

The Charlottetown Guardian

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THURSDAY DECEMBER 13th, 1917.

LAURIERITE DEGENERACY

The Laurierite canvas has now degenerated into a veritable appeal to the simple and the ignorant. Men and women are circulating the report, especially among credulous women, that the soldiers in France and England are ill-fed, that they are underpaid, that if the Laurier party is returned to power the men will be brought home; that if the Union party—or as they call it, the Borden party—is returned the second class will be immediately called out, husbands will be torn from the loving arms of their wives, fathers will be snatched from their children, etc., etc. One woman has even stated that it was Sir Wilfrid Laurier who brought about the increase in the separation allowance to soldiers' wives!

The women among whom this canvas is being made are the women who read little, if anything, and who know little, if anything, except that their husbands or sons are at the front. They will probably not see the reputation of these base slanders; they may be induced by solemn-faced women and men to believe them; they may even be induced to cast their ballots for the betrayal of their country and of those whom they want to protect, but what then? What will respectable people think of the women and the men who are thus deliberately and wilfully perverting the facts in the hope that the party from whom they expect some miserable political return may be elected? What judgment has Christianity in all ages pronounced against him or her who puts a stumbling block in a brother's or sister's way?

They tell anxious mothers that their sons are being starved. This is about as infamous a falsehood as has ever been started. Every genuine soldier's letter from England and France, gives it the lie direct. We have had hundreds of letters for publication, not one of them uttering a word of complaint about food but, on the contrary, many of them when referring to it at all saying they were getting good food and plenty of it. Even in this issue we publish a letter found on the dying body of a soldier as he was passing through a clearing hospital to the grave, a bright, cheerful, manly letter to his mother.

"YOU NEED NOT SEND ANYTHING TO ME BUT A BIT OF CAKE AND SOME SOX, AS WE GET PLENTY TO EAT OVER HERE."

What a rebuke to the miserable slanderers who are today going from house to house telling mothers that their sons are being starved!

And yet another extract from this letter to refute that other slacker's argument that there is no need of more men:

"LITTLE SISTER WAS TELLING ME IN HER LETTER ABOUT THE EXHIBITION AND WHAT FUN THE BOYS HAD WITH THE FAKERS. WELL, THOSE FELLOWS CAN'T KNOW WHAT WE ARE UP AGAINST, FOR IF THEY DID THEY WOULD BE OVER HERE TRYING TO STOP THIS TERRIBLE WAR FOR BY THE LOOK OF IT NOW THEY WILL BE NEEDED."

How will those slackers and those who are canvassing in the interests of slackers and politicians look the mother of that boy in the face?

"DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, FOR IF MY TURN COMES I WILL BE GOING THE WAY THAT THOUSANDS OF BETTER MEN THAN I HAVE GONE. GOOD-NIGHT, MOTHER."

His "turn" came before his letter was posted. He was a son to be proud of and he died Christlike, comforting his mother.

In the face of such messages as these should not the professedly Christian women and men who are slandering the "Glorious Canadian army," as it is proudly named by its general, hang their heads in shame among decent people?

THE FARMERS OF THE WEST

A despatch from Laurier sources in Winnipeg, printed a day or two ago, sought to make it appear to the people of the east that the United Farmers of Alberta, one of the greatest agricultural organizations in the West, is opposed to Union Government. The despatch indicated that a Mr. Weir, second vice-president of the United Farmers, was especially severe in his condemnation of, and opposition to, Union.

It may help the eastern reader to better

understand the situation if it is pointed out that the Mr. Weir in question is not a farmer but a member of the editorial staff of the Calgary News-Telegram, recently purchased by the Laurier party, and one of the two newspapers west of the Great Lakes opposing Union Government.

It may also be of interest to note that Mr. W. W. Wood, President of the United Farmers of Alberta, is actively supporting Union Government, and with him are the great farming organizations of the West.

