

THE Charlottetown Guardian

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MONDAY, MAY 10, 1915.

A KETTLE OF FISH

The Liberal Politicians in Queen's have at last shown their hand. At a meeting in the Kindergarten Hall they adopted lengthy resolutions setting forth the platform on which they are prepared to go to the country at the election they are praying may be postponed indefinitely.

Notwithstanding all these denunciations because of the war, the Government is also denounced should it plunge the country into an election "at a time when all our people should be united and working in harmony to maintain the supremacy of the Empire, the freedom, and the universal welfare of mankind."

A nice kettle of fish altogether! The Government in the opinion of the Liberal organizers is too bad to be trusted to carry on the ordinary Government during the war, but in the opinion of the same organizers, it would be a criminal Government if it gave the country a chance to turn it out and send it about its business.

The Liberal party organizers cannot have it both ways, and need not delude themselves that their sail trimming will impress the people with anything but their insincerity.

For Provincial Policy, the Liberal party organizers are even worse off for platform. Of course they denounce the Government for not fulfilling its pre-election promises but wisely refrain from going into details. Not one of the promises made by the Liberal Conservatives while in Opposition remains unfulfilled. Then notwithstanding that nearly every automobile owner on the Island are Liberals, the Liberal party organizers come out against the Auto. This is merely a catchpenny dodge, of course. Under the Automobile Law, it is entirely within the power of the people of each district to say whether or not they shall have the auto—the greatest democratic principle that could be applied. But the Liberal organizers have no respect for principles when they think votes may be snatched. They will find their mistake on election day—which they naturally pray in their resolution may long be delayed.

The Liberal organizers of course denounce the Government for its stringent Prohibition and Temperance policy: that was to be expected, as another catchpenny dodge, but it will neither deceive the Temperance Alliance nor the bulk of Temperance people behind the Prohibition Law—the people who count and who have no desire that this great principle should be made a political football.

The rest of the platform consists of denunciations: because of two annual surpluses in succession, because this was done without increase of taxation, and because "the Government has failed to merit and hold the confidence of the people."—forsooth!

We hope the people of this Province like the attractive platform the Liberal organizers have to offer them. We know that no sane Liberal would sacrifice the substance of the present Government for the shadow of the Opposition—however alluringly it may be displayed in the full periods of glowing rhetoric so beloved of the Liberal party's sole remaining and only orator.

A ROUSING SEND-OFF

Recently there have been several successful functions in connection with the departure of Island contingents for Halifax. Amherst and elsewhere, and perhaps not the least successful was that held in the Armouries on Saturday night. It was held under the auspices of the Daughters of the Empire, whose beautiful flag, presented to them by the late Mrs. D. A. McKinnon, was unfurled behind the chairman's table.

The excellent programme and the encouraging speeches, apart altogether from the splendid catering for which the ladies of Charlottetown are famous, made the gathering a memorable one, both to the boys who are going to the front and those privileged to be present.

The Rev. Dr. Fullerton, or Major Fullerton, as he may more appropriately be designated on such an occasion, was the life and soul of the gathering. He presided, as he has done on each occasion, and if the truth were told, was probably the inspirer of all these entertainments. What the Militia owes to the enthusiasm and interest evinced by Dr. Fullerton, most of us here are fully aware. Especially may this be said of the officers, who look to the chaplain of the 82nd for advice and assistance in time of trouble, and this is very frequent when recruiting is on foot. Dr. Fullerton strongly urged that steps should be taken to make Charlottetown a centre for training as well as recruiting, expressing his confident belief that were sufficient encouragement given along these lines there would not be very great difficulty in raising, probably, a double company to represent Prince Edward Island as a unit. As there is no better authority on the subject than Dr. Fullerton, we hope the Powers that Be will act upon his suggestion, which has the approval of all those interested in recruiting in the province.

AN IMPERIAL MYSTERY

American love for Great Britain and for British institutions has never been particularly demonstrative, but occasionally the admiration of our cousins is elicited and very forcibly expressed. The following, copied from the Outlook of May 5, as a genuine and pleasing tribute, is worth preserving:—

For years past it has been the habit of many foreigners and not a few Englishmen to talk about the decline of English power, the slow subsidence of a national energy which has been one of the great forces for civilization in every quarter of the globe; and so late as July last civil war seemed to many to threaten the stability of the Empire. Today that Empire is a "far-flung battle line" that

circles the globe. Great Britain has often been short-sighted and selfish in her foreign policies, illogical and haphazard in her home legislation; her national manner has often been arrogant, and her attitude toward other nations ungenerous and unsympathetic.

