

# The Charlottetown Guardian

Morning Daily (founded 1891), \$3.50 per year, (Delivered) in advance; \$2.50 per year (mailed) in advance, in Canada, and \$3.00 for U.S.A.

MONDAY MARCH 25th, 1918

Friday, March 29th, being Good Friday, and a Statutory Holiday, the Morning Guardian will not be issued on Saturday. The Evening Guardian will not be published on Friday but will be published as usual on Saturday. Advertisers please note these changes.

## OPENING OF LEGISLATURE

The third session of the thirty-eighth general assembly of this province will open tomorrow afternoon with the usual military demonstration. This will be the fourth session of our provincial legislature held under the shadow of the war and, doubtless, as at the opening of the federal parliament, the war and measures connected with the war will form a considerable part of the deliberations. Doubtless also the fact that we are at war after four years of costly fighting, costly in blood and in material, and that the end is not even in sight, will have a modifying effect upon the debates as well as upon the measures to be introduced. The session will be a real war session, or ought to be, with the emphasis upon the real war, not upon any local partisan warfare put up for partisan purposes. News from the front during the past few days, news to be continued for days to come, will we hope modify all the proceedings and bring them into harmony with the general mind of our people which at present is far otherwise concerned than with long winded and irrelevant speeches. At this session first things will, we have no doubt, be given first place.

The speech from the throne may be expected, after fitting reference to the war, has been made, to congratulate the province on the splendid success that has attended the first winter's work by the ferry on its regular route. Towards this experiment the eyes of the province and of our neighbors have been anxiously turned for a considerable time and now, at the close of one of the severest winters in our history, the experiment stands a tested and proved success. The standardization of our railway, to make the connection complete, will no doubt form a theme for many references in the "speeches to be" and the necessity of all possible haste in this direction may well be urged by our legislators while by all reasonable men the exigencies of war and the more urgent needs will be recognized.

Other occurrences of the somewhat extraordinary year that has passed will also supply food both for reflection and for congratulation. The building of a convalescent home for returned soldiers and the consequent abandonment of Government House; the enlargement and refitting of the Dalton Sanatorium; the necessity of increased food production and conservation; the Military Service Act and its enforcement; these and many kindred subjects more or less directly associated with the war will afford abundant material for serious, earnest, helpful discussion and—we trust—for mutual agreement for the general good.

A subject which, in common with many others, we hope to see aired and acted upon is that of the utilization of peat for fuel. As already frequently referred to in The Guardian, our Island peat has been tested and proved to be a most excellent fuel. We have millions of tons of this fuel lying unused in the province. Steps should be taken to make it available to our people in view of the great scarcity and high cost of coal. No doubt the subject will receive attention.

The temporary withdrawal of government grants to exhibitors will no doubt also receive an airing and we feel assured that the growing need of economy and the certainty of increased taxation in the near future to meet the war expenditures will enable our legislators to view this retrenchment in the proper light.

The session is somewhat later than usual and with an early Spring in sight we have no doubt that the deliberations will be as much as possible confined to strictly necessary legislation in order that adjournment may be reached in time for planting and other necessary spring work.

## RE-EDUCATION

We hear much these days of the re-education of returned and wounded soldiers in order to enable them to take up work by which they can earn an honest and independent living. Many of these had, previous to enlistment, been trained or edu-

ated for some particular calling, but through the war's havoc, the loss of a limb, of hearing or eyesight, made pursuit of the former calling impossible. Re-education means the taking up of another thread in life's complex web and weaving in a new way the fabric of self-maintenance. The wonderful success that has attended the system adopted is almost incredible. We have before us the last report issued by the "Invalided Soldiers' Commission," formerly known as the Military Hospitals' Commission, telling of what has been done and is being done to restore broken soldiers to their former independence and usefulness. The story is too long even to summarize within the compass of an editorial but the point of it is that thousands of soldiers maimed in the war are being so trained that a very large percentage of them, notwithstanding injuries which would otherwise unfit them for earning a living, will be practically as well off, as far as earning power is concerned, as they were before and many of them even better off. The loss of a leg or an arm or even the loss of eyesight is not permitted to stand in the way of usefulness and independence. This is the point emphasized by the report referred to.

The point the Guardian wishes to emphasize is that, necessary and praiseworthy and Godlike as is the re-education of the soldiers, much of the benefit both to the soldiers and to the country will be lost unless the public are also re-educated to fit them for the new conditions created by the re-absorption of the re-educated soldiers into the civil life of the country.

In a book entitled "Re-education" the author, George Edward Barton says: "There is no economy in using a whole man for work that a part of a man can do as well. If we train the public, or persuade the uninjured man, that it is hardly respectable to do work that can be done by a cripple, in a short time the well man would feel much as the small boy feels about something that girls can do; that is, he respects the work itself but, taking pride in the fact that he is a boy, he cannot be induced to do it himself. There are plenty of occupations for the crippled, for the blind which, being done by them, will release a stronger worker for some other line of production without interfering with the amount of product."

