

# The Charlottetown Guardian

Head Office at Charlottetown, Branch Offices at Summerside, Alberton, Souris and Montague.

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## POTATO PRICES

From different reliable sources The Guardian learns that potato prices this spring will reach a figure hitherto untouched in these markets. Already prospects for a dollar a bushel are in sight and it is even possible that this figure may be exceeded.

After the heavy marketing of last fall it is not likely that a very large quantity of potatoes remains to be shipped, yet the number of bushels that can be ferreted out to meet a dollar demand is surprising. Many farmers held over a proportion of their last fall's crop in anticipation of the higher spring price and these, if fortunate enough to have sound stock, will reap their reward. It will be some weeks yet before potatoes can be handled safely and therefore there is time to prepare for it. The prudent farmer will look over his stock, carefully pick out the diseased ones, as they will communicate the disease to others, and have his marketable potatoes ready. The call will be made as soon as weather conditions permit the movement of potatoes. As is usually the case it is quite probable that the market will open at a figure which is likely to go higher as the season advances. Whether to sell early or hold for a rise is a gamble in which each farmer must take his chances. There is always the question of shrinkage to be considered and, as the season advances, the shrinkage will increase. There is also the uncertainty of the market to be considered, although this year it is not probable that importations from outside sources will materially affect prices in Canada or in any of the markets available to Canadians. While the prospects at present are for a steady rise in prices until they reach a prohibitive figure, the farmer must take into consideration the keeping qualities of his stock and the usual uncertainties of the market in choosing between a relatively high price and holding for a possibly higher price later on.

## LIBERAL "CANNONADING"

Lucien Cannon, of Dorchester notoriety, is not alone among Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Quebec lieutenants in thinking that we have "done enough for England." Roch Lanctot, of Laprairie, one of the leading Quebec Liberals, and a follower of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in Parliament since 1904, is strongly of the same opinion. We take the following words of Mr. Lanctot from Hansard, page 552 and 553, being a speech delivered in the House of Commons on February 6th:

"I wish to register my protest against the ruinous methods employed by this Government in connection with the expenditures of the war as far as Canada is concerned. We have been asked in past to contribute several million dollars, which we have done gracefully. We are now facing a new demand for \$500,000,000. This is going too far altogether.

"I am sure England never expected Canada to contribute such a large amount of money for war purposes.

"I furthermore protest against the sending overseas of any more Canadian soldiers. We have at the present time in a round figure probably 325,000 men overseas. This number I consider to be quite sufficient. Let us devote our energy now to useful work at home.

"It seems to me that when Canada sent overseas 50,000 or 75,000 or even 100,000 soldiers at \$1.00 per day we should have stopped at that."

When Lucien Cannon asked: "Are we going to bankrupt our country for England?" and thundered "No!" English-speaking Liberals declared that the words were never spoken, and a statement of denial, inspired from Ottawa, was hastily issued to the press. Fortunately for truth in this case, Mr. Lanctot's disloyalty was expressed in the presence of the House of Commons and the Press Gallery, and his words are embalmed within the pages of Hansard. Half a million Britons sleep in nameless Belgian graves in order that the lights of liberty might not go out. And yet this disciple of Laurier in Quebec asks, if we are going to bankrupt ourselves for England, and, with Lucien Cannon, answers "No!" Challenged in Parliament to repudiate the anti-British sentiments of Lucien Cannon, Sir Wilfrid Laurier took refuge behind the quibble that Cannon had himself repudiated what he was reported to have said. There can be no such quibbling escape from responsibility for the disloyalty of his friend and follower, Lanctot. His words were uttered in Sir Wilfrid's presence, on the floor of Parliament, and they appear in the pages of Hansard. Sir Wilfrid Laurier owes it to Canada, to himself and to the party of which he is leader to tell the country whether he endorses or repudiates such undisguised disloyalty to the Empire's cause. Until such repudiation is uttered in straightforward unequivocal terms, the people of Canada will have a right to believe that Sir Wilfrid's own professions of patriotism are a mockery and a sham.