But she has been a leader in the fight for democracy. Wherever she has gone she has opened doors instead of closing them, she has shouldered great responsibilities, and has shown herself capable of dealing justly with great populations subject to her rule. Above all, she has learned from her mistakes and has responded to the growing urgency of the moral sentiment of her people. Faulty, illogical, politically loose jointed, she has been and is a great force for human betterment in the world.

We have seen no more forcible statement of the mechanical weakness and inward power of the British nation than the following editorial some time ago in the St. Louis "Republic;" by the courtesy of its editor we reprint it here as a real contribution to the literature which interprets present conditions in England as related to Europe:

"Whenever Germany and France, with their highly centralized and logically wrought out government," have contemplated the fabric known as the British Empire, they have smiled smiles of disdain.

"If ever there was an instance of 'muddling along' through decades and even centuries, taking things for granted, avoiding issues, extemporizing expedients, and working always for the object immediately in view, with scant reference to any principle of outward consistency, it is supplied by the history of the making of the British Empire. This is a strange gathering together of Crown colonies, dominions, protectorates, a commonwealth, dependencies—and India. India is directly ruled by the Crown. Jersey, Guernsey, and the Isle of Man are governed under their own laws but certain officials are appointed by the Crown. Canada and Australia are both self-governing, but the Senators in Canada are appointed by the Governor-General, while those of Australia are elected. There is a Secretary of State for India in the King's Cabinet. And all gradations of self-government may be found in the more than ninety units of the British Empire.

"This fearful and wonderful fabric has no central body. There is no Bundesrath or Imperial Council. No collective action of its units is possible. The relation to them of the mother country is illogical, ill defined. To the foreigner, accustomed to the federation of the American States or of the units of the German Empire, the government looks planless and ineffective.

"All of which is preliminary to the observation that there is not at the present moment any more effective institution in the whole world of political fabric than the British Empire. Whatever its machinery lacks appears to be supplied by its spirit. The defects of its body are made up for by the unity of its soul.

"The facts cannot be gainsaid that England, which does not begin to be as logical as Germany or as systematic as France in matters of government, has nevertheless the knack of making men step out of their own free will to die in her defense. She has the gift of giving alive, across tumbling seas, round half a world, the undying bond that unites the heart to home. She has shown herself indifferent to the possession of the taxing power over her colonies; but what matters it? Those colonies willingly tax themselves to send war-ships and their sons seize their rifles in time of strife to go to her aid. She has the wisdom so to train and guide the warthy children of alien races, and even the foes of yesterday, that they put their living bodies between England and England's enemies.

"As we contemplate this wonder of an Empire which is an empire of the spirit, an Empire whose philosophy of politics is all wrong, but for which the costliest things within the gift of man are poured out without stint, we are moved to wonder whether this is a prophecy of the future.

"We do not want to seem to degrade a high theme; but English plum pudding holds the key to the mystery.

"English plum pudding never saw the day when it was worth the eating. It is soggy; it is greasy; it is flavorless; it tastes like the roller composition, compact of glue and molasses, which every country printer knows. It is unworthy of the good fruit spoiled in its making and the good spirit burned beneath it when it is brought to the Christmas table. It will not compare with the dark suet pudding of Missouri. Yet English plum pudding is eaten on Christmas not only from Land's End to John O'Groats's House, but in Manitoba, in Khartum, on the sides of the Himalayas, under the orange groves of New Zealand, where December is June, and in the blistering humidity of the Straits Settlements. Why? We cannot tell. But eaten it is. And English hearts, from London to Melbourne and back again, answer to the strain of "God rest you, merry gentlemen," and English eyes grow dim with happy tears.

"The British Empire is unscientific. It is unreasonable. But it is mighty, with the greatness of the soul."

AN AMERICAN'S VIEW

An American, Mr. Roy W. Howard, President of the United Press, who recently returned from a three months' tour in Europe, gives some wholesome advice to his fellow country men with reference to their incessant peacemaking.

"The impression is general in both France and England," he says, "that a considerable force is meddling in this country in the direction of early peace. Such a movement is regarded as an impertinence. In purely military circles it is construed as pro-German. To say that it is resented is putting it mildly. Peace in the future, on any basis likely to be acceptable to Germany, is unthinkable in France or England. Neither country feels that it has yet suggested what it can do in a military way under the test."

During the tour Mr. Howard visited the front and the foremost trenches of both the German and the Allied armies and was given exceptional opportunity for first hand observation of conditions existing at the opening of the spring campaign.

"Belligerent and neutral in Europe have readjusted their life—national, commercial and social—on the basis of an indefinite war," he says: "They have eliminated every consideration contingent upon early peace. With this point of view, Europe—especially France and England—is dumbfounded at Americans' insistent peace talk, and her reluctance to accept the situation as it exists and readjust business accordingly."

