

# THE Charlottetown Guardian

Head Office at Charlottetown, Branch Offices at Summerside, Alberton, Souris and Montague.  
London Office, Marconi House, Strand, W.C.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1916.

## MAIL BUNGLING

The unfortunate bungling over the conveyance of the Stanley mails and passengers from and to Georgetown yesterday is to be deeply regretted. Evidently someone has blundered and deserves to be severely censured therefor. From what we can gather it is the question of expense that has led to the trouble. Two specials were necessary, one to go to Georgetown and return with the mails and passengers, and another to convey the outward mails and passengers. The Post Office declined to foot the bill for this double journey and had recourse to the antiquated and out-of-date teams to do a five hours' journey. Under our Confederation agreement we are entitled to regular communication with the mainland regardless of the expense, and it was the duty of the Post Office to avail themselves of the railway, even though it did entail more than the usual outlay. It is none of our fault that the Stanley is unfitted for the passage between Pictou and Charlottetown; therefore it is not the business of the Dominion Post Office officials to penalize us because special train service to Georgetown to accommodate her involves increased expenditure. It was the duty of the Post Office to facilitate the mail service by chartering the two special trains, and discuss with the Railway Department subsequently as to the cost. What does it matter to the Dominion which Department has to bear the increased cost? It comes out of the pockets of the taxpayer either way. For the sake of a matter of book-keeping the whole province is inconvenienced and unaccommodated, and recourse made to a system of transport which had been relegated almost to oblivion. Little credit is due to the Post Office for the manner in which it has handled this matter. Had it the best interests of the province at heart, and had it the least bit of initiative and enterprise, it would have chartered the two specials and allowed the Department of Railways and the Post Office to haggle over the book-keeping entries at their leisure—and they usually have plenty of that for wordy correspondence.

The matter has been taken up by our representatives at Ottawa together with Premier Mathieson, who is there at present, and we may assume that there will be no recurrence of such huge blundering on the part of officialdom.

## BURNS ANNIVERSARY

For many years the Burns Anniversary Concert has been the musical event of the season, always attracting music lovers not only of the city but of the province. This year preparations on a more elaborate scale than usual have been made and the Burns Concert of 1916 is expected to surpass all previous efforts. A glance at the programme, which appears elsewhere in this paper, will give an idea of the rich and variegated feast that is being prepared. Advantage has been taken this season of the presence of the military in the city, and the best musical talent in the 105th Battalion has been secured for the occasion, while a picked company will give an exhibition of physical military drill.

The concert will be held on Monday and Tuesday, the 24th and 25th inst. A special train will leave Summerside at 2 o'clock Monday for Charlottetown, returning after the concert; the fare for the return trip being only \$1.00, and proportionate for intermediate stations. On Tuesday a special train will leave Murray Harbour at 1.15 p.m., also returning after the concert, the fare for the return trip being only \$1.00.

This train arrangement will prevent overcrowding of the theatre, and all who wish to come will be assured of good seats, provided of course that they secure their tickets in time. No doubt the attendance will be very large on both evenings and it would be well to secure sittings without undue delay.

The event will be in every way worthy of the occasion, and the admirers of the great Scottish bard will be given an opportunity of appropriately celebrating his anniversary. The "colour scheme" of the programme, it will be observed is, as it should be, distinctly Scottish, bagpipe music, Scotch songs, Scotch reels, Scotch dances, with, as befits the year, a military setting. An announcement elsewhere in this paper gives the programme and train arrangements.

## FEDERAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

It is intended to introduce, during the present session of parliament, legislation for the inauguration of a Department of Public Health for the Dominion. Such legislation has been anticipated for some time. It is the natural development of the local, municipal and provincial organizations which for some years past have been sowing the good seed and creating a desire for better conditions of health and sanitation.

It is somewhat strange that the movement for the

betterment of human life, from the standpoint of health, should follow rather than precede that for the betterment of the health of animals. Many years ago we learned the necessity, from a national standpoint, of taking charge of the health of our valuable domestic animals and our governments, federal and provincial, were not slow to adopt such measures as were deemed necessary to conserve the national wealth by insisting upon the observance of certain rules of health, the segregation of diseased animals and the prohibition of diseased animals from entering the country. In addition to such legal enactments, our governments, federal and provincial, engaged specialists to teach us the best means of feeding, caring for and breeding our horses, cows, sheep, swine, poultry, etc., until we learned practically all there was to know about this, the acknowledged moneymaking end of our agricultural business. Every farmer in the Dominion of Canada, who is at all conversant with the details of his business, knows how to raise the best animals for their various purposes, knows how to feed them for those purposes and how to make the most money out of them, alive or dead, but not one in a hundred knows whether he is feeding his children as they should be fed, whether their health and habits are such as are likely to lead to a healthy and useful manhood or womanhood or to an early grave. He sends his children to mingle in school with children who may be diseased and who may communicate their diseases to his children, while he would not allow his cows or his hogs to mingle with those of his neighbour unless he was satisfied that the latter were free from disease.

