a shell nearly the size of the average man and throwing it to a distance of twenty odd miles. And, what was of even greater importance, she had such a thorough census of her industries and such a complete organization for controlling them, that she was able to turn the whole country into one vast munitions factory in almost inconceivably short time. That explains more than any other one fact her rapid successes in the early stages of the war when the Allies found it such a terrible task to check her on the road to Paris. That was the beginning of the end for Germany and her allies. At that time the Allies saw plainly, as in a horrible dream, the Prussian heel of militarism crushing them relentlessly into lifelong unresisting slavery. The shock awoke them to the greatest effort they could put forth. They, in turn, have organized, in a few months, as completely and thoroughly as Germany did in forty years. Every available factory in every Ally country is producing war munitions of one kind or another, to its greatest capacity. In addition, enormous orders are being filled in the U.S. and other neutral countries. So large are these orders that the railroads and available ocean boats cannot carry them. There are great continuous streams of war munitions and supplies pouring into every Ally country in addition to the enormous quantities made by each Allied country. We are now more than beating Germany at her own game. In money we have outclassed Germany since shortly after the war started, and in men we are fast approaching the time when we shall exceed the numbers she can put in the field. Germany is steadily weakening in every resource, while we are steadily and rapidly increasing. Who can doubt the end, or that it will be here before very long?

COMMISSION OF CONSERVATION ON TOWN PLANNING

Specially written for the Charlottetown Guardian

The important bearing of the twin subjects of town planning and housing upon the conservation of life and natural resources in Canada has led the Commission of Conservation to establish a new branch of its work and to appoint a Town Planning and Housing Adviser. The duty of the Commission from the Dominion Parliament downwards, regarding legislative and administrative policies affecting all questions concerned with conservation of the natural resources of the Dominion.

From its inception the Commission has taken a broad view of its functions and of what is meant by the term "natural resources." The Chairman of the Commission in his inaugural address in 1910 said "The physical strength of the people is the resource from which all others derive value. Extreme and scrupulous regard for the lives and health of the population may be taken as the best criterion of the degree of real civilization and refinement to which a country has attained."

Having regard to this conception of the scope of the Commission in matters relating to public health it is evident that one of its principal duties must be to investigate and advise on the subjects of Town Planning and Housing. This has been fully recognized by the Commission, as its work and annual reports bear witness. But it is considered desirable to extend its research operations and to bring together a collection of scientific data, which has not been practicable with the present time Town Planning and Housing have been officially dealt with in the department of the Medical Adviser of the Commission. These subjects will not only be dealt with from the medical point of view, but in their broader aspects embracing inter alia the economic, the engineering and the architectural as well as the medical, they will now be dealt with by a special branch under an expert Adviser.

The twin subjects of Town Planning and Housing have to be carefully investigated as a special Canadian problem and not as one which may be judged as necessarily having any similarity to that which exists in other countries. Its Engineering aspect has to be more fully recognized than hitherto. It is idle to argue how important the Engineering in connection with town planning, and how essential it is that he should take part in the early stages of any scheme. Before town planning can be made effective it should be preceded by the preparation of topographical maps within the Dominion makes it desirable that consideration should not only be given to the questions of curing evils and altering conditions already established in municipalities but that the best method of avoiding the repetition of these evils, and the creation of worse ones, should be thought out, so that preventive measures can be devised.

The two aspects of the problem, i.e., the remedial and the preventive, will require to be considered together, but different courses of treatment will have to be thought out in connection with each.

The situation of Great Britain on Town Planning has so far commended itself to the Commission as the best basis for legislation in Canada and a draft Town Planning Act has been prepared following the British precedent.

The following roughly indicates the scope and objects of Town Planning Schemes on the lines followed in Britain:

Engineer and Architect.
Objects: Proper Sanitary Provisions.
General Scope: Planning of sewerage and water supply systems.
Hygienic conditions in factory and home.

Engineer and Surveyor.
Objects: Convenience.
General Scope: Highways (Arterial and secondary roads and streets) Transportation (railways, waterways and highways).
Location and planning of factory and warehouse areas, etc.

Architect and Surveyor.
Object: Amenity.
General Scope: Open space round dwelling and factories (light and air) Height and character of buildings. Preservation of natural features, Parks and playgrounds.
Civic Centres and public buildings.

Administrator.
Object: Cooperation.
General Scope: Adjacent local authorities acting in harmony.
Give and take arrangements between municipalities and owners of land.

Surveyor and Administrator.
Object: Finance.
General Scope: Spreading of cost of scheme over period of time.
Adjustment of cost of developing land to character of buildings, etc.

It will be necessary to consider the proper kind of provincial machinery required for the administration of any new legislation and to make suggestions to the provincial Parliaments to be considered.

