

The Charlottetown Guardian

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Monday, January 1st, being New Year's Day and a statutory holiday, the Morning Guardian will not be issued on Tuesday. The Evening Guardian will not be issued on Monday, but will be published as usual on Tuesday. Advertisers please note these changes.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1916.

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL SERVICE

The Honourable John A. MacDonald of Cardigan has been appointed Director of National Service for this province and he has already entered upon his duties. The Director General for Canada, in making this appointment has followed the rule adopted by him at the outset, to appoint thoroughly competent business men for the position. In his selection of Mr. MacDonald he has certainly made no mistake. We congratulate the province on the selection made for this most important work, and Mr. MacDonald on his appointment. We believe he is the right man in the right place.

The province has its work to do in making this National Service inventory a success. As previously announced the first week in January has been set apart as National Service Week. Arrangements have been made with the Postmaster General to have the manpower inventory carried out in co-operation with his department. Under this arrangement a card and a personal letter will be sent to every man between the ages of 16 and 65 inclusive. The card will contain a series of questions which the recipient is asked to answer promptly and return in a self-addressed envelope.

The object of the inventory is to ascertain definitely the actual man-power of Canada, not alone for military service but for every kind of service that goes to make up the life, the vitality, the vigour of the nation. There is a shortage of labour in many of these services while many men are employed in positions which do not call forth their utmost usefulness to the country. It is with the object of equalizing this service that the inventory is being taken and if carried out as intended it will greatly stimulate and strengthen not only enlistment and the manufacture of munitions but the civil callings, such as agriculture and general industry.

Every man in the province between the ages specified will receive one of these cards before the end of next week. It is hoped that every card will be filled out and mailed promptly. In this way the work of the National Service Board will be made successful. A list will be kept of all the cards sent out so that should any fail to make a return their names will be listed and further enquiries made. We trust there will be no shirkers to be reported from this province and that when the returns are all in every man's name will be found in the list of men ready to do their duty wherever and whenever called upon.

CANADA'S NEW CONTRIBUTION

In connection with the war, while no startlingly important events have been recorded during the past week or ten days, war currents are circling rapidly, circling like storm clouds around a centre towards which they are no doubt converging and where they will undoubtedly break in the not distant future.

An idea of the trends of events may be had from the request which came to Canada for a thousand miles of railway trackage, as recorded in The Guardian a few days ago. This rapid railway building in France is intended to facilitate the movement of supplies and of troops and bring the present base closer to the front. It was not practicable to wait for the manufacture of new rails nor was it expedient as the cost at present prices would have been excessive. And so, Canada was asked to supply the need. Canada's superfluity of railways, a legacy of former extravagance, turned out in this case a blessing in disguise.

The supplying of a thousand miles of railway will not interfere with our transportation. The monumental extravagances of the "Transcontinental era" have left us with thousands of miles of track and millions worth of unutilized supplies that are not earning their carrying charges. The Canadian Government and railway companies will doubtless be paid for the material at fair rates. When the war is over, and steel and equipment prices return to reasonable levels, there will be the opportunity to replace the torn-up sections or sidings wherever conditions then make it advisable. Work will be created for returned soldiers, money will be saved in interest during the balance of the war and the period immediately following, and we shall have liquidated slightly on some of the more important wastings of the superfluous mileage. That will be a real economic gain in our tangled railway problem, besides giving aid to the Allies in a way most vital to the pushing of the offensive that will decide the war. The arm chair critics of the government will find something to think about in the alertness of the Government in meeting changing war-time demands. As soon as the need became known Mr. Cochrane got all the necessary machinery moving. Forty miles of track has already been ripped up, and shipped to France. The Government lines are contributing 300 miles of rails, while the Canadian Northern and Grand Trunk