WOMEN'S MEETING

Every woman in the city and, if possible, every woman in the county should attend the mass meeting in Market Hall on Friday night. There has been an undercurrent campaign made in this city in the interests of Laurierism of which even those who started it are already thoroughly ashamed, and which they would not gladly recall if it were possible. But slanders and falsehoods once started are often difficult to arrest and many of these have doubtless gone beyond recall. If there are still any women who are in doubt as to their duty in their country's crisis they should make it a point to be present at this meeting, where every statement will be above board, where there will be no covering up of real issues, but where earnest men of both political parties will be prepared to substantiate what they say. The meeting will open at 8 o'clock.

LUCKY CHARLOTTETOWN

The campaign has its humorous side, too. Mr. Ewen McDougall, a retired and respected citizen and now nearing the "sere and yellow leaf" stage, in a letter to the Patriot admits that "a few unwary Liberals" like, for instance, Hon. A. K. Maclean, Hon. W. S. Fielding, Carvell, Crerar, Rowell, and a dozen or so others, "have been carried away by the sophistries of Sir Robert L. Borden and men of his ilk." How lucky we are in Charlottetown to have heavyweights like Mr. McDougall who can hold their ground against the sophistries that have laid so many Liberals low!

LAURIER RIDING FOR A FALL?

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has gone west. Apparently he is not going to deliver any more speeches in Ontario, says an Ottawa exchange.

But Ontario is the critical battle ground in the coming election. It is Ontario that will decide the election—decide whether Quebec, dominated by Bourassa, is to control Canadian affairs.

Why does Sir Wilfrid abandon the real election battle ground?

Laurier speeches provide convincing proof that his policy in regard to Canada's attitude toward the war is, in its working out at least, the same as that of Henri Bourassa, and, according to Sir Wilfrid Laurier himself

"Mr. Bourassa is opposed to enlistment of any kind; Mr. Bourassa doesn't believe that Canada should be in this war."

Has Sir Wilfrid Laurier been advised to stay away from Ontario? Are his campaign managers afraid that Laurier speeches in Ontario would dispel the camouflage with which they hope to blind Ontario?

Or can it be that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is riding for a fall, that he does not desire to win in the coming elections, that he is at last convinced from the support he is receiving from Bourassa and other disloyal elements that the Laurier policy is against Canada's best interests?

Sir Wilfrid Laurier must have had many doubts, many qualms of conscience, when he compared the names of the great, thinking, sagacious Canadians opposed to him with those of the motley crowd whom he finds on his own platform. Well might he decide to refuse the responsibility of forming a government, well might he welcome defeat at the polls.

NOTES

The Patriot quotes Hon. G. P. Graham as a Laurierite? Does the Patriot really know the Hon. George's political affiliation? At the prorogation of the House he boldly announced himself as a Unionist but no Unionist constituency would accept his candidature. Neither would the Laurierite machine endorse him, so Sir Wilfrid's first lieutenant was left severely out in the cold. Asked what he intended to do in the crisis, Mr. Graham said he felt it his duty to assist in returning the Union Government. But after the manner in which he sold the Unionists in the House, the Liberal Unionists had reason to doubt his sincerity, and never called upon him for assistance. Now Mr. Graham says "he was deceived by Sir Robert Borden," and that he is no longer a Unionist. A Laurierite!

A "FALCONWOOD" STATEMENT

Sir.—Mr. Geo. E. Hughes is out with another Falconwood edition of statements similar to the charges made against Premier Matheson's government last winter. Let Mr. Hughes keep cool lest another commission be appointed and his "serious charges" exposed as the hallucinations of another unsound mind. I am, Sir, etc.

READER.

BACON—NOT THE STUFF THIS TIME

Sir.—Mr. Ewen McDougall is out again having evidently failed to figure out how Sir Joseph Flavelle made 80 cents profit on every pound of bacon he sold at \$1.00. That would be 400 per cent. profit. However, this time he says he is not a prophet. I am glad to know that for now I can cut down his estimate of available men overseas as I would cut down his bacon figures, that is by 398 per cent.

Let Mr. McDougall come out again soon for a study of his figures is better than a game of bridge. I am, Sir, etc.

VOTER.