These things have been preached for many years by the few, in a few places throughout the Dominion. From the preaching there have arisen local organizations in the different provinces and these have gathered strength with the years. It is now proposed to link them up together and give the movement a national scope. That it will mean a betterment in the general health conditions of the country cannot be doubted. The isolated centres in which the movements originated have sown seed which will bring forth a great harvest when all are linked together.

No greater duty can fall to a Government than the safeguarding of the public health and it is gratifying to know that it is being taken hold of by the present Government. It is a long step in advance, but still only a step. The movement will eventually become an international one and all the civilized nations in the world will confer together in international conferences to study out the best means of conserving the world's greatest asset, the general public health.

The war has done much, and will yet do much, to hasten this movement. That a million men in Great Britain who had volunteered for active service should be rejected because of some slight physical defect which in all probability could have been corrected in childhood, will not go for nothing. It will mean more to the Empire perhaps than if the million men had been able to take their places on the battlefields, more perhaps than if they had broken through the German lines in Northern France, as they undoubtedly could have done had they been armed and equipped, instead of being rejected. In our own Canada and even in our own province we have learned very much about physical fitness and unfitness since the war began, and we have learned also that very much of the unfitness could have been prevented.

We hope much from the new Federal Department of Public Health and, when inaugurated, we trust there will be a sufficiently strong public sentiment behind it to make it the power for good that it is possible for it to be.

## THE WORLD'S FOOD

That the producing capacity of the world is steadily increasing is shown by recent statistics compiled by the International Agricultural Institute's Bulletin of Agricultural and Commercial Statistics. Comparative statements are given shown the world's production of wheat, rye, barley, oats and corn for each year since 1905.

In 1905 the world's production of wheat was 3,284 million bushels. It increased steadily till 1913 when it reached 4,019 millions, declining in 1914 to 3,685 millions. Rye increased from 1,489 million bushels in 1905 to 1,896 in 1915; barley from 1,192 millions to 1,582 millions; oats from 3,389 millions to 4,572 millions. The production of corn remained relatively the same throughout the ten years.

From this table, says the report, the latest harvest in the northern hemisphere shows a more or less notable surplus over the quantities necessary for consumption. These surpluses, however, will have to serve the needs of countries which, while not included in these tables, will have a more or less considerable importation of cereals and flour. The general conclusion is therefore drawn that, taking account of stocks carried over and excluding crops which may either supplement or replace the use of cereals, the world as a whole has a sufficient quantity of cereals to meet the general needs of consumption on the basis of the average consumption for the last five years.

Busy as the world is in its toiling and its striving we are, after all, living only from hand to mouth. In no year do we produce much more than enough food for the year's needs, certainly not enough to carry us through the next year. If the farmers should go on strike for one season it would mean that the world would starve to death. "The farmer feeds them all," the kings and the captains of industry, the rich and the poor, the worthy and the unworthy. And the kings and the captains of industry, the merchant princes and all the rest of them could go on strike for a year or two with but little inconvenience to the rest of us. In any case we would not starve so long as the farmer stuck to his job.

## OUR KING

In our commonwealth a good King has to be like true charity, always active for the public good, but without ostentation. Ostentation turns charity into doles and kingship into an entertainer. As a free people, we revered the Throne for three reasons. Not only does it represent the ideal unity of our scattered Empire; it is a symbol of inherited permanence in accord with the continuity of the generations; and it is supremely neutral among the passions of party strife. To a race that sets the greatest pride by individualism, and to an Empire with possessions far dispersed, the ideal of continuous kingship is a unifying spirit essential to every part and member. This truth, recognized by all home-staying patriots, is seen perhaps most ardently by the oversea Dominions, who at a distance know what is most valuable to them in the hereditary fame and fascination of their mother country. To toast the King's health and to salute the Flag are ever-young inspirations in those far-off lands where "Home" means the British Isles with their relics of old history. So they are also to British people who live abroad in Europe. Here, too, during a crisis in kingship, as at the passing of Victoria and the passing of Edward VII, there is an impassioned recognition of the mysterious poetry that the Crown inherits and preserves, and transmits.