Pacific roads are under pressure to do their part. The Minister of Railways is a man who serves the public well by conducting his Department on business principles. In lifting the Government road out of the hole Mr. Cochrane has naturally run foul of local patronage committees which insist on the line being staffed by politicians instead of by efficient railway men. It is on this issue that the chief Conservative Whip has resigned his seat in Parliament and that his brother may drop out of the Legislature in protest against the Minister's determination to eliminate political considerations from the National Railways. We remember that, despite his prestige and personal strength, Mr. Blair was unable to carry through a similar reform. When he tried to run the system on business instead of political principles he was waited upon by a body of Eastern Liberals and forced to abandon his effort. Mr. Cochrane's courageous, sustained and highly successful policy deserves the united applause and support of the Dominion.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S NOTE

President Wilson's latest note, that to the belligerent powers asking them to consider terms of peace, is likely to receive as much notoriety as his famous phrase "too proud to fight" did during an earlier stage of the war. It is a peculiarly applicable sequence to that unfortunate remark of his when he compared the war to a drunken brawl in a bar-room.

This particular document, which nobody yet pretends to understand and which Secretary Lansing's "chaser" endeavoured to explain but only mystified, has been the subject of almost as much comment as were any of the war making exchanges between the governments previous to the declaration of war. The comment however, is generally not serious. Irony, sarcasm, pity, indignation and other human attributes are strongly mingled in the comments, and through them all runs a confession of mystification and amazement.

The London Evening News, which is the afternoon edition of the Daily Mail, heads a reprint of the comment of the morning papers with the one word "No" in large black type, and under it "Our answer to President Wilson," and again, "No, no, no, that is the answer Great Britain gives today without a moment's hesitation to the surprising note from President Wilson." This is the general trend of the British press comment.

The New York Tribune sarcastically remarks: "We are on the verge of war—Mr. Lansing has announced it. Very well, who threatens us? We should know and we must know. Did the president, feeling that the United States was on the verge of being drawn into the war, ask the belligerents to state their purposes that this nation might decide which alliance to join?"

The Edinburgh Scotsman says: "President Wilson has hitherto observed a discreet reticence which he maintained when the small nations he is now so concerned about were suffering unparalleled wrong. What motive can have prompted him to throw aside that peculiarly prudent reserve just at a moment when his action was most likely to be misunderstood? It is strange that no one among his counsellors had the wit to see that intervention at this juncture, immediately following the manoeuvres of Berlin and before the Entente Powers had time to deal formally with that movement, runs the extreme risk of being misconstrued. His explanation on this point makes his action still more unintelligible. If he brooded over this conception so long in silence, what reason can have impelled him to become suddenly communicative, just at a moment when his perception of the proprieties makes him uneasy and distrustful. It is not surprising that he feels embarrassed for he acted so that he became virtually an interlocutor on the side of Germany. Why did he not wait for the Entente's reply to Germany? Why did he step into the ring with proposals which, whatever his intention, must present themselves to the Allies as directing the course in his judgment they should take."

The note is a particularly unfortunate break at the present juncture. Especially so is Secretary Lansing's so called explanation when he says: "The sending of this note will indicate the possibility of our being forced into the war and that possibility ought to serve as a restraining, sobering force in safeguarding American rights. . . . Neither the President nor myself regard this note as a peace note. It is merely an effort to get the belligerents to define the end for which they are fighting."

"The end for which they are fighting!" The sane portion of the American press has surely made plain to the President the end for which both the Entente and the Central Powers are fighting. The Belgian and Serbian atrocities, the sinking of passenger ships, the murder of women and children on the high seas and in open cities must have made it plain to the President why the German allies were fighting, why the Entente Allies were fighting and are going to keep on fighting till such atrocities are made impossible. The inference from the note is that the United States is ready to jump in on the side of either of the belligerents when the end for which they are fighting is made plain. If taken seriously and literally the Canadian government would be justified in making preparation against a possible invasion across the American border. No doubt further notes and explanations will follow and possibly a reply from the governments of the Entente Allies although their reply may well be read in Premier Lloyd George's speech at the opening of the British Parliament: "Without reparation and restoration peace is impossible." "Without surer guarantees than those which the Germans so lightly broke, peace is impossible."

BERLIN TALKS PEACE BUT ALLIES TURNS DEAF EARS

(F. H. Simmons in New York Tribune, Nov. 21.)