CREDIT TO WHOM

Sir.—Thanks and congratulations have been issued to various parties who have had to do with the promotion of Canada's Victory Loan Campaign in this Province. What about the man to whom, more than to any other single individual should be attributed the success of that Campaign? Mr. C. H. B. Longworth, the Chairman of the Provincial Committee, has voluntarily devoted his whole time to the work, not only during the three weeks of the canvass, but for several previous weeks, weeks of hard preparation and effective organization—and his skill at it.

Largely as a result of Mr. Longworth's organizing ability, and his special daily encouragement and suggestions to canvassers, a Victory Bond has been placed in every third house in Prince Edward Island, and the Province has absorbed nearly two hundred and fifty percent of its allotment. Everybody did their part, Mr. Longworth did his and helped everybody with theirs. I am, Sir, etc.

ONE OF THE CANVASSERS

Prince Edward Island, December 11th, 1917.

INDIGNANT PROTEST

The following letter was sent to the Patriot but was refused publication.

Sir.—We the girls of Prince Street School would like the "School Girl" to kindly explain what she meant by her letter in the Patriot of Dec. 6. Mr. Seaman, our Principal, whom she seems to be finding fault with, never in the experience of our school life with him referred to politics in class or in school. Her insinuation against our Principal is so utterly unfair that we indignantly deny every aspersion in it. If "School Girl" is really a school girl and not another of the man-murdering politicians, we defy her or any other person in school or out of it to mention one instance in which Mr. Seaman referred to politics in class or in school. We do not believe any girl in Prince Street School would be mean enough to make such a charge. Yours Sincerely, GRADE IX AND X, PRINCE STREET SCHOOL.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson,

THE HOUSE BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD

Reprinted by Request

Let me live in a house by the side of the road, Where the race of men go by— The men who are good and the men who are bad, As good and as bad as I. I would not sit in the scornful seat, Or hurl the cynic's ban— Let me live in a house by the side of the road, And be a friend to man.

I see from my house by the side of the road, By the ide of the highway of life, The men who press with the ardor of hope, The men who are faint with the strife, But I turn not away from their smiles for the tears— Both parts of an infinite plan— Let me live in my house by the side of the road, And be a friend to man.

I know there are brook-gladdened meadows ahead, And mountains of wearisome height; And the road passes on through the long afternoon to the night, And stretches away to the night, But still I rejoice when the travellers rejoice, And weep with the strangers that moan, Nor live in my house by the side of the road, Like the man who dwells alone.

Let me live in my house by the side of the road, Where the race of men go by— They are good, they are bad, they are weak, they are strong, Wise, foolish—so am I. Then why should I sit in the scornful seat Or hurl the cynic's ban? Let me live in my house by the side of the road, And be a friend to man. —Sam. Weller 1868

A LIBERAL AND MR. HUGHES

Sir.—I have been a life-long Liberal and supported J. J. Hughes and his leader Sir Wilfrid Laurier since he became leader, and probably under ordinary circumstances would be doing so still. But having a son in France, family ties are more tender than political ones and since the departure of the boy for which I would lay down my life, many a remark by politicians makes an impression that formerly would go by unnoticed.

It is an easy matter to drift along with the crowd or party when by accident or otherwise you happen to get associated with them. The first time I began to think seriously where I stood politically was when nearly two years ago, Mr. J. J. Hughes advertised twenty-four meetings in King's Co. (I attended several of these). At nearly every meeting he apologized to his audience by saying that it was the duty of a representative to let the people whom he served know what was going on at the Capital, but his denunciation of every member of the Government as rogues, swindlers and liars was even too much for his own supporters as on two particular occasions many of them left his meetings before he was through speaking, and it was not to be wondered at for in fact, if there was a shadow of truth in those statements our lot could not be any more removed from Democratic Government if cast with any of the semi-civilized nations who compose the central powers and whom we are at the present time fighting.

One of the statements upon which he laid particular emphasis was that our boys in the trenches were furnished a rifle that refused to operate and in many instances they were shot down by the Germans without any means of defending themselves.

