

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

Monday, December 25th being Christmas Day and a statutory holiday, the Morning Guardian will not be issued on Tuesday. The Evening Guardian will not be issued on Monday, but will be published as usual on Tuesday. Advertisers please note these changes.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1916.

FIRE INSURANCE

We give in another part of this issue the views of a number of merchants on the question of the proposed increase of insurance premiums in Charlottetown. The proposal is condemned in no uncertain tones and a meeting to consider the matter has been summoned for Tuesday evening. There both sides will have an opportunity of expressing their views. The Guardian has been informed by a member of the Board of Underwriters, that the proposed increase was not due primarily to the recent conflagrations in Summerside. He states that the premiums here are considerably lower than those prevailing in towns of similar size in other parts of Canada. He also states that it was not of their own initiative that the underwriters took the action they did at the meeting on Monday. Their principals, he says, have been urging them for considerable time to take action to increase their rates and that whether the conflagrations occurred in Summerside or not these rates would have been re-adjusted. We are not in a position to express an opinion on these points but we would direct attention to the fact that the underwriters themselves put in the forefront of their announcement of the proposed change that it was due to "the recent serious conflagrations in Summerside as well as the heavy losses sustained by the insurance companies at Charlottetown, at the St. Dunstan's Cathedral and large fires in Souris, Tignish and other losses throughout the province."

The second reason they give is "in addition to these large losses the taxes imposed in this province upon the insurance companies, the recent increase in the provincial government tax of one third for war purposes and a heavy tax by the Dominion Government" which they state "all bear very heavily and the companies have found it absolutely necessary to increase their rates in P. E. Island as well as elsewhere." The unfortunate thing is that the local board of underwriters did not take policy holders into their confidence until the recent outbreaks of fire in Summerside and then they advance these as the principal reason for taking action. The member of the Board of Underwriters already referred to states that Charlottetown still lacks proper protection in so far as we have no patent fire alarm system. Reliance on telephones, he says, is unsatisfactory, as in the event of a fire breaking out the rush to the telephone on the part of subscribers is so great that, should a second outbreak occur in another part of the City it would be practically impossible to get connection with the fire station. This, of course, is a matter for the City Council to deal with but we think it should be possible to introduce a patent fire alarm system at a much smaller cost to the citizens than is involved in an increase of 15 per cent. on the fire insurance premiums. Our informant also states that an increase of 50 per cent. would not be exorbitant under present conditions. No doubt all these matters will be fully discussed at the meeting arranged for Tuesday and a satisfactory solution arrived at.

"IN THE DAY OF BATTLE."

Among the new books of the present year few, if any, will be read with more enjoyment than "In the Day of Battle," a collection of "poems of the great war" compiled by Miss Carrie Ellen Holman of Summerside who is at present in England. The book is dedicated to "the men of the north, south, east and west who have hastened to raise the 'trumpet from the dust,' and to the brave women who have made the supreme sacrifice in the time of the Empire's need." A foreword by Susan E. Cameron, Royal Victoria College, McGill University, in chaste and classical language, analyzes the relation of literature to war and looks forward to the time when the poetical expression of the war will take shape, to quote Wordsworth's definition of poetry, as "Emotion recollected in tranquillity." While it is true, as she admits, that "war songs are never written during the white heat of war time," it is undeniable that the "white heat" of the present war, the greatest war in the history of the world, has produced some exquisite poetry, expressing pathos, sorrow, mystery, patriotism, indomitable courage, in fact all the emotions experienced not in tranquillity but during the intense white heat itself. Miss Holman has been exceedingly happy in her selection of the best of these, and her book of 166 pages will unquestionably be cherished long after the war as the current voice of war's emotion. She is certainly to be congratulated on what she has achieved in her first considerable literary undertaking. We know of no book more suitable for preservation as a souvenir of the war or for presentation to a friend at this Christmas season. The book is published by William Briggs, Toronto, and the profits from the sale are to be given to the Queen Mary Maple Leaf Club of London, the home which welcomes and makes comfortable Canadian soldiers from the front and from the training camps during their visits to the great metropolis, the home whose praises are proclaimed by every soldier boy who has been "on pass" in London, the home that everybody who has a boy overseas will find it a pleasure to contribute to.