## TOO MODEST

It is quite possible that we British Canadians are too undemonstrative, that we are too matter-of-fact. We have been nearly three years engaged in a war such as the world had never dreamed of, a war on the result of which the fate of civilization hangs; we have, beginning with an army of a few hundred thousand unequipped and unprepared, held at bay and beaten back an army of millions, fully prepared and equipped, and, before the war began, admittedly the greatest fighting machine the world had ever seen—And we have said almost nothing about it. Millions of untrained men have come silently from the four corners of the earth, have been transformed into armies on the plains of England, have been served with munitions and equipments from thousands of factories working day and night, have been sent across the channel in one continuous stream into the trenches against the teeth of the supposedly invincible Ger-

man machine—and have broken it. And we have barely mentioned the fact in our newspapers; certainly we have not boasted about it, and we have carried on our ordinary civilian business as usual. Our navy has driven the German and Austrian warships off the sea; has swept all enemy commerce off the sea, and the commerce of all nations has flowed backward and forward across the world's oceans, practically unmolested and unharmed. True a defenceless ship, caught alone in the dark, has occasionally met with disaster at the hands of our pirate enemies as some citizens in the best governed cities in the world occasionally become the victims of sneak thieves or murderers. But, taken all in all, the world's oceans are today practically as efficiently policed and as safe to travel over as are the streets of our best cities. When our piratical enemies a few days ago openly essayed a policy of ruthless destruction of the sea, Great Britain quietly stretched out her arms making a funnel-shaped lane, lined on both sides with armed ships, out into the Atlantic through which the world's commerce may come and go as safely as if there were no pirates. And we never heard of this until it was told by the officers and passengers of ships that had come through the lane!

Truly we are not given to boasting, or we would have "blown ourselves" over these miracles that our army and our navy have performed in these three eventful years. We have gone on quietly "sawing wood," stopping occasionally to sharpen the saw or to substitute a new one, but the sawing goes on continuously, relentlessly, remorselessly and, eventually, we shall get through the pile, knotty and difficult as it may be, and then we shall take up our ordinary work around the farm and the factory, in the mines and on the seas.

Our neighbors to the South are not so phlegmatic. A few days ago their relations with Germany, long strained, suddenly snapped and the shadow of a probable war fell across the land. Our friends immediately whisked out their saw, flourished it vigorously, and told in minute detail what they were going to do with it. The photograph of every officer who would take command of any arm of the service in case of war was published in the leading papers and all the noises incident to war and everything except war itself was immediately in the air. If they get into the fray we may depend upon it that neither the official censor nor their own undemonstrativeness will restrain their optimism or their pride in the undoubted greatness of their nation.

Considering what we have accomplished and the absolute certainty of our being able to finish the job, we should take a leaf out of the American book and do a little occasional shouting on our own account. We have much to shout for, much to be thankful for, much to be proud of and it might intensify our pride in the great, silent Empire of which we are a part and even stiffen up our loyalty to the meteor flag, if we occasionally laid aside our modesty and hurraed.

## LIBERAL SCORES CANNON

An Ottawa correspondent indicates that the dissensions in the Liberal party is likely to result in the early retirement of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. He is credited with having informed the recent Liberal caucus that it was impossible for the party to win an election with a French leader. Subsequently, we are told, Sir Wilfrid was visited by Mr. Rowell, the Liberal leader of Ontario, and Sir Lomer Gouin of Quebec, and the Montreal Gazette states that these visits were in connection with the Liberal leadership. Will Quebec tolerate Ontario leadership? That is the question that is bothering the Liberal headquarters staff and Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

To show the extreme divergence in the party camp, it is rumored that one of the prime reasons leading to the Editor of the Toronto Globe offering his services as special correspondent at the front was his profound dissatisfaction with Sir Wilfrid Laurier's recent leadership. Then Dr. Michael Clark, the redoubtable leader of the advanced sections of the Western Liberals, has again entered a vigorous protest against the selling of our British birthright for a Bourassa mess of pottage. In a memorable speech last session, it will be remembered, he severely castigated the Liberal critics of the Government. This session he has been silent in the House, but before the Canadian Club at Toronto the other day he opened the flood gates of his scorn at the Cannons and Lanctots of the party to which he had the honour to belong. He said:

"Canada has done well. Some people think that she has shown some little signs of faltering. I do not believe that there is faltering. It is true we heard an echo lately, which was only an echo, and died away, as such things deservedly do.

"The question was asked somewhere—and I am sorry that such a question should have been asked: 'Are we going to bankrupt ourselves for England?' I know I am on dangerous ground, but I can't help it. I have a habit of saying what I think. That question did not arouse so much indignation in my mind as pity—that any young Canadian should have so failed to grasp the magnitude of the issue, and pity in the second place that any young Canadian should have gone over the history of the British in this war and her history of other days and fail to realize that Britain is going near the verge of bankruptcy for the world's freedom."