As to the duration of the war Mr. Howard is of the opinion that it may last from two to five years and says that this is the general opinion among Europeans.

The war has developed something new in history—the siege of a nation—and, according to Mr. Howard, has resolved itself into an endurance contest. As to the strength of the defences in this siege he says:

"Millions of men working for months along the western line have evolved defences on both sides, the strength of which is almost inconceivable. Behind hundreds of miles of fighting line now occupied by each army, and consisting of a front trench, a secondary trench and a reserve trench, the whole connected by a communicating trench, lie a series of even more complete lines of defence, each consisting of some three major lines, interlaced by communicating trenches and each with its miles of barbed wire entanglements in place. Intervals of from six to fifteen miles separate these reserve lines. The net result is that even a successful smashing of an enemy's fighting line and a breaking through at any one point only means that the defeated force falls back a few miles to take up a new position in a stronger trench already waiting.

PRICE OF EGGS

Charlottetown, May 7, 1915. Sir—Will you allow me a little space in your paper to make one point clear in reference to your market quotations for eggs, as some of our farmers do not appear to clearly understand the quotations given.

In your issue of May 7th you state that sales of round lots of straight gathered stock were made at 25c. while stamped selected stock sold at 25c. in Toronto. Now, these are the prices at which the wholesalers sell to the retailers, as it is quite impossible to get 25c. for selected stamped eggs, wholesale or in large lots, and the wholesalers have only been able to obtain this price after carefully selecting the good sized, perfectly clean, full new-laid eggs, with which they are supplying the retailers.

Montreal wholesale quotations for this week have been 15c. to country shippers and from Prince Edward Island to Montreal, if sent by freight, it will cost about 11c. to 11 1/2c. per dozen to send the eggs. I am Sir &c.

T. A. BENSON, Dominion Poultry Representative

NO WARNING TO GULF LIGHT SAYS SURVIVORS

PLYMOUTH, Eng., May 4—The steamer Lyonesse last night brought from the Scilly Islands to Penzance thirty-three members of the crew and the body of Captain Alfred Gunther, of the American steamer Gulf Light, which was torpedoed off the Scilly Islands last Saturday.

The chief officer and chief engineer remain with the vessel, which is anchored in Crow Sound, to look after the interests of the steamer's owners. In an interview at Penzance, Second Officer Paul Bower, of the Gulf Light, whose home is in Chicago, said: "When the Gulf Light left Port Arthur we were followed by a warship of some description, which kept out of sight, but in touch by wireless and warned us not to disclose our position to anyone. At noon on Saturday we were 25 miles west of Scilly. The weather was hazy, but not thick. About two and a half miles ahead I saw a submarine. I was on watch and notified the captain and chief officer who also saw the submarine. It remained on the surface for about three minutes and then disappeared.

Tremendous Shock.

"Twenty-five minutes later we were struck by a torpedo on the starboard side, and there was a tremendous shock. The submarine had not risen to the surface before discharging the torpedo. Previous to this we had been met by two patrol boats which accompanied us on either side. The boat on our starboard side was so badly shaken by the explosion that her crew imagined she had also been torpedoed.

"We immediately lowered the boats and left our ship, and were quickly taken on board the patrol boats. But the fog increased and we drifted about all night, and did not land at Scilly until 10.30 o'clock Sunday morning.

"At midnight of Saturday, while still on board the patrol boat, Captain Gunther summoned me. I found him in bed and he said he wanted someone to roll a cigarette for him. He then threw up his arms and fainted. From then until the time of his death, which occurred about 3.30 Sunday morning, he remained unconscious. Captain Gunther's speech was thick and indistinct, but we could distinguish that he wished someone to take care of his wife. The crew had always regarded Captain Gunther as a healthy man, and had never heard him complain."

Tumbling to Pieces.

Second Assistant Engineer Christie of the Gulf Light, said: "I was on watch in the engine room when we were torpedoed and so terrible was the blow that the Gulf Light seemed to be tumbling to pieces. She appeared to be lifted high in the air and then to descend rapidly. I told the boys to 'beat it' as quickly as possible and shut the engines down. "Reaching the deck, I found them launching both lifeboats. We got safely into them, with the exception of Wireless Operator Short, of Chicago, and a Spanish seaman, who had dived overboard when they felt the shock, and were drowned."

All the members of the crew of the

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR READERS OF THE GUARDIAN

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

THE BLUEBIRDS SONG.