THE ORPHANS

The usual Christmas appeal is being made on behalf of the orphans in the Prince Edward Island Protestant Orphanage. There are in all thirty-six children in this institution, ranging in age from a few months to thirteen years, little tots all of them, fatherless and motherless, save the kind hearted guardians in the institution; homeless, save an institution maintained by the charity of the public. Surely this alone should constitute an appeal to touch the hearts of those whose homes are comfortable and even luxurious and whose children at this Christmas season will enjoy all that the love and the means of their parents can give them. Since first opened the custom of those in charge of the orphanage, aided by a charitable public, has been to provide those little ones with a Christmas tree, resembling as nearly as possible the real Christmas tree in real homes provided by real parents. It is hoped that this year the response will be hearty and generous. It will be worth something, worth a good deal, to bring some sunshine into the hearts of these little ones, to whom Christmas means as much as it does to more fortunate children. Their needs necessarily are many and in some ways different from those of the generality of children; clothing, boots, wearing apparel of all kinds will be gratefully accepted, but let it not be forgotten that they are children with children's longing for toys, confections and all the other little things that go to make up a jolly Christmas for real children. The appeal is to all, the joy of giving is for all and "inasmuch as we have done it unto the least of these," said One, "ye have done it unto Me."

RECIPROCITY AGAIN

Notwithstanding that "reciprocity" proved "the swan song" of the Liberal party, Mr. J. J. Hughes still adheres to it, and in a letter to the Patriot yesterday bemoans the fact that while the Conservative party and the country turned it down in favour of the British connection we are not slow to take advantage of the Underwood Tariff to ship our goods to the American market. We do not think Mr. Hughes will find many out-and-out supporters of reciprocity in the Liberal party today. His friend Mr. E. M. Macdonald of Pictou, and the Liberal chief financial critic, Mr. A. K. Maclean of Halifax, are most likely to demand higher protection for steel. Canada has obtained tariff concessions from the United States without sacrificing protection to her own industries, so why need anyone worry? In 1911 Sir Wilfrid Laurier and other Liberals of the unrestricted reciprocity school were ready to legislate against the Mother Country, notwithstanding that, as Mr. Joseph Chamberlain said in Toronto, it would mean early separation. After fighting for her and ourselves in this war, should we not feel inexplicably mean if any set of Canadian politicians led us into such an unpatriotic course?

APPLYING IT

It was pointed out the other day in New York that the International Commission on Belgian Relief has now distributed goods worth \$227,000,000 among the people of Belgium. Of this total the United States has contributed \$10,000,000, or 4.3 per cent.

The New York Sun points out that the contribution of the United States is less than ten cents each for every American man, woman and child, while Canadians have given a sum equal to eighteen cents per head of our population, compared with New Zealand's \$2.34, and Tasmania's \$6.25.

The Sun rather bitterly brings the case home to the people of the United States by this cutting comparison:

"Of course we have given money for relief of distress in many other lands than Belgium. Poland, Serbia, Lithuania, Albania, Armenia, Syria have all looked to us and have not appealed without a response of some sort: This is exclusive of such hospital and relief work as has been done by American men, women and money in France, Germany and other theatres of war. Perhaps the total of our war charity would go some way to redress our showing in Belgian relief, which too closely resembles a two cent lagnappe with every quarter's worth of goods purchased here."

This is a bitter form of illustration, but to some extent says a Canadian exchange, we must apply it to ourselves here in Canada.

NOTES

German Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg denies that he has any intention of retaining possession of any part of Belgium or France. We are reminded of the fairy tale of the snake that tried to swallow the hedgehog. The hedgehog pricked the snake fearfully. "My good fellow," said the snake, "I have no intention of taking you in. My sole desire is to spit you out."

In view of various claims of world's record wheat crops for large areas, the Crowfoot Farming Company, of Crowfoot, Alberta, submit a sworn statement of their results for the year 1915, which probably surpass all properly authenticated claims from other sources. From 1,356 acres the Crowfoot Farming Company received an average yield of fifty-one bushels, fifty-six and one-third pounds per acre of number one spring wheat, by actual selling weight; 400 acres wheat averaged fifty-nine and one-half bushels per acre. These records were established in the Canadian Pacific Railway Irrigation Block, in southern Alberta.

