

# The Charlottetown Guardian

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FRIDAY MARCH 1st, 1918.

## THE ELECTION

The return of Messrs. Nicholson and McIsaac by the soldiers' vote removes, partially at least, the stigma cast upon our province on the 17th of December. All will regret that the removal was not more complete, that Mr. Alexander Martin has been defeated by the small majority of four. This margin is so narrow and the voice of our manhood overseas so emphatic that it virtually means victory for Mr. Martin and an invitation to Mr. Sinclair to retire.

Since the result of the civilian vote was first announced we have learned how our men overseas felt about it, how the vote of their home friends had humiliated them in the eyes of their fellow Canadians. We have learned with what jubilation the result in Canada was heard by all our Canadian soldiers. This was further emphasized by Col. H. M. Davison, the Laurierite agent in England and France, who, after coming in contact with the Canadians overseas, declared in a letter recently published in The Guardian, "The result of the elections in Canada has done more good for Canada than our people at home can imagine; it would have been a serious blow to our Canadian forces here if it had been otherwise."

Prince Edward Island soldiers have suffered this "serious blow." They did what they could to avert it; they voted for the Unionist candidates but their almost unanimous effort was not sufficient to ward it off. Prince Edward Island today stands fifty-fifty in support of prosecuting the war to final victory. Half of our representatives are pledged to support Laurier in a war policy so utterly foreign to everything Canadian that all Canada, except Quebec and Prince Edward Island, buried him and his policy under an avalanche of ballots. Why should Prince Edward Island, under the circumstances, be obliged to stand under even a fifty-fifty stigma? Why should Mr. Sinclair with a majority of only four ask his constituency to further suffer the humiliation?

We note that the Patriot, true to the disgraceful campaign it waged prior to the election, is pursuing its own peculiar course. It gravely informs its readers that in this province the contest was a straight party one. The Patriot knows that it was more than this. The Patriot and the Liberal machine opposed the Union Government and Union candidates; it opposed conscription, which previous to the campaign it had emphatically endorsed; it appealed to the cowardice and the cupidity of the electors, men and women, and to our everlasting disgrace there were enough of the remnant in the province to listen to the appeal.

Our contemporary also asserts that none of the Conservative candidates offered to retire for a Unionist Liberal. The Patriot knows this to be contrary to fact. Both Mr. Nicholson and Mr. Martin offered to go to a joint convention with Messrs. Warburton and Sinclair in order to select one Conservative and one Liberal Unionist candidate. Neither Mr. Warburton nor Mr. Sinclair accepted the proposal which was made through the president of the Liberal Association. That there was no considerable element of Liberal Unionists in Prince Edward Island is due entirely to the Liberal machine and its organ, the Patriot, which turned down the proposal.

The reflection which the Patriot makes upon the soldiers is likely to have a boomerang effect. Our contemporary claims that the men who went out to do our fighting for us are less worthy to give a verdict than those who remain comfortably at home; it insinuates that they did not know what they were voting on. Judging by the correspondence published before and since the election it was the soldiers who knew best what was the issue of this election, while the majority of the electors left in comfort at home in P. E. Island thought only of their petty party politics and the patronage which they hoped to gain.

As we have already said the brave boys who went forth to defend the country have been the means of removing in part the reproach which party-mad Liberal politicians cast upon our fair province.

It remains only for The Guardian to congratulate the province and Messrs. Nicholson and McIsaac on the well deserved victory for the Unionist cause and to express regret that Messrs. Martin and Lefurgy did not receive sufficient civilian votes to make the soldiers' vote effective.

## UNREASONABLE CRITICISM

The howl that is being set up among the little politicians, not only in this province but throughout Canada, that the Military Service Act is stripping the farms of their help and consequently ruining the country, only goes to show the depth to which unreasoning and unreasonable partizanship can descend. No one knows better than these partizan critics do that the Military Service Act has not taken from the farm or from any other food producing or essential calling a solitary individual who could reasonably be shown to be engaged in productive or essential work that could not be done equally well without him. This was the plain wording and intention of the Act. In the event of mistakes occurring opportunity was given to appeal from the decision of one tribunal to another and in no case so far shown has there been any decision given that could be construed into stripping the farms or essential industries of any effective help.