For nearly a fortnight now the world has been treated to a renewal of peace talk from Berlin and from Vienna. Knowing the extent to which German newspapers are controlled by the government—and French and British newspapers are not free from control—it is fair to conclude that the German press has been talking peace under orders and to serve governmental purposes.

About all this talk, whether it comes to the press or in the speeches of public men, there is an unmistakable sameness. It begins with the assumption, for from unreasonable that the Germans are about to win a great victory in Roumania. Within a certain number of weeks Bucharest is to fall; this is arranged by the German General Staff; all that is open to question is the date. When this happens the Allies will at last recognize that the war is over, because their last chance has gone glimmering.

Now, the odd thing about this talk is that it is the most familiar of all war talk. Eighteen months ago, when Mackensen and Hindenburg were careering through Poland Berlin blandly told the world that the campaign would shortly end in a supreme German victory—and indeed, a few months later Mackensen opened the road to Constantinople and Berlin chanted that he would meet peace on the road.

As for the Verdun episode, has any one forgotten how often the German press asserted that the French city would fall in a brief time and that its fall would mean the collapse of France and the end of the war? It was only when the Russian offensive, the Italian dash to Gorizia, the Anglo-French offensive on the Somme got underway that there was abuse in the peace discussion at Berlin.

Now the Germans seem on the point of making a considerable incidental gain. Now there are clear signs that they may be able to occupy much of the Roumanian territory and possibly the Roumanian capital and for Berlin this service as the basis for the same peace discussion. All the Allied successes of the summer, minor successes to be sure, even the latest little triumph at Monastir—are pushed aside, dismissed; they do not count.

Why do the Germans talk peace? Obviously because they remain convinced that the Allies are in desperate straits, that the Allies are satisfied that they cannot win the war and that it needs only one more push—a little push, too—to land them on the reasonable side of the discussion. The German looks at the map, he recalls the progress of the war so far, and he concludes that only a mad man could care to continue the conflict.

Right here is where the whole German reasoning goes astray. The one factor that the German does not recognize is the determining factor, the state of mind of his enemies. He has created the state of mind, but he does not know of its existence. His conception is that France has found out she cannot reconquer Alsace-Lorraine. Britain is satisfied that she cannot destroy Germany; Russia is that she cannot hold up in the east, and Italy is satisfied on the south. His proof of this is the map and the history of the war.

But the Allied point of view is not based upon the map or the history of the war; it is based first of all upon the manner in which Germany has conducted the war. The mass of the British people are determined to continue the war because of the crimes and the Zeppelin raids cannot arouse anger, hatred and a desire for revenge in England. England today hates the Germans as the Germans hated the Britons when Lissauer wrote his Hymn of Hate two long years ago.

As for France, she is thinking of the atrocities, the crimes, the horrors of the German invasion. She is fighting not a nation but an idea, the idea of bestiality and brutality expressed in action by Germans. The French are not thinking of making peace with a foe but of continuing a struggle with an animal whose predatory habits threaten the lives of French men and the honour of French women.

One who visits France and England gets a very different notion of

the war from any conception to be acquired outside. One who reads the French or British press sees the same idea reflected. If two people quarrel over property, precedence, rights, they will fight for a time, but presently reason will assert itself, provided neither can win the struggle. But a man cannot abandon a struggle with a tiger merely because he has rather the worst of the fight in the first hours.

If the Americans would understand the conditions in Europe today they must put aside any conception of war, as wars are ordinarily understood. This war does not mean anything of this sort to the French or the British. The Frenchman and the Englishman have a clear conception of what Germany means. The conception has been created by the conduct of German soldiers, by the manner in which Germany has waged the war, by the atrocities, murders, wrongs which Germans have done in France, Belgium, in the air, on the sea and on land.

Ordinary considerations of humanity, of common sense, of reason do not enter into the thought of Britons and Frenchmen, because they do not feel that they are fighting in a struggle in which such considerations have weight. Germany has preached hate, practised murder, committed every sort of offense against law and against humanity. The result of her course, has been to arouse in her enemies a determination to continue the battle until they are destroyed or victorious.