GIFTS IN PLENTY AT PATON'S BIG STORE FOR THE BUSY CHRISTMAS BUYERS

CHRISTMAS GIFTS AMONG THE LADIES READY-TO-WEAR AT PATON'S LARGE MANTLE DEPARTMENT

Lovely wool Bath Robes, Eastern designed, at \$4.00, \$5.00 and \$7.50 in Blue, Mauve, Rose and Fawn, also Red and Blue quilted Silk Kimonos at \$3.00. Special showing of Silk Sweaters in Mauve, Heather, Mauve and all other leading colors. Silk Pajamas and Taffeta Underskirts in Black and Colored, also Black Moire, Saten and Italian cloth. A large assortment of Ladies Dress Skirts, in Serges, Gaberdens, Veleveens, Moire, Voile, and Poplin in all latest styles. Heavy Wool Sweaters in Maroon, Rose, Paddy, Copen and Brown and a large assortment of White Pull Overs suitable for Skating and Tabogganing. About 100 Ladies Raincoats in Tweeds, Parantattas, and dull Black Slickers. We have also some nice Black Plush Coats for Misses and Ladies up to size 40 at \$20.00, \$25.00, \$32.00 and \$35.00. 50 Tailored Suits for Ladies from \$13.75 to \$30.00. Childrens and Misses Tweed Coats sizes from 26 to 34, also Plaids, Curl Cloth and Chinchilla. A lot of Last Years Coats clearing at less than price of Material also some Ladies and Maids Skirts from \$2.25 up. Ladies Corduroy Suits, fur trimmed, clearing at \$19.50. 10 Fur Coats in Rat, Marmot, Hudson Seal and Poney from \$50.00 to \$150.00. Choice showing of Ladies Neck Furs, in sets and separate pieces, in Fox, Mink, Civet Cat, Black Dog, Persian Lamb in Black and Grey, Alaska Sable etc., also White Thibet for Misses and Children. 3 Only Black Beaver Cloth Coats with Fur Collars \$12.00, \$13.50 and \$14.00. Childrens Pocket Sleigh Robes in Bear cloth and Grey \$2.95 up.

A VISIT TO THE FURNITURE DEPARTMENT MAY GIVE A HINT OF SOME DESIRABLE CHRISTMAS GIFTS, we have left Childrens Sleighs, Chairs, Rockers and Childrens Toy Sets also Iron Beds, Bureaus, Mattresses including the famous Dixie-No-Furt, Writing Desks, Music Cabinets, Parlor Cabinets, Hall Seats, Mirrors, 2 Large Morris Chairs, Ladies Dressing Table, Wardrobes and 100 Cut Oak China Cabinet.

ALL MILLINERY AT HALF-PRICE DURING CHRISTMAS WEEK. SEE THE CHARMING DISPLAY OF WAISTS IN OUR WHITEWEAR DEPARTMENT, all the latest styles and colors including Crepe de Chene, Georgette Crepe, Wash Silk, Voiles, Poncee Nets and other sheer Goods we have about 150 to choose from in all different sizes.

"Bobby Burns" Scottish Caps in Angora with Scarf to Match just the thing for a Rink.

SPECIAL SHOWING IN OUR SMALLWEAR DEPARTMENT, about 1000 pairs of Gloves in Suede, Kid, Chamois, Washable Kid all the Celebrated Perrin's French Make also Silk and Wool Gloves. Colored Silk Hose all sizes and prices also Budoir Cops, Hand Bags and a Splendid showing of Ladies Collars in Crepe de Chene, Georgette Crepe, Embroidered Voile, Lace and Broadcloth. Budoir Sets including Cap and Kimona in Silk, just the thing for a Christmas present.

IN THE DRESS GOODS DEPARTMENT, 44 inch Chiffon finish Velveaten in Nigger Brown, Green Saxe and Navy at \$3.00 a yd., also Black Plush at \$4.25, \$5.50 and \$6.75. All shades of prices in Velveteens and Corduroys also a complete line of Dress Goods including Serges, Daingons, Poplin, Garberdeen, tweeds, Plaids, etc. 100 yds Special English Tweed in about 10 different shades to clear at 98c worth today \$1.50. Special Showing of Crepe de Chene in Mauve, Pink, Brown, White and Rose.

All kinds of Silks including Black the always acceptable Xmas Gift. Feather Boas different styles and prices.

IN OUR GENTS FURNISHING DEPARTMENT you will find Mens Dress Shirts, Bosom, Point, Flannel, Khaki etc., 12 dozen Mens Silk Ties latest styles 35c each; 20 dozen at 60c and a Choice Heavy Silk Tie 75c boxed just the thing for Christmas presents. Mens Mufflers, Silk Handkerchiefs, Flannelette and Silk Pyjamas, White Flannelette Night Shirts, Cardigans, Pull-Over Sweaters and All Wool underwear.

THE CARPET DEPARTMENT MAY SOLVE THE CHRISTMAS PROBLEM Immense showing of Carpet Squares, Door Mats, Curtains, Vacuum Sweepers, Carpet Sweepers, Bachelor Quilts etc.

GENTS CLOTHING DEPARTMENT, Over 100 Mens Overcoats, College and Chesterfield Ulsters with shawl collars \$9.00, \$12.00, \$15.00 up to \$25.00, probably one of the best showings East of Montreal. 50 Mens Worst Suits in Black and Blue and about 300 Mens Suits from \$12.00 to \$25.00.

