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## THE Charlottetown Guardian

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1915.

### U. S. AND REGISTERED FOXES

There is a ten per cent. duty on foxes imported into the United States, but if the foxes be for breeding purposes they are exempt. Hitherto the U. S. Customs authorities have been satisfied with a statutory declaration to that effect, but this year a change has been effected and now no fox will be admitted free of duty unless accompanied by its pedigree as registered in the records of the Fox Breeders' Association.

A correspondent in Massachusetts writes us as follows:—

"The prospects for fox raising in Massachusetts look good. We expect to have our ranch finished by November 1 and will soon visit P.E.I. to buy foxes to bring over here. We regret to have just received word from our secretary that we cannot get our foxes in free of duty until the U.S. Government accepts and approves the Canadian registry."

The Canadian registry, of course, is the registry of the Prince Edward Island Fox Breeders' Association, as it is the only fox registry authorised by law. The Executive of the Fox Breeders' Association should take steps at once to have its charter and by-laws approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and thus facilitate sales to intending fox raisers in the States. The fact that the U.S. Government recognizes and accepts the Association registration for the purpose of exemption purposes will be a sign and seal that Association registered foxes are pedigreed breeders. The Association should bring this forcibly to the attention of all ranchers here as a stimulus to registration. The stand the United States has taken in this matter will bring home to the average rancher the importance of membership of the Association and will be the first effective lever the Executive has obtained as the result of its charter.

### "WANTED, A DICTATOR"

Mr Charles Brett, one of the most brilliant London journalists, discussing the recent cabinet crisis comes to the conclusion that no combination of ministers, such as constitutes a government in peace time, can successfully cope with the difficulties of an Empire at war.

In plain terms, he says, if the war is to be won, and well won, we must muzzle the talkers and manacle the meddlers, and give the fighters a chance.

It did not need a Macaulay to tell us that no army could be successfully led by a debating society. I mistrust the capacity of the Government to wage successful war—for war, as I have said, is not the business of Governments. It is the vocation of Cabinets to talk, to argue, to deliberate and to diplomatised. Fighting is the task of soldiers and sailors—Democracy notwithstanding. War is a job for Dictators. I would gladly see the destinies of the Empire committed "for the duration of the war" to a military and naval Triumvirate, armed with plenary authority. For I want the war to be a soldier's war, and I want the peace to be a soldier's peace. When the Huns are beaten, I want the British account to be presented at Berlin by men like Lord Kitchener and Lord Fisher, and not by politicians of the Haldane breed. I want the Kaiser to have to reckon, not with fellow-citizens of his "spiritual home," but with the man who blew up the tomb of the Mahdi and scattered his accursed ashes to the four winds of heaven. This sentiment is not gentle, or polite, or lady-like, but it is honest, and clean, and British, and I am not in the least ashamed of it. My feelings are shared by millions of my fellow-countrymen, men and women, and the Government must be apprised of our determination. Of our immovable resolve that the Huns shall not merely be beaten as one "beats" an opponent at chess, but crushed as one stamps a viper under heel."

### AGRICULTURAL DISCOVERY

Professor Bottomley, of King's College, London, has made a discovery, or rather has organised a number of discoveries previously made, which promises to revolutionise agriculture. In a series of experiments described in a recent issue of the London "Observer," he has succeeded in producing an unprecedented growth of vegetables and flowers and the experiments are now being carried further through a liberal grant to the College from the British Government.

To quote from the "Observer's" report of the results: "In many cases the size of plants has been doubled and trebled. Seventy-two cucumbers, weighing a pound each, have been cut from eighteen treated plants after a twenty days' growth and sold at Covent Garden before those grown in the ordinary way were ready to cut. Sixteen pounds of tomatoes have been taken from one tomato plant. Similar examples of

extraordinary growth could be multiplied by the score."

Some time ago Professor Bottomley began these experiments in promoting plant growth by inoculating the soil with the culture of bacteria obtained from the root nodules of leguminous plants. Anyone who takes the trouble to dig up a clover plant will find fixed to the roots numbers of these little white nodules, which are made up of almost pure nitrogenous material. The Professor found that in soil so treated more nodules were produced and that therefore the nitrogenous material in the soil was greatly increased. If the cultures contained humus—that is, the black decaying matter that is found in the soil—they did better still.