This is the lesson the general public must learn. The soldier with one arm can do some kinds of work in an office, in a store, on a farm just as well as, and often better than the man with two arms. The trouble is that the employer of labour does not always think so. The soldier who overcomes the handicap of a serious injury, such as the loss of an arm or a leg or his eyesight or hearing, and fits himself for some special kind of work, may be depended upon to do that work as effectively as any man. This, all employers of labour must learn to appreciate and to act upon if the re-educated soldiers are going to get a fair chance and if the country is going to reap any reasonable return for the expense of their re-education.

There is much mischievous talk about getting government jobs for returned soldiers. There are some such jobs and it is true that some of these may be worth accepting but it must be remembered that there are thousands of soldiers and only a very few government jobs. These few are being given to soldiers in preference to civilians, other things being equal but the aim of the soldier as of all other men should be to secure an independent living honestly and efficiently earned.

## SAVE THE CHILD

Many well meaning men and women are today conscientiously and faithfully building walls around the children, their own and others, to shield them from the temptations that lie so thickly along the path of the young. All these are good in their way and, unquestionably, a help. But there is one wall whose protection is sure, that is, the mutual love between parent and child. This love is natural and requires constant cultivation. Neglected or left to the cultivation of others, it wanes and finally dies and neither mother-love nor father-love can shield the child. The boy or girl who goes out into the world wrapped in a parent's love, a love prided in, a love continually and continuously professed and confessed, is safe. The fear of injuring a parent so loved is a shield that will save from many a dart of the enemy.

## NOTES

The uncleaned sidewalks are on their way to the harbour and a few days the odor of gasolene will be abroad in the land. The vacant lot owner will be dusting his last year's hoe and buying garden seeds for the coming increased production. Spring is here.

## GREAT WORK FOR BLINDED SOLDIERS

Braver than a flourish of trumpets are the moving stories that come at intervals from St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors. They tell of the indomitable spirit and cheerfulness of the British soldiers who have lost their eyesight in action, their determination to make the best things, their refusal to be pitied. They are blind, but they are men and many of them are almost gay and make little of an affliction that would seem to most of us the most terrible that a man should be called upon to endure. It is amazing to think that so far there have been only about 600 British soldiers and sailors blinded in the war. So far more than 200 of them have passed through St. Dunstan's, and 300 are still there. The others are to follow. It is hoped that all of these men will become self-supporting, and by none so earnestly as by the men themselves. They will be liberally pensioned, of course. Some of them have private means, but all are being taught an occupation.

### Saved From Despondency

This is being done not for the purpose of relieving the public of the expense of supporting these victims of war. The public does not want to be relieved of the privilege of dealing generously with these men. They are being taught occupations in order that they may themselves feel that they are not to pass the remainder of their lives in soul-destroying idleness because they are happiest when busied. They have not time to brood over their afflictions. Indeed, this is one of the points that the managers of St. Dunstan's keep always in mind. As soon as the blinded soldier is able to be moved from his hospital he is taken at once to St. Dunstan's for the prompt comradeship with other men who have been blinded does not give the last comer time to slip into the slough of despondency which usually engulfs the man who has lost the precious gift of sight. His fighting spirit is roused again as he hears how others in like plight have conquered their affliction. He begins to forget and to think hopefully of the future.

### Occupations for the Blind

About the first thing the inmate of St. Dunstan's is taught is to operate a typewriter, not necessarily as a means of livelihood, but in order that he may keep in touch with his friends by correspondence, it having been found that the handwriting of the blind rapidly deteriorates. He is also taught to read and automatically becomes a life member of the National Library for the Blind. Instruction is given in massage, shorthand, telephone operating, boot repairing, mat making, basket making, joinery, poultry farming and market gardening. It has been found that in all these occupations the blind man can do just as well as the man who has his sight. As far as joinery is concerned the men are not taught to be cabinet makers, of course, but merely how to make such articles as picture frames, tea trays, corner cupboards and the like.

## DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson

### HOW DID YOU DIE?

Did you tackle that trouble that came your way  
With a craven soul and fearful?  
Or hide your face from the light of day  
With a craven soul and fearful  
Oh, a trouble's a ton, or a trouble's an ounce,  
Or a trouble is what you make it,  
And it isn't the fact that you're hurt that counts,  
But only how did you take it?  
You are beaten to earth Well, well, what's why  
Come up with a smiling face,  
It's nothing against you to fall down flat,  
But to lie there—that's disgrace,  
The harder you're thrown, why the higher you'll bounce;  
Be proud of your blackened eye!  
It isn't the fact that you're licked that counts,  
It's how did you fight and why?  
And though you be done to the death, what then?  
If you battled the best you could,  
If you played your part in the world of men,  
Why the Critic will call it good,  
Death comes with a crawl, or death comes with a pounce,  
And whether he's slow or spry,  
It isn't the fact that you're dead that counts,  
But only "How did you die?"  
—Edward Vance Cooke, in "Baptist World."

things that are readily saleable. The telephone operators could not work on a switchboard system which uses flash signals, but on those were drop shutters are installed. In a short time the delicate sense of hearing enables the blind man to tell just which of the apparently identical shutters has fallen.