Peace could be made at any time if Germany's foes and her allies were indeed that willing mutual concessions. The real issues of the war, on the military side, are well nigh settled. No one believes that Germany can be destroyed and no sensible German believes Germany can hold Belgium or Northern France, or that the holding of them would be worth the cost of additional years of war. There is no conceivable profit that any one of the contestants can now make—material profit, that is—which can repay it for the cost of war. It must prove a great failure to all sides, viewed as an investment or a policy.

But France and Britain, and their allies with them will not view the war in this fashion, because Germany has made it something else. The way for the world's character of war and given her enemies new determination, new purpose and something approaching a passionate resolve to punish. Things like the recent deportations in Belgium and in France give new power to the French people and silence every whispering thought of peace in France. It does the same in Britain; it has an effect in neutral nations.

Germany crushes Roumania she will be no nearer to peace than she was when she crushed Serbia. If her victory is attended by the atrocities which marked her success in Belgium, she will only increase the anger of her foes and give still more strength to their arms and their wills. She will still further corroborate the assertion of French and British leaders that what is being fought is not a war between nations but a struggle between civilization and barbarism, between men and beasts.

If France, Britain, Russia were exhausted, if they were unable to bear new burdens, the conquest of Roumania might bring peace; but they are not exhausted. France has kept on in 1870 after four times as much of her territory was occupied and Paris was shut up. France fought all Europe from 1792 to 1814, before she finally yielded and then she yielded only because her enemies guaranteed her integrity and recognized her independence; she changed dynasties, but she kept her provinces.

Poland, Constantinople, the Trentino, Alsace-Lorraine, Serbia, these are issues that might be settled by conference. Belgium could not be discussed; it would have to be conceded in advance. But these things are not the things that weigh most with the French or the British. They are fighting the things Germany means in the world and they cannot bargain with Germany, because Germany does mean these things. It is not a question of the opinion of statesmen, it is not the result of French and Allied emotion.

A time may come, years hence when exhaustion will sap and destroy the French and British spirit. When that time comes peace may become a matter of arrangement on the basis of the map of the world as it then stands. But that time is far hence. Millions of Germans will still supply cannon-fodder before it comes and they suffer because of German acts in conquered lands and upon the high seas. We shall have war and not peace in the world for a long time yet, because Germany has created among her foes that spirit of hate and that emotion which cannot be affected by maps or successes of the war, the Roumanian invasion promises to be. This is a fact hidden only from all Germans and some Americans.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. LOUISE.

THE DAILY TASK.

- To love your friends and tell them so; To share their joy and ease their woe; To help them where-so'er they go; To be a brother; To make their lonely hours more bright; To make their joys be your delight; To do your task from dawn-till night This—and no other. To make your life reflect your aim That others, seeing, shall desire to claim A portion, that they may have the same Rare strength and beauty. To show them that the narrow way Brings sweet repose at close of day, And peace and happiness for aye. This is your duty. To live and work and be content With just your lot—what'er is sent, Remembering it was not meant. To bring your sorrow. So with a faith and love complete Lay all your burdens at his feet And rise again, refreshed, to meet Each glad tomorrow.

If You are Exclusive Notice Our Neckwear. We have the largest display of Neckwear in the city—bought for your selection. We guarantee every Tie to be exclusive, and that you can't match it in the city. Every Tie a combination of elegance and good taste. We purchase direct from the best markets. The Silks are New The Shapes are New The Colorings are New 25c, 35c, 50c, 65c, 75c, 85c, \$1.00 THE HOUSE OF QUALITY OUR NECKWEAR DISPLAY shows some of the handsomest conceits in Neck Dressing we have seen. If you enjoy tying and wearing a rich scarf, you'll certainly appreciate the beauty and exclusiveness of our handsome new Fall Neckwear. Patons Limited