I know the song that the bluebird is singing. Out in the apple tree where he is swinging. Brave little fellow! the skies may be dreary— Nothing cares he while his heart is so cheery. Hark! how the music leaps out from his throat! Hark! was there ever so merry a note? Listen awhile, and you'll hear what he's saying. Up in the apple tree swinging and swaying: "Dear little blossoms down under the snow, You must be weary of winter, I know. Listen, I'll sing you a message of cheer! Summer is coming, and springtime is here! "Little white snowdrop! I pray you arise; Bright yellow crocus! please open your eyes; Sweet little violets, hid from the cold, Put on your mantles of purple and gold; Daffodils! Daffodils! say, do you hear? Summer is coming, and springtime is here!"

—SELECTED.

Gulf Light spoke enthusiastically of the crew of the patrol boat Lago, who, they say, did everything possible for them.

LONDON, May 4.—A despatch to Lloyds from Scilly says the American steamer Gulf Light, which is anchored in Crow Sound, has no list, but is down by the bows, so that forward the freeboard is not more than two feet. The forehold is full of water and the propeller blades are eighteen inches above the water.

Apparently the torpedo struck forward, about the bluff of the bow, a foot below the load waterline. The cargo apparently has not been damaged.

Washington's Views.

WASHINGTON, May 4.—Pending an official investigation of circumstances of the wrecking of the American steamer Gulf Light in the English Channel, the United States will defer diplomatic representations as well as any pronouncement of policy. Secretary Bryan announced that he did not wish to make any predictions as to the source of the American Government's policy until all the facts were in its possession. Officials were careful not to take for granted the truth of reports that a German torpedo struck the Gulf Light. Until there is definite proof, no statement bearing on the delicate point of responsibility was deemed expedient.

May Demand Indemnity.

Should the investigation hear out the despatches claiming that a German submarine made the attack, the United States probably will demand an indemnity sufficient to cover the losses incurred by the ship and compensation to the families of the victims. It is thought probable that an expression of formal regret will also be requested. While the question of the right of submarines to attack belligerent merchantmen without giving warning or time for non-combatants to be transferred to places of safety is covered in the declaration of London, any diplomatic action of the United States very likely will be based on the treaty of 1828 between Prussia and the United States. Early in the war the United States served notice on Germany and other belligerents that in view of the piecemeal adoption of the declaration of London by the belligerents, the Washington Government would not be bound by the declaration, but previous existing treaties and rules of international law.

Already the German Government has taken cognizance of the treaty of 1828 as binding in the present day, agreeing to pay for the loss of the American ship Frye under that treaty rather than under the declaration of London.

Violation of Treaty of 1828.

If the attack on the Gulf Light was made by a German submarine, with or without warning, officials hold that Germany is in the position of having violated the following article of the treaty of 1828: "To prevent entirely all disorder and violence, it is stipulated that, when vessels of the neutral party, sailing without convoy, shall be met by any vessels of war, public or private, of the other party, such vessel of war shall not send more than two or three men in their boat on board the said neutral vessel to examine her passports and documents; and all persons belonging to any vessel of war, public or private, who shall molest or insult in any manner whatever, the people, vessels or effects of the neutral party, shall be responsible in their persons and property for damages and interest, sufficient security for which shall be required before they are commissioned."

JAPANESE WORD PICTURES.

Let one should imagine that it is we Germans only who are the discoverers of the miserable huckster spirit that forms the leading feature in the English character, we will now show the world that the Japanese people, as far back as the period of their first contact with European States, thought of their present ally.

A sign was then invented to convey the idea of England, which was expressed in the syllables "J-g-i-i." Of these word-signs, the first signifies "excellent," the second means "fortune" or "profit," and the third stands for "advantage."

England thus became the "excellent land of profit and advantage," and thus we find England's sordid and huckstering character thoroughly recognized in the Far East more than a hundred years ago.

Even the shameful action on England's part of cutting off our wheat supply might be prognosticated by those word-signs, for the sign "J-i" standing for "advantage," is made up of the two word-pictures for "wheat" and "knife."

The sign for Russia, "Ro-sy-a," signifies "the stupid land of the West." Germany is represented by the signs "do" and "itsu," which mean "alone excellent" or "alone conqueror."

We find, therefore, that the old philosopher who selected these word-pictures had already foreseen the isolation of Germany, her inward strength, her invincibility, and her ultimate victory.—Cologne Gazette.

THE KAISER'S HATE.

(Hamilton "Herald.") In bestowing an Imperial decoration

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upon Ernest Lissauer, the author of the "Hymn of Hate" against England, the Kaiser has done a significant thing. Herr Lissauer is the only German man of letters who has been honored by the Kaiser since the war. Probably every literary man in Germany has written about the war and has upheld the German cause, but the

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