### Where the Blind Excel

The blind masseur is said to be better than the operator whose sight is normal, this being due probably to his greater sensitiveness of touch. There are many blind soldiers now playing this trade in military hospitals and they are said to be the very best in England. Teaching poultry farming to the blind is a new departure, and has been first attempted on a large scale since the beginning of the war. There was one well known blind poultry expert in England, and it may have been his conspicuous success that suggested the business as one in which the blind might find a pleasant and profitable occupation. In a short time a blind man learns to distinguish by touch all varieties of fowl, to manage incubators, to prepare and truss birds for the table, and generally to conduct a poultry farm. The cobblers are speedily trained to repair shoes, and those who learn this trade are also taught mat making.

### Taught to Play, Too

At St. Dunstan's the magnificent house and estate which was put at the service of the blind soldiers by Mr. Otto Kahn, the American financier, the men are taught not only how to earn a living, but how to amuse themselves. There are frequent concerts, (it is said that every inmate plays some musical instrument, even if it is only a mouth organ), and even dances. Each patient has an individual teacher, and most of these teachers are unpaid volunteers, who are doing their bit by helping the blind. The men row, swim, compete in walking and running races, and have tug-of-war. The whole expense of training and settling the men of St. Dunstan's has been defrayed by the National Relief Fund, and the upkeep expenses are borne by the National Institute for the Blind. There are also many private subscriptions, and more from this source will be required when the work of devising what is called a scheme for after-care for the men settled at their various occupations is put in operation. All desiring to assist in this great work should send their subscriptions to the Secretary St. Dunstan's Regent's Park, London.

### COL. F. McKELVEY BELL PROMOTED

OTTAWA, March 22.—Colonel McKelvey Bell, of Ottawa, who has been the medical officer in charge of the Halifax military district has been appointed chief medical officer of all the military hospitals in Canada. Col. Bell did duty in one of the Canadian hospitals in France early in the war.

## YOUR PROBLEMS SOLVED

BY REV. T.S. LINSOTT, D. D.

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Dr. Linscott in this column will help you solve your heart problems, religious, martial, social, financial and every other anxious care that perplexes you. If a personal answer is required, enclose a five cent stamp. No names will be published; if you prefer, sign your initials only, or use a pseudonym.

MATILDA—You want to know if it is right to desire beauty and cultivate it. Nature answers this question, as its great Author has made all things beautiful in their season. The love of the beautiful is natural and should spiritualize us. Every one should seek to make his personality as pleasing as possible. Woman especially, is endowed with and ought to express beauty. Many women, however, mistake the road to beauty by following the customer and the druggists rather than the laws of health and happiness.

A WRETCHED WIFE—If your husband treats you with indifference and speaks unkindly do not give him "tit for tat" as you say you do. This will make him worse instead of better. You must learn that if "speech is silver, silence is golden." By the grace of God make the meals tempting to him; serve them in a dainty manner; keep the home and yourself attractive; talk to him in a low voice and let your words be kindly spoken; pray much for him and for yourself; have patience, and in time your husband will be all that you desire him to be. It is wrong for you to be a "wretched wife." Be a bright and cheerful wife.



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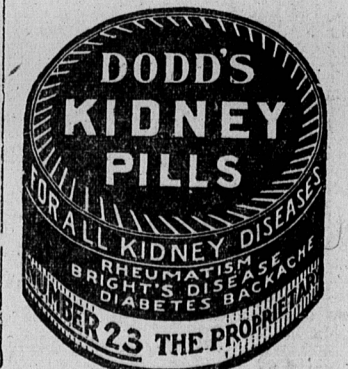
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## To Reduce Consumption of Coal and Electricity

LONDON, March 22.—In the House of Commons today Sir Albert Stanley, president of the Board of Trade, announced that owing to the withdrawal for other purposes, of coasting steamers, which hitherto had brought three million tons of coal yearly from the north to the south of England, it had become urgent to reduce the consumption of coal and electricity. A number of restrictions will be introduced in the twenty-three counties south of a line drawn from the Wash to Bristol Channel. This would involve reductions in the use of gas and electricity which he detailed with certain exceptions in favor of hospitals and munition works. All the large power stations supplying the tramways and electric railways will be rationed, with consequent restriction, such services including the London Tubs. No lights are to be permitted for illumination of shop windows and no food is to be cooked or any hot meals served in any hotel, club, restaurant, tavern, boarding or public eating house between 9.30 at night and five o'clock in the morning. All lights in the dining rooms of such places must be extinguished between ten o'clock at night and five o'clock in the morning. No performance in any theatre, music hall, moving picture houses or other place of amusement is to be continued after 10.30 at night nor will be permitted to open before one o'clock in the afternoon. The restrictions said Sir Albert do not apply to Ireland, but the position of Ireland with respect to this action is under consideration.

LONDON, March 22.—The heads of the German army have invited a number of neutral correspondents to be present at the German offensive on the western front, the Exchange Telegraph correspondent at Copenhagen reports. The correspondents, it is stated, will leave for the front on Wednesday.



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