

The Charlottetown Guardian

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

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SIGNS OF THE TIMES

One of the most striking outcomes of the war so far is the conversion of British Free Traders to the folly of unrestricted Free Trade.

The London Spectator, the staunch champion of Cobdenism against the Chamberlain revolt has also come to acknowledge that Free Trade has shown itself to have been a menace to national security.

Personally, we remain Free Traders in the sense that we believe that an unrestricted trade, a perfect freedom of exchange, is much the shortest road to wealth.

That the Spectator should now abandon its old beliefs is perhaps one of the strongest indications that the clearest minds in Britain are beginning to realize that dogmatic Free Trade, like dogmatic Protection, may become a national menace.

But probably the most remarkable admission of all is that made by the London Daily Chronicle, one of the greatest of English Radical and Free Trade journals, and reputed to be the organ of Mr. D. Lloyd-George, which makes this significant admission:

Those of us who were Free Traders before the war have no reason to be ashamed of, or to desert, our main principles; but a good deal of reason for candidly acknowledging that the war has raised unexplored issues. It has brought home to us the relation between industry and defence.

This from the mouthpiece of a government who only a few years ago declared that it had "slammed, bolted and barred the door" against even the mildest suggestion of Protection, is strikingly indicative of the awakening of a new economic belief in the Old Land.

Numb-skulled Free Traders who believe that Free Trade is like the laws of the Medes and Persians, so-called economists who are obvious to facts and doctrinaire visionaries who are always a nuisance shall likely continue to cling to the theory of absolute freedom of trade.

CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS

Lieut.-Col. Hamilton contributes to The University Magazine a series of interesting comments upon Canadian journalism. He writes (says a contemporary) from the standpoint of a man who was a journalist for 21 years, but is now in another walk of life.

journalistic bitterness and unfairness in politics. We are told that the majority of voters dislike unfair reporting and blind criticism of opponents, but that active party workers make it unpleasant for editors on their own side who deviate into fairness.

The writer says: "The morning that a party newspaper publishes a fair report sees a swarm of protest desecrating the editor's head. The remedy for this state of affairs is for the fainthearted folk to assert themselves; if the editor is made to realize that fairness will win approval and support, he will be strengthened in his efforts to attain it."

Col. Hamilton is especially hostile to the Canadian or American fashion of beginning a number of articles on the front page and carrying them over to inside pages. After he has read half a column of one article he has to choose between abandoning the rest of the front page to turn over the sheet, and leaving the article partly read to read the beginning of several other articles.

HUGE BANK DEPOSITS

The best possible evidence of the prosperity of the country is the periodical bank statement. The latest statistics of deposits show that Canadians never had so much money to their credit. The increase during the past decade, the last five years and since the outbreak of the war is remarkable.

The following are the yearly figures for the months of October since 1905. They tell their own story of growth and prosperity of which every Canadian should be proud:

Table with 3 columns: Year, Deposits on demand, Savings Deposits. Rows for years 1916, 1915, 1914, 1913, 1912, 1911, 1910, 1909, 1908, 1907, 1906, 1905.

THE COST OF LIVING

A British Board of Trade report shows that since the beginning of the war the cost of living has increased in Canada to a lesser extent than in any of the other belligerent countries. In Britain, France, Germany, Austria, where abnormal conditions, imposed by the war, exist, the increase in the price of necessities of life has been in some cases four times as great as in Canada.

The truth seems to be that notwithstanding world conditions over which the statesmen of no one country can possibly exercise control, Canada has fared and is faring better in respect to food prices than most other nations. Yet cheap-jack politicians continue to shriek that the Borden Government should be turned out of office because the cost of living in Canada is high.

DOCTORS AND AUTOS

Sir.—I was much interested in a letter which appeared in a recent issue of your paper, signed by Dr. Delaney, Wellington.

The Wellington doctor has opened a subject that has had little consideration in the past. It is one of the characteristics of human nature to react to think of sickness until it actually arrives. We make no provision for it. When sudden and serious sickness enters a family what would not these people give to get their family doctor on the scene quickly.

While I purchased an automobile it is of little use to me under the existing regulations, and there is no encouragement, nor inducement whatever, for doctors to procure cars.

E. T. TANTON, M. D. Summerside.

BISHOP RICHARDSON IN NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, March 1.—Declaring that the war's chief cause could be traced to moral stagnation, and especially to the influence of Kultur in Germany, the Right Rev. John Anderson (Richardson), Bishop of Fredericton, in a sermon at Trinity church Sunday warned the United States against relying for its safety upon mere material welfare.

ANTUCK FLEECE OUT OF \$2,059.

BIDDEFORD, Me., March 1.—With all Antuck, who entrusted \$2,059 to a stranger on his promise that it would be increased 50 per cent. over night, caused the police today to issue a warrant for the arrest of a man known as J. Janicki of Boston on a charge of obtaining money under false pretenses.