Let us bear in mind that Dr. Clark was thus branding the man whom his leader addressed as "My Dear Lucien" and to whom he gave his blessing and the endorsement of his campaign. But he did not confine himself to the defeated of Dorchester; the doctory doctor proceeded to castigate the MacDonalds, the Hughes, the Turiffs, and the Carvells, whose stock-in-trade is faultfinding and mares-nests, in the following terms:

"There are grouchers and grumblers—yes, and there are profiteers and political partisans, and I would send the whole four groups to somewhere where they weren't so likely to be run over by steam engines as they would be were they at the mercy of Canadians such as are represented here."

There is no doubting the ring of Dr. Clark's patriotism. He has no use for Sir Wilfrid's leadership when it comes to a question of Canada and the Empire; he is still a Liberal in his viewpoint, but he prefers country to party, and scorns the use of Sir Wilfrid's "bloody key," to obtain a transitory advantage even in Quebec.

## ROADMASTERS' FUND

Sir,—I saw a letter from Allan Robertson saying he had read my letter criticising the Roadmasters in regard to the Patriotic Fund. It cannot be said that I was criticising the Roadmasters; all I did was to commend the Fund to their attention, and point out the happy position they were in, compared with many in the city who were giving generously, according to their means.

We find patriotic meetings being held all over the province, and special trains being chartered with men and women, sacrificing their time, and probably their health, to plead for recruits for the army and navy, and also at every meeting, pleading for financial recruits for the Patriotic Fund, pointing out that without such financial assistance, recruiting would be of little avail.

At the organization meeting—the canvassers are appointed to canvass every district for the whirlwind campaign. Envelopes have been left at nearly every home, and men and women are going around begging and pleading for assistance, not only to the Patriotic Fund, but to the various other funds as well.

Mr. Robertson says that the Roadmasters may be contributing along with the other in this general collection. Well, let that be so; but would it not be little enough trouble for the Roadmasters who do so to mark on the envelope that their contribution is for the Roadmasters' Fund? Then we would know who has, and who has not, done his duty in this respect. All we do know is that the vast majority of the Roadmasters are not on the list, and we cannot come to any other conclusion but that they have not done their part. "By their fruits ye shall know them."

Mr. Robertson seems to take exception to me, a farmer, pleading with other farmers and Roadmasters to support the Patriotic Fund. Now, how are such funds to be raised except by appeals through the newspapers? Let Mr. Robertson, or any other man, attempt to organize this, or any other fund, and let him merely advertise where his office is at which to receive the names and subscriptions of parties interested; let him sit in his office without pleading and asking, only hoping and trusting, and then let us know the result of his efforts.

You have to make an appeal, and not one, but many, to bring about

## DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

"IT'S A PRETTY GOOD WORLD."

There is trouble and grieving wherever we go. There is always the trace of the tear; We cannot escape from the presence of woe. Vice ever is hovering near. For each who remains on his feet through the strife.

A hundred may stumble and fall; There are few who command in the battle of life. But— Its a pretty good world after all.

For each who may taste of the honey of fame Ten thousand must labour unknown; The profits that many should rightfully claim.

A few carry off as their own From over the seas comes the wailing of those That to greed and oppression are thrall; The nations still war, and the races are foes.

It's a pretty good world, after all. But yesterday one who had riches was kind Where a toiler had swooned at his task. And year after year we are leaving behind.

The errors our teachers unmask. Each tomorrow ends evils of every today; We still have the great and the small. But the distance between them is dwindling away.

And— It's a pretty good world after all. either spiritual or financial results. It is pleading, pleading, pleading that brings conviction and conversion to the necessity for giving. If it were not for the press two-thirds of the people in this province would not

(Continued on page five.)

## ALL ABOUT THE MILITIA

SIR THOMAS WHITE, MINISTER OF FINANCE TELLS AN INTERESTING STORY ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MILITIA DEPARTMENT UNDER SIR SAM HUGHES.

VI.