From this point he went further and carried on a series of experiments to produce a source of soluble humus and he discovered it in peat. By treating peat with bacteria and making it soluble he found the medium for the growth of "nitrogen fixation organisms," the medium he was looking for. The process by which the extraordinary results above mentioned were obtained was to water the plants once a week with this solution, and so effective was it that plants were successfully grown in sand without a particle of soil. Among the experiments described was the following: "Some weeks ago a box sixteen inches long, six inches wide and four inches deep was filled with moss and planted with four potatoes. Once every week the moss was watered with an extract from the bacterized peat. After eight weeks growth the box was as full as it could hold of fine new potatoes." "Given a little sun," said Professor Bottomley, "there is no reason why these vegetables should not be grown in one's room if necessary almost all the year round."

In this province of ours there is enough peat, if subjected to the requisite treatment, to supply the whole province many times over. The difficulty of course is in the treatment. We have no doubt, however, that from the discovery of Professor Bottomley and particularly of his discovery that the nitrogenous matter has the power of multiplying itself in a suitable medium—and that medium being peat, which is found everywhere in abundance—something will develop that will result in great good of which we in Canada, with our Agricultural Colleges, our advanced agricultural education, and our great opportunities, will share in the benefits.

### HUN AND TURK

What is being done by Germany and Austria, asks the New York Globe, to protect the Armenians? What is the attitude of the German officers at Constantinople, who are in practical charge of the Turkish government? It is asserted—a charge that the world is loath to believe—that the Turks have been encouraged to proceed to the business of wholesale slaughter. Dismissing this charge as too serious to be credited, it is clear that Germany has passively permitted the unspeakable outrages of her ally. So far as known the Berlin government has taken no steps to compel the Turkish government to stop the atrocities and to punish those responsible therefor. American citizens of German birth or descent are reputed to have some influence with the Berlin government. They could do nothing more to advance the honour of their fatherland, and at the same time display their Americanism, than to address to Berlin representations in behalf of the Armenians. When Germany entered into alliance with the Turks, she assumed responsibilities as well as gained military aid. It is plainly her duty to restrain the anti-Christian fanaticism that is venting itself in the destruction of the helpless.

### NOTES

"It is Sunday night," writes a soldier, who was in the reserves which were called upon to consolidate the victory of Loos, "and after we had all sung a verse of that old hymn 'O God, our help in ages past,' we separated, each one going his own way to get together his few oddments previous to giving his precious rifle the chance of being heard."

Jecoff, the Bulgarian war minister, who explains that Bulgaria was obliged to go to war with Serbia because Serbian troops had been mobilized on the Bulgarian frontier, is an apt pupil of his Prussian masters. Doubtless it was from Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg that he has imbibed the lesson that the first duty of a minister is to lie boldly and cheerfully.

### DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

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by W. S. Louson.

### SMILES INSTEAD OF TEARS.

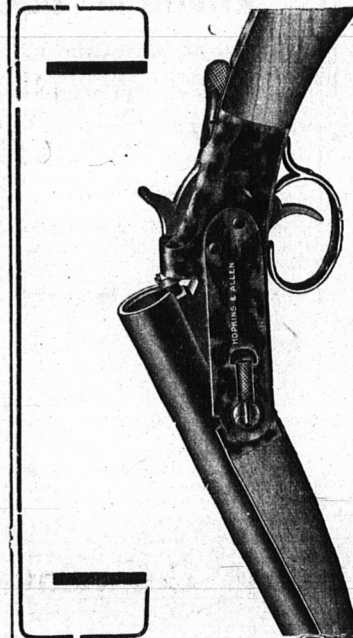
When shadows hide the sun  
away,  
What use to sigh about it?  
Keep up a cheerful heart and  
say,  
If sunshine can't be ours to-  
day,  
We'll get along without it.  
Keep faith in this, oh, friend,  
I pray—  
Each cloud's a silver lin-  
ing.  
And we, if we could push  
away  
The darkest ones, would  
find today  
The same old sun out  
shining.  
There is a sunshine that  
makes good  
The lack of sun above us—  
The cheerful word, the hap-  
py mood.

The heart that makes good  
cheer its food,  
The smiles of those who  
love us.  
We cannot help what hap-  
pens here,  
So make the best, my  
brother,  
Of what life brings from  
year to year.  
A smile is better than a  
tear  
For us, and for each  
other.

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