Another was that men in Canada closely allied with members of the Government, sold nickle, the product of Canadian mines, to Germans in the U. S. at enormous prices, who shipped it to Germany, and guns manufactured from this nickle since the commencement of the war were used against our own boys in the trenches.

These two statements, if true, as I believe by his hearers, were sufficient to put an end to voluntary recruiting in King's Co. And although the notice of his meetings extended a special and cordial invitation to clergymen, as far as I have seen none attended, for at that very time the leading clergymen of the province were holding recruiting meetings to the success of which such statements were very much opposed. For my own part I came to the conclusion that the statements were made for no other purpose but to secure a point against the Government, and that Mr. Hughes (like the Patriot) in effect said "Recruiting be it if I can make a few votes at its expense."

Following up his first statement regarding the Ross Rifle I noticed in the press and in the debates in Parliament that the facts are these: Sir Wilfrid Laurier entered into a contract with the Ross Rifle Co. to manufacture some thousands of rifles, and even in case of war that the Ross Rifle Co. had a monopoly of the manufacture of said rifle, a rifle that was approved of by all military men.

After the rifle had become extensively used, it was found that in case of firing a large number of rounds in rapid succession, the rifle, like many such weapons, became defective and a change in the manufacture was made in due time. Having consulted as many of the returned soldiers as I came in contact with, none of them had any such experience with the Ross rifle, many of them never heard of such a thing, until they heard it here, and we may safely come to the conclusion that the cases in which it did happen are extremely rare. Even Sir Sam Hughes, who has, at least along certain lines, much ability still favors the Ross Rifle. The other statement regarding the nickle has been shown to be untrue. The Canadian Government as soon as war was declared made a special agreement with the American refinery that every pound of Canadian nickle would be accounted for and not an ounce could pass into German hands, and though the matter was thoroughly made clear to the satisfaction of every one in Parliament Mr. Hughes is still repeating both statements at his political meetings, and still repeating that voluntary recruiting did not get a fair chance, no certainly not.

I have attended three meetings during the present canvass and listened to Mr. Hughes in all three, and a half address where he did not even mention the name of his leader, if he has any. His whole song was money, interests, graft and dishonesty, if there was not a man elected worthy of being trusted with even a dollar. To such an extent, should the war or the part which his leader is about to take is nothing, should not be considered, when compared with the great deeds which he performed during the time he represented us in Parliament. One will find such sheets as this posted up in all sections of the country: "Vote for J. J. Hughes, who gave you the rail- way to Montague," and "Support 'Who gave you the fish drier,' as if those were matters of more importance than the one great question that occupies almost all nations at the present time. As far as the Montague railway and the Souris fish-drier are concerned it can be safely said that there was more graft and kick-off in connection with those two small contracts in proportion to the amount of money involved than on any contract for war supplies. The people of Montague will remember that at that time labour was easily obtained and a man would have to be an expert or an exceptional worker to get more than one dollar per day. The average labourer got from 80c to a dollar though it was well known that such a man would earn more than \$10.00 per day for the contractor. It would also be very interesting to know who interfered with the engineers to such an extent that the road to Montague was connected with the main line a mile to the east of Cardigan instead of at Cardigan as it was first contemplated. Every one knows it was shorter, less expensive, and more convenient, also who interfered in the same way with the building of the station at Montague when the foundation was covered over and the station built on a new site

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that it might interfere with certain properties that were paid many times the actual value in damages; also it would be interesting to know who interfered with connecting the Montague branch at Grand View, was it not dollars and cents that made these changes without any regard to the convenience of the people. The buying and selling of material in connection with the drier and the hideous books and accounts at the time they were demanded by the Public Accounts Committee at Ottawa would be a history in itself. I am, Sir, etc. A. McDONALD, Kings Co.

KILLED IN ACTION

Mrs. Frederickson, O'Leary, has received the following letter giving particulars of the death of her son at the front: Mill Road Inverness, Seven Pool, D. 4 Ward, Oct. 27th, 1917.