A new Housing Act should also be framed as soon as possible as a model for the provincial legislatures, but much investigation into housing conditions will first be necessary. Visits are being paid to all the provinces and many of the cities in the Dominion in connection with these investigations and opportunity is being taken in connection with these visits to arrange conferences with representatives of Provincial Governments and Municipalities to discuss the many points which will have to be considered especially in regard to their local or provincial application. Identically the Town Planning Branch of the Commission will give advice to municipalities with regard to town planning schemes of their own.

Ultimately when new legislation is passed the Commission through its officers will be prepared to advise both as regards amendments of the legislation and as to its practical working in the various municipalities in Canada.

It will continue to be an object of the Commission to endeavour to per-

suade all the Provinces to adopt Town Planning and Housing Acts based on the same general principles but differing in detail only so far as may be necessary to meet the varied conditions and needs of different provinces. Three of the provinces have passed Town Planning Acts, namely, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Alberta, and the Legislatures of Manitoba and Saskatchewan are expected to deal with the matter during the current session. It will be one of the duties of the Commission to advise as to the proper steps to be taken to put the existing Acts to the fullest and best use, and to make recommendations to the different provinces as to the amendments which it may be necessary to make in their Acts to secure harmonious and uniform legislation throughout the Dominion.

Collections of literature, maps, photographs and slides are being made and will be placed at the disposal of those able to make use of them, with the object of bringing the utmost light to bear upon the subject. Although it may be assumed that the Commission has convinced itself of the need for Town Planning and Housing Legislation, this must not be taken to mean that it is organizing a new branch for the exploitation of preconceived ideas on the subject. As already said, the first duty of the Commission is to investigate facts and in the performance of that duty it is important that the work should be started with an open mind, that every view should be heard and considered and that no private interest should be disregarded.

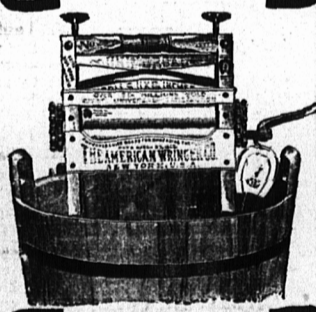
The only province in Canada which has not yet been visited by the Town Planning Adviser of the Commission is Prince Edward Island. A suggestion has been made that an early visit should be arranged with a view to having the question of civic improvement and town planning discussed and local conditions inspected. The Commission of Conservation is willing to consider a visit to Prince Edward Island province in regard to expert advice if it is wanted and should there be any civic problems on which some new light is needed, or regarding which discussion from new viewpoints would be useful, it is for those who are interested in the matter to meet and consider what action should be taken to have the matter ventilated.

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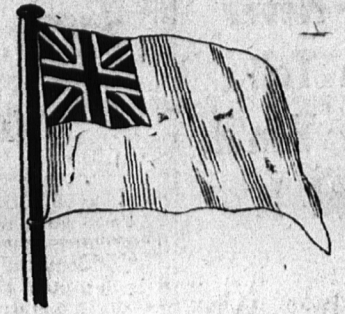
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PATONS

GERMAN PRESTIGE DRAFTS.

LONDON, Jan. 8.—A despatch to the Daily Mail from Athens says: "The last ten days have seen the biggest drop in German prestige since the war began, and this despite the Entente Allies' evacuation of a portion of the Gallipoli Peninsula. The causes of the German slump have been external and internal remedy namely, the failure of the Teutonic forces to advance in Macedonia, together with General Castellnuau's confidence in the

strength of the Entente Allies' position at Saloniki and the impatience of the Greek troops to resist any attempt of a Bulgarian advance in Greek territory, which has compelled the Government to give the commanders on the border the necessary orders to be prepared for action against the Bulgarians if necessary. "Moreover, through the Queen, who has had depressing letters from her sister, the Princess Charlotte of Saxe-Meiningen, King Constantine is learning the true state of affairs in Germany

Charlottetown Man To Be In Command

Captain D. A. McKinnon to Command Field Brigade Ammunition Column for Maritime Provinces.

WANTS PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDERS

I have been given command of the Field Brigade Ammunition column from the Maritime Provinces for overseas service. Recruiting for this column will begin in a few days. Upwards of 150 drivers and gunners will be required. The corps will be second to none, and present indications are that it will fill up very quickly. I want Prince Edward Island boys to get a chance, and those who desire to go with me are asked to write me at once, stating age, occupation, military experience, (if any) chest measurement and height. Only those medically fit should apply. Mobilization will take place in Halifax, and after a short training will go overseas.

D. A. McKINNON, Captain,

Queen Hotel, Halifax, N. S.
6506-111ME21.

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