There are unfortunately many in this province and elsewhere who sought to evade military service on various pretexts. To these the partizan howl about stripping the farms and of hindering food production appeals very strongly and they willingly join in the howl. They have yet to show a concrete case where a man who was really needed on the farm or in the fisheries has been drafted into military service.

We are being told by these same authorities that the necessary number of men could have been obtained through voluntary enlistment. Where? From the men who have been pleading for exemption? If volunteering would have brought out any more men it would have been as in the case of the first volunteers, from among those who could least be spared. At the first call for volunteers hundreds of men offered their services who could ill be spared at their homes and in their business and this process actually continued until all who were willing to go had gone. Out of the remainder nothing but compulsion would have produced results. It is very true that there are many left who are neither food producers nor producers of anything that is essential to the nation. The Military Service Act is still seeking these out and will get such of them as are physically fit. The habitual loafer on the streets will evade military service because of physical unfitness; he will evade service on the farm or in the factory because he is generally undesirable. Unfortunately every country has to carry its burden of these and, under existing conditions, it cannot be avoided.

The interests of the country will be best served by accepting the Military Service Act as it is, as it has been agreed upon by the best minds in both political parties. It is sufficiently elastic to give every man an opportunity to evade military service who is good for anything else and sufficient firm to compel every man to take his share in carrying the national burden.

## INSINUATION

Insinuation is the lowest form of slander. Usually on the basis of a half truth or a truth half told a fabric is erected that casts its shadow over a reputation or a character. This form of slander is common in the political, the civic, the social life. The "it is said," and "it looks strange," and the "I have my doubts" of the wily mischief maker can go far afield before it is overtaken and proved groundless and so subtle are some of its forms that proof of falsehood may be impossible. The latest form in which this slander has manifested itself here is in connection with the railway trouble. It is insinuated that the frequent detentions on the railway are deliberately planned by the train crews in order to give them the benefit of the extra pay for overtime! No meaner slander on hard-working men could be invented than this. It is known that conditions on the P. E. I. Railway this winter have been the worst experienced in years and that our railway men have been battling day and night with snowstorms and, compared with results in our sister provinces, putting up a generally very successful fight. It is also well known that the difficulties have been very greatly added to by the condition of the engines which, it had been hoped, would have survived the narrow gauge period, but which have reached a stage in which they are unable to cope with extraordinary conditions. We may rest assured that the allurements of overtime pay are not sufficient either to induce men to spend unnecessary hours on duty or to swerve from the performance of their duty to the best of their ability.

## WHAT FOOD CONTROL MEANS

R. E. GOSNELL

IV

Up to the present food control in Canada and the United States has popularly meant something quite different from what it is or even what it can do. People's minds have been confused on two things; on the price of foodstuffs and the supposed profits somebody else is making, rather upon the real thing. It takes a lot of explaining. It was unfortunate in Canada that a Food Controller happened to be appointed at a time when a general election was imminent with a general dissatisfaction with the high price of food commodities, and that the Food Controller belonged to the political faith of the old-time party Government, and thus the office and all its works were thrown into the political election pot. In the United States, when Mr. Hoover became Food Administrator, the presidential elections were over, and the nation was in the war for food. In this way, although a Democrat and all his officials are Democrats, he got cooperation from the people and from both parties that would not have been possible 12 months before, and that certainly was not possible in Canada. In Canada, through heated political discussion, the public had arrived at a certain attitude of mind which is hard to get away from, and an attitude of mind when based on misconception will lead the people into many by and tortuous paths. I have read much about Confederation, particularly about British Columbia's entrance into it, and discovered that through political discussion, part of it for political effect, it was not until the C. P. R. had been built and been operating for some time that the majority of people in Canada did not believe that the C. P. R. would bankrupt the nation, and that British Columbia, whose coming in made the C. P. R. a sine qua non would not forever remain a drag on the rest of the Dominion, whereas something quite the opposite has resulted. It was an attitude of mind which lasted for nearly 20 years and delayed the progress of Canada and of British Columbia for nearly as long a time.