Mrs. Frederickson:— Dear Madam,—I have just received a letter from my wife telling me that she had a letter from Mrs. H. Lidstone and that you wanted to know about your son Tommie Yotel. Well Dear Madam, if he was your son I did not know, I knew him in the 105th Battalion. He was in the same Company I was. The Yotel boy I knew got shot through the body and he died half an hour after. He did not speak and he was not in much pain. Dear Madam don't worry about him, he is better off now, I helped to lay the poor boy out, they buried him that night, I know Dear Madam how to sympathize with you. Your son was a brave boy and he gave his life for his King and Country. I got wounded myself at the same time and was carried out of the trench. It was on Hill 70, the 15th of August and the stretcher bearers were with him but they could not do anything for him.

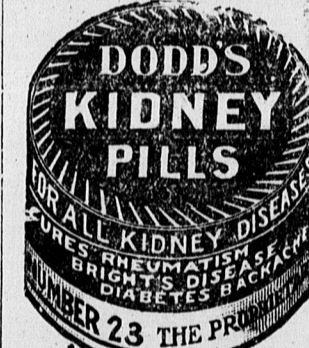
His resting place is in France with many another poor Canadian boy. He did his duty and gave his life for his country and I think we island boys have done our best in the war. Good bye, from NO. 712130 PATRICK MURPHY 13th attalion.

MR. A. F. HOUSTON INTERVIEWED

Mr. Alfred F. Houston, who arrived home Monday at noon gives his experience as follows: "I was in the Market Building at the time, about a mile and a half from the scene of the explosion I first heard a heavy report, like the discharge of a cannon. I said to a man along side of me, 'That is a cannon.' 'No' he said 'it is a blast.' A few seconds later came another explosion. The shock was so terrific that I can hardly describe the sensation. It was like as if one was on a boat at sea and you were lifted up by a heavy wave. Then the roof of the Market crashed in just by where I was standing, and one of the roof planks fell on my right shoulder and fractured it. I ducked my head under a table to escape the glass which was flying in all directions. As soon as the glass stopped flying I got out of the building, I could see people running on the streets injured, some of them had terrible wounds.

We started to go down towards the scene of the explosion when we were turned back by the police, who warned every one to go south as they said the magazine was liable to explode at any moment. We were all driven south. We stayed in the Park for about two hours until the danger was over then we returned to the scene of the explosion and went all over the devastated district. The houses were destroyed, some were burning and bodies were piled up in all directions. I think there were about 4,000 people killed and 5,000 injured. There was still some life left in some of the bodies. Every person by this time was working hard to get the bodies removed and on Campbell Road they were piled just like cord-wood. We then returned to the city. There was nothing left of the Munition Ship but iron fragments. She had been burning about twenty-five minutes before she exploded and the crew after running her up to the pier left her.

A number of vessels are reported to have been sunk by the tidal wave caused by the explosion. Mr. Houston left on Friday night. They were then still getting out the bodies and he thinks it will be near the middle of the week before the work is completed. The one great point he wants the people to remember is that there is a great scarcity of food and clothing for women and children, and help cannot be received too quickly. On Friday, Halifax had the same gale as visited Charlottetown, with heavy snow. All the hospitals are filled to overflowing. The theatres, colleges and other large buildings are converted into hospitals. Some of the churches are pretty well wrecked. Owing to the shortage of food no one is allowed to enter the city unless he is on most urgent business. Mr. Houston brought home with him souvenirs of the disaster in the form of metal, also newspapers that were struck off by hand presses.



MILITARY POLLS

Notice is hereby given that Military Polls for P. E. I. under Military Voters Act 1917, will be held on Monday Dec. 17th 1917, at the Drill Shed, Charlottetown, and at the Dalton Senatorium, North Wiltshire. The polls at Charlottetown will open at 6 a. m. and close at 5 p. m. The polls at North Wiltshire will open at 9 a. m. and close at 5 p. m. Philip E. Palmer, Lieut.—Deputy Presiding Officer, Charlottetown Poll. Christopher E. McGuigan, Lieut.—Deputy Presiding Officer, North Wiltshire Poll. F. B. McRae, Major—Military Presiding Officer for P. E. I. MDTF15.

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