Chief of Police Stone said that Antuck, who conducts a grocery store and poolroom here, told him the stranger gained his confidence by making \$5 bills out of white paper while he watched, and said he could increase money to any amount.

After Janicki disappeared Antuck opened the box and found it filled with newspaper clippings, outside of which was a single \$1 bill.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

WORTH MEMORIZING

The following three verses were sent the writer the other day. I do not know the Author of these excellent lines but I thank the sender, who ever he or she may be, and pass along to readers of this corner, with pleasure.

THE FREEDOM OF THE SEAS

By John Leyland.

In the very remarkable address which the President Wilson has just delivered to the United States Senate on the subject of the world after the war he delivered himself of some astounding views concerning the "freedom of the seas." He said that "the paths of the sea must alike in law and in fact be free; the freedom of the seas is the sine qua non of peace, equality and co-operation."

It was in the same month that the Imperial Chancellor, when the president of the United Press of New York had telegraphically asked the Kaiser, then at Warsaw, for a "lead" on the then existing situation, replied on his master's behalf that "far across the frontiers Germany this peace for which we are striving will guarantee to all nationalities the freedom of the oceans."

The German Idea.

It is a fact familiar to students of history that the freedom which Dr. Wilson and the Germans now claim has always been the desire of the State which have come into conflict with the supreme sea power.

This utterance aroused considerable protest and its ambiguity puzzled many people. Ambiguity, it may be remarked, is characteristic of the claim of all advocates of freedom of the seas. They never tell us what they mean. Few of them are so bold as Herr Dernburg, who blandly declared that war should be excluded from the sphere of Germany's weakness, and be left uncontrolled in the region of her strength.

We may now attempt to discover what "freedom of the seas" can possibly mean. It cannot have anything to do with times of peace, in which the sea is much freer than it is the land. The growth of German trade and sea-borne commerce was altogether unhindered before the war, and the Hamburg-Amerika and Norddeutscher Lloyd lines flourished amazingly. Nor did any other country suffer from any restriction at sea.

Lord Loreburn's Question. The principles stated above were indicated by Lord Loreburn in his volume "Capture at Sea," (being a plea for its abolition) 1913. He could not understand the difference between 1,000 bushels of wheat in a ship and 1,000 bushels in a barn; why one should be confiscated and

BROTHERS ALL

"You know this war makes one a Socialist. One is thinking continually about the comfort and welfare of one's men. Consequently one sees their many grievances, and one sympathises with them. If this war has done little else it has brought men into touch with the people below them in the scale—people that they would never have mixed with and understood but for the war. It has welded the folk of our Great England together more than they have ever been before."

Those words were written in a letter to a friend by young Vere Haams, worth, not long before leaving his company into action on the 13th of this month.

Twice wounded, before he was struck by the shell that killed him, he continued to cheer and rally his men, until his voice was silenced. The same invincible spirit urged him earlier in the war, after fighting at Antwerp, to escape from intervention as a prisoner of war in Holland (where he would have been safe until the war ended) and to find his way back to the post of danger and to that "great thing," that "greatest honour," which he held to be the chance of taking his men over the parapet.

He was only twenty-one; yet, under the stress of these tragic years, had had time already to reveal not only those qualities of personal sacrifice and bravery we attribute, as their British birthright, to our flower of youth, as it fades and falls on the field of battle, but also to reflect, to realize the hopes latent in the seemingly hopeless nightmare.

Every branch of the British nation, from the noblest to the most humble, the other paid for; why a naval officer may seize any enemy merchant-ship and whatever property it contains, while the like procedure is understood to be interdicted on land.

The right use of naval power is a matter for naval officers, though Lord Loreburn thought that in these matters they have no conclusive authority. But the real meaning of "freedom of the sea" even in the bare form of abolition of capture, which is the breath of life to this country, its consequences would be to convert the Navy into a sort of glorified police force.

President Wilson would seem to regard the exercise of sea power as in some sort immoral, because it would add it operates in restraint to a wisdom that saw life as a whole, and handed on to us by them, immortally, from the noblest to the most humble, to interfere with Germany's food supplies.

This compulsion which we exercise is inherent in sea power, as history and reason alike teach us. How would the Germans liberate the seas if they were victorious? Finally it may be asked, with what purpose would the High Seas Fleet built, and why is President Wilson supporting "freedom of the sea" which will make the United States the second naval power in the world?

The conclusion is plain. We must uphold our maritime rights which we exercise only in war to the full. The Germans have nothing to complain of in our sea supremacy. Under its aegis they created the great fabric regard the exercise of sea power as of their oceanic trade and internal in some sort immoral, because it would add it operates in restraint to a wisdom that saw life as a whole, and handed on to us by them, immortally, from the noblest to the most humble, to interfere with Germany's food supplies.

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