So today, there are a great many persons who think that the Food Controller can fix a price for every food commodity in the market that will compare with pre-war prices, or even be lower than those. I do not say that war conditions necessarily mean high prices, although a comparison of prices carried back as far as and before Queen Elizabeth's days, shows that war periods have usually been high-price periods, and no doubt the price of food has been accentuated by war conditions during the present war. If some prices are higher than they would have been had there been no war at all, we should still have had high prices, and we are bound to have them for some time to come, war or no war. Prices have been steadily climbing in Canada for nearly 25 years, and have been steadily climbing in every country of the world; it is a condition the result of world-wide progress and development unprecedented in the world's history. Our complex "social" and "industrial" system is very much responsible for it.

In Europe, where price-fixing has been carried further than anywhere else, the prices of all commodities with a few exceptions which may be named, are much higher than they were before the war. In Germany, with its apparently very scientific system of food control and Germany, knowing the importance of food in war, started in studying the food situation long before the war began—has the highest price list of all, and in Great Britain and France prices are again much higher than in America. We hear about bread being cheaper in Europe than in America, but that is because bread-making has been nationalized and the loss—which means the difference between what the nation pays for wheat and flour and the cost to the consumer—is charged to the Treasury, and is paid for in taxes. And, then, it is war bread at that very much lower in price than even our new standard bread. When you fix the price of any one staple you affect the price of a lot of other staples. When for instance you fix a minimum wage scale, you affect the price of every article into which that laborer enters. It may be quite right to fix the price of labor, but when you have done so you must pay the bills like a man. If you fix the price of any product as low as or lower than the cost

of production, one or two things must happen, either production ceases altogether, or the loss (including a fair profit to the producer) must be paid by the nation as a whole. We have stabilized the price of a bushel at Fort William and Port Arthur. That means \$2.00 a bushel to the farmer and represents a good profit to him, a profit which has never been reached since the American Civil War until the present war. But while economically not a sound principle, it was necessary to carry on production in order that the Allies might be fed. That of butter and milk, has been fixed by an agreement with the Imperial Purchasing Commission, with Canadian dealers at 21 1/2c per lb. Personally, I think the price too high, but the dealers say that with the present price of feed farmers will not produce milk unless they are assured of a fair profit; and it must be understood that milking is the drudgery end of farming. You can scarcely hire men to milk, and from my own experience as a boy I do not blame them. Cheese the Allies must have, as they must have bacon and wheat, and so on you follow around in an economic circle until you land where you began but always a little higher in the price scale. I am not going to refer in this article to the question of profiteering, hoarding, for speculation or excess profits, because these to be dealt with satisfactorily must be done in a separate article. If the Food Controller has not gone as far in these directions as he can, then he has failed in his duty. The services of the Food Controller must be judged by the extent to which he has prevented prices going higher than they should have done in the circumstances.

And the way, I forgot to refer to the price of fish. The Food Controllers of Canada and the United States have been asking people to eat fish instead of beef and bacon, in the same way as the people have been asked to use substitute for wheat flour, and the fact sometimes develops that the substitute is dearer than the article to be substituted, and you wonder why, and why you are asked to eat the something that is dearer. The substitutes usually are cheaper, but transportation conditions have practically prevented fish, corn and potatoes from reaching the market more freely. Nevertheless, the duty still exists to eat these substitutes even at a higher price, because it is saving something which the Allies want and must have to win the war. And also speaking again of fish, deep-sea fishing among the most hazardous and precarious of industries. Unless the fishermen are assured of a pretty fair margin of profit calculated on his whole season's operations, he is not going to fish. He takes more chances in life and property than any other man engaged in industry, and do you blame him getting the best price he can under circumstances you and I would not care to face for the money? If he makes a big haul one trip, he is just as likely through bad weather and other causes, to make a big loss the next. You cannot place any fixed arbitrary price for any article in the hands of the producer; you can only regulate the profits on the article as it passes along from the producer to the consumer, and this the Food Controllers of both countries have endeavored to do.

## DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louison

### IN MEMORIAM

"Blessed are they who die in the Lord. They rest from their labors and their works do follow them."

### JUST AWAY

(Adapted)

We must not say and we will not say That they are dead. They are just away, With a cheery smile and a wave of the hand. They have wandered into an unknown land.