MARKET FOR LOBSTERS. Sir.—There is a rumor about that a danger threatens the lobster industry for the coming year and I wish to call attention to the fact. The report is that the British government during the continuance of the war intend to enforce to the utmost the exclusion of all articles on their "Luxury List." If this be done, the French government will no doubt adopt the same rule, and as lobster is at present included in the list there will be no market open to us, but the United States, and our experience of the year 1914 has shown us that when other markets are closed the United States market is no market at all. We are aware that Sir George E. Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, was able to induce the French government to remove their embargo on lobsters the past season, even after their importation had been prohibited but he would be able to repeat last year's performance should the English and French lists be published before action had been taken by the authorities at Ottawa. Perhaps our representatives would draw the attention of Sir George to the impending danger to the industry and enlist his good services in its behalf. I am, sir, etc. FISHERMAN.

YULETIDE BRINGS HAPPINESS TO SOLDIERS

With the British army in France Dec. 22, via London, Dec. 22.—From a staff correspondent of the Associated Press. In these last days before Christmas, it is a strange procession indeed, that winds its way on the travel-scattered roads of Northern France to where the greatest armies the world has ever known are locked in a life and death struggle. Vielg with the seemingly endless trail of motor trucks groaning under capacity weights of powder, shells and all the varied and sinister material of war, are numberless other trucks fairly bulging with presents and greetings of the Yuletide. It appears that no soldier, regardless of how humble his station, will be forgotten.

TWO DAYS FROM LONDON.

The handling of the vast amount of mail for the English, Canadian and Australian troops is fought with great difficulties, for powder and shell as well as their prerogative of preference, and the holiday season will bring no lessening of the gun pressure on any part of the front. Despite the complex problem connected with the task, the organization behind the British front makes it possible for letters and parcels to reach the men in the front line trenches forty-eight hours after their posting in London. One reason for this is that the mail is being handled and distributed by "Tommys," who formerly were postal employees.

CANADIANS REMEMBERED EARLY.

The Canadians received the bulk of their mail last week, most of the soldiers obeying, with childish impatience, instructions not to open the parcels until Christmas. The mail of the Australian troops necessarily was posted six or seven weeks ago, and naturally there were many casualties in that period, so that the authorities are confronted with a number of parcels which never will reach their intended owners.

A feature of the Christmas army mails is that the outgoing post is almost as heavy as the incoming, with a strange cross-current of money orders going home and coming out. Some idea of the army postal problems may be gained from the fact that normally the British army sends 1,100,000 letters and postcards and 11,000 parcels daily. This number is being doubled and trebled during the Christmas rush. Another interesting fact is that a soldier receives an average of four letters a week, and writes one. SOUVENIRS IN PARCELS HOME. The packages being sent from the front contain all manner of souvenirs

FURS. Follow the lead of the best men in the game. Buy your furs to Woolrich, New York, and get accurate, complete and reliable returns. Raw Furs. Our Specialty. We Pay YOUR Price. If you put your own valuation on skins—no matter how small or large—just send them along, you'll not regret it. Raw Furs. Buy on your own bank. No Duty on Furs Imported from U. S. Use Consular Certificate only on shipments over \$10. Write for Price List No. 11. M. Wolfson & Co. 122, 124, 126 West 23rd Street, New York City. Sold only on American Coasts.

Xmas Gifts that will be Appreciated For Men and Boys. Hockey Boots, Overshoes, Gaiters, Snowshoe Moccasians, Felt and Kid Slippers, Ankle supports. FOR WOMEN—Hockey Boots, Overshoes, Snowshoe Moccasians, Sattens in colors, White, Grey, Sand Black, Nigger Brown, Pretty evening slippers, felt and suede, also Bedroom slippers in colors Rose Purple, Navy and light, Blue, Grey, Brown Tan, Red, etc. FOR MISSES and CHILDREN—Hockey boots, Overshoes, Rubbers, Felt and Patent Slippers, Gaiters (Black, Brown, Fawn, Red, and Blue. FOR the LITTLE TOTS—Pretty Patent Boots, (Blue, Grey, and White Tops) Moccasians, Choc. Tan White and Red, Felt Slippers. G O F F B R O S.