About 75 Boys Ulsters to fit lads from 6 to 7 years clearing at \$5.75. Another lot better quality Cloth \$6.75 and \$7.50 all Mens Suits and Overcoats at clearance prices. Mens Winter Caps, fur lined, also a large assortment of Mens Rat Fur Caps and 1 Persian Lamb size 7, \$18.00. 50 Sheep skin Coats just the thing for the Winter. Also Trunks in all sizes and prices.

PATON'S LIMITED

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louison.

THE ONLY SON.

By James Douglas.

This morning I opened my newspaper and in the "Roll of Honour" I saw the name of a gallant boy. He was the only son of his parents. A few days ago I had been talking to his father. As soon as I read that line I knew the sharpness of the sorrow piercing the heart of his mother, and the heart of his father. Is there any pang more cruel than this? Is there any pain more bitter? As I sat sighing over the anguish of it, I thought of that wonderful cry of fatherhood: "Would God I had died for thee! Absalom, my son, my son."

And in every father is a mother's yearning. Do not believe that a father cannot feel the mother's sense of loss. A father is also the son of his mother, and from his mother he inherits the divine thing that we call compassion. The manliest man is the man who is most nobly endowed with the capacity for compassion. There is a sense in which this war has made mothers of us all. They say that war hardens the heart. I do not believe it. There are many diseases of peace that harden the heart. I need not enumerate them. You know them well. War softens the heart. War makes us human once more.

Out of this war must come the peace that can never be broken. Less than this is reason to the only son. The whole world must be welded into a brotherhood armed against war. The war makers must be treated like murderers. War must be ruled out by the rulers of men.

FURS advertisement with logo and text: Follow the lead of the best men in the game. This year buy your furs from M. Wallisohn & Co. Raw Furs Our Specialty. We Pay Your Price.

Only 5 Days to Christmas

Not much time left for you to do your Christmas baking.

Better attend to that important work right now, today, for you cannot do justice to yourself, if you leave it till the last moment,—when you have to hurry and worry and,—then perhaps have poor luck.

Remember, we have everything you want for baking—Flour, cream of tartar, currants, soda, spices, flavoring, candied fruits, nuts, raisins,—everything you need. Christmas Confectionery Big Showing of Fresh Fruits

You will find an excellent line of chocolates, bonbons, and other choice confections here,—put up in boxes, or in bulk.

Also a most complete stock of candies both imported and domestic,—the right spread for the stockings on Christmas morning.

Don't forget that this is YOUR fruit store. A most satisfactory stock of fresh fruits here now,—apples, oranges, lemons, grapes, grape fruit,—you can count on the quality of every article.

If you cannot call, write or use the phone,—150 is our number. Free city deliveries on Christmas morning.

Beer & Goff "THE HOME OF GOOD GROCERIES"

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XMAS Gifts

THAT WILL PLEASE ONE AND ALL

- Manicure Sets, Travelling Sets, Toilet Sets, Hand Bags, Pin Cushions, Jewel Cases, Candlesticks, Vases, Photo Frames, Pictures, Picture Frames, Padded Poets, Books, Testaments, Xmas Papeteries, Military Sets, Ivory Sets, Collar Bags, Pocket Books, Fountain Pens, Ink Stands, Music Rolls, Baby Sets, Photo Albums, Ebony Sets, Ebony Hair Brushes, Ebony Clothes Brushes, Ebony Mirrors, Thermos Bottles, Rubber Goods, Flashlights, Shaving Sets, Safety Razors, Soap Boxes, Chocolates (Nyllo and Moirs), Cigars in Wooden Boxes, Suitable to Send to the Boys at the Front.

Ellis Pharmacy, Ltd. Montague

CHRISTMAS BELLS

Will Soon be Ringing

It is impossible for you to appreciate what our careful buying means, until you see our goods and get our prices.

Read our list given below. It will furnish some valuable suggestions. Check the items of interest and bring it along when you visit our store.

- Chocolates, Parisian Ivory Goods, Perfumes, Manicure sets, Shaving Sets, Shaving Mugs, Safety Razors, Calendar Mounts, Cigars, Cigar Cases, Pipes, Tobacco Pouches, Military Brushes, Chamois Vests, Nickel Plated Bottles, Fancy Soaps, Thermos Lunch kits.

- Kodaks, Walking Sticks, Toilet Waters, Toilet Sets, Shaving Brushes, Mirrors, Razor Stropps, Travelling Rolls, Cigarettes, Cigarette Cases, Smokers Sets, Cigars Humidors, Hair Brushes, Hot water bottles, Playing Cards, Thermos Bottles, Clothes Brushes, Etc, Etc, Etc?

When you visit our store other things will also be suggested as suitable for gifts

We want YOU to visit our store and look through OUR HOLIDAY STOCK just as often as you wish, whether you are ready to buy or not.

Johnson & Johnson

The Quality Drugstore Cor. Kent & Prince Streets

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