And left us dreaming how very fair It needs must be since they linger there. And you, oh you, who the wildest year For the old time steps and the glad return.

Think of them faring on as dear In the love of there, as the love of here.

Think of them still as the same we say They are not dead, they are just away.

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## BERMANS REFUSE TO ATTACK RUSSIANS

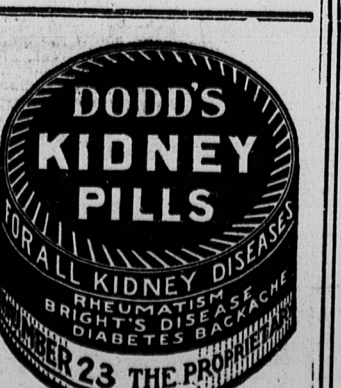
PETROGRAD, Feb. 26.—A report that 20,000 German soldiers refused to attack the Russians in the new campaign was given out today by the Bolshevik telegraph agency. Polish troops in some instances are said to have fled. The issuance of war reports was begun today, the following communication being given out: "Socialist defensive front.—In the region of Borisoff (45 miles northeast of Minsk) a detachment was sent to destroy bridges. Borisoff and 'lotsk are in the hands of the revolutionary forces. "Samsal and Venden have been taken by the Germans who fought a battle with a Lettich detachment. The station at Korsovik and the town of stroy have been occupied by the Germans. Poles are advancing from Tohlley towards Dobruisk but, open roads take flight in large bodies. "According to reports from Arensburg, 20,000 German troops refused to attack."

## BERMANS BUY UP AUSTRIAN PAPERS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—German interests are acquiring some of the most influential newspapers in Austria according to an official despatch today from France. Herr Prinsborn, general director of the Vienne "Reinblatt, the Mittags Journal, and the Allgemeine Zeitung, the despatches say, has obtained control of the most prominent papers in Prague and other cities on behalf of a German syndicate.

## BOYS' BOOTS SELLING CHEAP

Boys' Boots sizes 1 to 5 for \$2.35. Youths boots sizes 11 to 13 for \$2.00. 6 cents for the smaller boy 8 to 10 1/2 \$1.75. Before buying your boys boots call and see these.



Holeproof Hosiery lustré 6 months wear guaranteed

## APPRECIATION

With heart felt gratitude I take this opportunity of thanking all who have sympathized and helped us in our recent bereavement. It is quite impossible for me to attempt replying to the tender words expressed in all this correspondence and in many other ways. Suffice it to say, with the help of our Heavenly Father, we intend to "Carry on," and now commend ourselves and you, to His loving care. To all those in sorrow, sickness, need or any other adversity allow me the privilege of passing along the following beautiful lines of comfort which reached me this morning in one of the many helpful letters of sympathy. I take this opportunity of thanking the press of Charlottetown for their touching references to a loving mother, and devoted wife, whose sudden departure saved us from the sadness of farewell and in whose life there is pleasure in remembrance.

W. S. LOUSON.

Be still my soul, the Lord is on thy side; Bear patiently thy cross of grief and pain; Leave to thy God to order and provide; In every change He faithful will remain. Be still my soul; thy God doth undertake To guide the future as he has the past; Thy hope, thy confidence, let nothing shake. All now mysterious shall be bright at last. Be still my soul; when dearest friends depart And all is darkened in the vale of tears, Then thou shalt better know His love, His heart, Who comes to soothe thy sorrow and thy fears. Be still my soul, the hour is hastening on When we shall be forever with the Lord; When disappointment, grief and fears are gone, Sorrow forgot, Love's purest joys restored. Be still my soul, when change and tears are past All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

## SERIOUS FLOODS IN ONTARIO SECTIONS

LONDON, Ont., Feb. 26.—Heavy damage from floods in London and the other districts is reported tonight. Following a mild day, rain fell heavily for two hours tonight, and the river rose rapidly. In the vicinity of White Oak, Dingman's Creek is reported to have risen nearly six feet, flooding fields and barns and causing heavy damage. Grave fears are entertained for those in that district and in Komoka district. All efforts to reduce the floods caused by seven mile ice jam failed today, and with the huge volume of water sweeping in from all over the country the greatest flood in years is expected. Hundreds of people were vacated up all night and many have vacated their homes, fearing trouble. All cattle were driven from the danger points.