This afternoon the ex-Minister of Militia made a statement, which I am sorry to say reflected upon myself, with respect to Mr. T. A. Russell's connection with the purchase of motor transport. The ex-Minister of Militia stated that Mr. T. A. Russell had been recommended to him by me for the purpose of purchasing the motor transport. This statement is absolutely incorrect. I did not recommend Mr. Russell to the ex-Minister of Militia for the purpose of purchasing the transport for the First Division. If the ex-Minister of Militia had asked me whether I would recommend Mr. T. A. Russell for the position, I would have said without any hesitation that I would, because I believe him to be a thoroughly honorable and capable man. But, as a matter of fact, I did not recommend him. As I understood it, Mr. Russell came to Ottawa to try to get an order for the Russell Motor Company, of which he was the managing director. The minister desired the transport quickly for the First Contingent, and he said to Mr. Russell: I want you to buy the motor transport; you have three weeks in which to do it; and, as I understand it, Mr. Russell did the work in three weeks. Unless I am mistaken, that was the evidence given before the Public Accounts Committee. Sir SAM HUGHES: By whom? Sir THOMAS WHITE: By Mr. Russell. Sir SAM HUGHES: Will the honorable gentleman allow me to make a correction? I had several names before me, and I remember I took the matter up in the presence of the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister. I knew that Russell had been recommended. A number of the heads of the departments had been looking for men, and I stated that Russell had been recommended. The Minister of Finance said, "An Al man," or words to that effect, and the Prime Minister also said he was a very good man. Sir THOMAS WHITE: I only wish to say that the memory of the ex-Minister of Militia is not clear. If he had asked whether I would recommend Mr. Russell, I would not recommend him. I would not recommend him. I was asked if I would recommend him, I would say without hesitation that he is as good a man as we could get, a capable man, an honorable man. I stand by that. The reflection that has been made upon me is that for some reason of interest to myself I recommended Mr. Russell, and that Mr. Russell's company made a profit upon the purchase of the transport. I repeat that I did not recommend Mr. Russell, and I did not know of Mr. Russell's appointment until after it had been made. But after he was appointed, I decidedly said that Mr. Russell was a good man. If the matter were left there, if there was no other evidence upon this point, the position would be that the ex-Minister of Militia says the Minister of Finance recommended Mr. Russell. Mr. Russell, according to his statement, made a profit for the Russell Motor Company, and the Minister of Finance was a friend of Mr. Russell. It was stated further that the Minister of Finance had some transactions with Mr. Russell in connection with the Cycle Motor Company. I decide to say that I never had a business transaction with Mr. Russell in my life, not to the extent of one copper. Sir SAM HUGHES: Were you not connected with the Canada Cycle Motor Company? (To be continued.)

# Sun Life of Canada Sets New Records

RESULTS secured during the year 1916 re-affirm the position of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada as the leading life assurance organization in the Dominion. Once more it leads the field among Canadian Companies in each of the following respects:

- Largest New Business.
- Largest Business in Force.
- Largest Assets.
- Largest Surplus Earnings.
- Largest Net Surplus.
- Largest Income.
- Largest Distribution of Life Assurance Benefits.

## THE YEAR'S RESULTS

The following large and uniform increases registered during the year 1916 clearly demonstrate the strength of the Company's position and the confidence and prestige it enjoys in the public mind:

	1916	1915	INCREASE
Assets as at December 31st.	\$ 82,948,996	\$74,326,423	\$8,622,573 (11.6%)
Cash Income	18,499,131	15,972,672	2,526,459 (15.8%)
Surplus paid or allotted to Policyholders.	1,110,900	985,487	125,413 (12.7%)
Net Surplus as at December 31st.	8,509,865	7,545,591	964,274 (12.8%)
Total Payments to Policyholders.	7,578,016	7,129,479	448,537 (6.3%)
Assurances Issued and Paid for in Cash.	42,772,296	34,873,851	7,898,445 (22.6%)
Assurances in Force	281,434,700	257,404,160	24,030,540 (9.3%)

Coincident with the above increases, the Company succeeded during the year in effecting a substantial and important reduction in the ratio of expense, a feature which favourably affects earnings on policyholders' account.

## The Company's Growth

YEAR	INCOME	ASSETS	LIFE ASSURANCES IN FORCE
1872	\$ 48,210.73	96,461.95	1,064,350.00
1886	373,500.31	1,573,027.10	9,413,358.07
1896	1,886,258.00	6,388,144.66	38,196,890.92
1906	6,212,615.02	24,292,692.65	102,566,398.10
1916	18,499,131.62	82,948,996.06	281,434,699.94

# SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA

1871

HEAD OFFICE MONTREAL

1917

T. B. MACAULAY, President.

A. J. IRVING, Manager

Prince Edward Island Division, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

## BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS IRISH AFFAIRS.

LONDON, Feb. 14—The Government agreed today to set aside a day for discussion in the House of Commons of the Irish administration, as requested by the Nationalists. John Redmond, the Nationalist leader, asked the Government last week to arrange for an early discussion of a motion to the effect that it was essential, without further delay, to confer on Ireland the free institutions long promised her.

## Attention

We are Now doing business on the Cash System and would ask a prompt settlement of all accounts due us

# GOFF BROS