## AMSTERDAM, Feb. 28.—There are numerous indications in Germany of a very systematic campaign to promote a new general strike, says a Berlin dispatch to the Weser Zeitung of Bremen.

A revolution in Germany was predicted by Dr. Cohn, Independent Socialist Deputy, in an address to the Reichstag on Friday, the Volks Zeitung of Cologne says. Dr. Cohn's address, made during the debate on the peace treaty with Ukraine, threw the Reichstag into an uproar. "It is not correct to say that the people of Russia's Baltic provinces are longing for German rule," he declared. "The treaty with Ukraine is not the first step toward general peace. I see the day coming when revolution will reach Germany and the people will take the fate of their rulers into their own hands." The Independent Socialists cheered the speaker. From other parts of the House came shouts of "Traitor!"

Courtesy is ten thousand dollars in additional salaries for the bosses, twenty thousand dollars in future pay for the ones on the pay roll, and it's the only thing that the customer will accept today.

## A PLEASANT EVENT AT NORTH RIVER

Quite "the event of the season" for North River and vicinity was the reception held in North River hall on Tuesday evening in honor of the returned heroes, Lieut. Andrew McEachern, Ptes. Earl Walker, McWalker and Neil Walker. Notwithstanding the unfavorable condition of roads and weather the spacious hall was comfortably filled with an enthusiastic audience, eager to do honor to the brave lads whose entrance was greeted with rounds of applause. Mr. J. B. McKinley fulfilled the duties of chairman in his usual genial manner and also read the address of welcome after which four wee lassies presented the boys with carnations, which again called forth hearty applause.

The following programme was then rendered: Chorus by School Children—"When Jesus comes Marching Back." Solo—Mrs. Everett Stevenson. Speech—Rev. J. Housney. Solo—Miss Mary Howard. Speech—Rev. A. Hurn. Violin Solo—Miss Grace Vickerson. Vocal Solo—Mr. John Murray. Recitation—"The Lament"—Master Gordon Warren. Chorus—School Children—"Keep the Home Fronts Burning." Speech—Mr. Hume McMillan. Solo—Mr. Walter Scott. Speech—Mr. Hector Marchison. Solo—Miss Myra Hurn. Chorus (School Children)—"Up With the Union Jack Boys." The singing of the National Anthem brought this part of the entertainment to a close and the eating of a most delectable supper and entertaining accounts of trench life by the guests of honor rounded up a most enjoyable evening. The hall was tastefully decorated for the occasion, flags, bunting and potted plants adding much to the attractiveness of the hall.

## New General Strike in Germany

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# Passengers for Western Canada

## Buy Your Railway Tickets at the City Ticket Office

84 Great George t. Charlottetown

It has been brought to my notice that passengers for Western Canada points are being sold tickets reading, via St. John, N. B., thereby causing them a delay of never less than 24 hours and sometimes two days. With the present arrangements connections are rarely made with the C. P. R. connection at Sackville but passengers do connect with the Govt. Railway Maritime Express. I sell tickets over all the different Railways, Canadian Pacific, Grand Trunk, Grand Trunk Pacific, Canadian Northern, Canadian Govt. Railways and all the American lines. I sell you tickets right through from Charlottetown to your destination over the lines by which you can make the best connections or over any line on which you wish to travel, and reserve your sleeping car accommodation by wire. You will find this the best equipped ticket office in the Province and the place where you can get the best service. If you are going to travel it will pay you to write me or if convenient call and get your information.

## W. K. ROGERS

City Ticket Agent 84 Great George St. Charlottetown, P. E. I.

## BOYS' BOOTS SELLING CHEAP

Boys' Boots sizes 1 to 5 for \$2.35. Youths boots sizes 11 to 13 for \$2.00. 6 cents for the smaller boy 8 to 10 1/2 \$1.75. Before buying your boys boots call and see these.

## GOFF BROS

Silk Holeproof Hosiery 3 months wear guaranteed