In ordinary times British patriotism does not glow; does not respond with sufficient fervour to the deathless emblems of our commonwealth—the Crown and the Flag. Australian children are taught to dedicate to them their hearts and their minds and their lives, whereas most British children have learned nothing whatever about these symbols of the Empire's past, present and future. Anything which increases in the young a sense of national history and dignity should be taught in all schools, for civic life soon degenerates into a grapple of egotisms when the inspirations of a just patriotism are neglected. Among the many errors of the pre-war times we must place a disregard in education for the meaning of kingship and for the flag of our national flags. An old jurist says: "The King directs all eyes. . . . But the sentiment in these words is medieval rather than modern. To-day the high office of the King is to symbolise the Empire and to win all hearts. King and State and People meet one another. Nothing is more remarkable than the fact that the Crown in our country has rarely taken its manners and customs from the changing character of the people. Our democracy, for instance, has had quiet Sovereigns, devoted to hard work, and unostentatious. But contrast gives the best harmonies, and the prestige of the Crown since 1837 has grown steadily and safely. There was some

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If, as pointed out on that occasion, a great responsibility rests on the leaders as well as a great opportunity for Empire service, the responsibility of the people is none the less.

## DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louison.  
YOUR BEST FRIEND.

You've a friend you have sorely neglected  
The very best friend you possess;  
He's the one who is always expected  
To shoulder your load of distress,  
You have always been good to the others,  
Have lavished the kind word and smile;  
You have made of these strangers  
Your brothers—  
Be good to yourself for awhile.  
You have sacrificed time, thought and money  
For those who forgot it too soon;  
You have met them with countenance sunny  
When would have thought it a boon  
If you'd only let him share your laughter  
Instead of the weight of your bile  
So remember your best friend hereafter  
Be good to yourself for awhile.  
There are many who lend or who borrow,  
Who come to collect or repay;  
There are those who forget you tomorrow  
Who greet you with hand clasps to-day;  
But he knows your worth and he only  
He knows all your merit or guile.  
Don't you think that he sometimes is lonely?  
Be good to yourself for awhile.  
Now you know all the others completely,  
As though they were books on your shelf;  
But for long you've ignored him too neatly  
Say, what do you know of yourself?  
Is there anyone else who will struggle  
To help you along mile on mile?  
Then why is it with life you would juggle  
Be good to yourself for awhile.  
Just be good to yourself—it will pay you  
You will find when you're down on you're luck  
And when everything wants to dismay you  
That he helps you out of the ruck.  
So, today with yourself get acquainted  
Be true with your friendliest smile,  
For you're not half as bad as you're painted  
Be good to yourself for awhile.

—WILBUR D. NEBBITT

fear that the death of Victoria would check its growth, because the Crown under Victoria had been a symbol of motherhood as well as an emblem of the State; it inspired then a twofold loyalty. But the passage from queenship to kingship made no break in the sway of an ideal over the Empire. Edward VII. passed at once into his full heritage, and increased the persuasive authority of the ideal which he represented.

Since the war began we have seen a great advance in the Empire's loyalty to the present Sovereign, a Sovereign who has ever shown a deep affection for imperial things, who has visited most of his Possessions, who is known personally to their devotion. Throughout the war, moreover, the King has chosen to play his part in his own excellent way, taking personal messages to his soldiers and sailors, attending always, and with modesty and thoroughness, to his duties, and speaking from time to time quiet words that live and have a future. Here is a tradition of public service that puts gems into the British Crown. Already it is understood by the Prince of Wales, whose modest courage and unaffected liking for hard work are noted everywhere at the Front and loved.

It is with a present gratitude that the people should think of these things. The after-effects of war, accompanied as they are by a spiritual reaction, have dangers of their own to the unity of a nation, and it is during the post-war years that the King's prestige and influence will be appreciated most fully by temperate readers and thinkers. His neutrality in the strife of politics has gained the wisdom of experience, and his mind thinks imperially. Though definite limits are set to the power exercised in our Constitution by the statesmanship of good and wise Sovereigns, yet character and experience and tactful knowledge pass from the King into the loyalty of his people. No Sovereign in our history has received such an all-round training as the present one. The Navy he understands as a sailor, and the Empire as a traveller; he is a soldier with his Army and a good friend to all his people. What more does the Empire need? The King's complete restoration to health! Here is the fervent wish that patriotism desires, and the medical reports show that it is a gift coming to us in the New Year.

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If, as pointed out on that occasion, a great responsibility rests on the leaders as well as a great opportunity for Empire service, the responsibility of the people is none the less.

The war expenditure in Canada during the year amounted to about \$175,000,000. For the present year this expenditure is estimated at \$225,000,000 for an army of 200,000 men. But Sir Robert L. Borden's New Year message the call has gone forth for 500,000 men. What, will be the financial expenditure? It must of necessity be much greater than the above estimate. How is Canada to meet this tremendous strain on her financial resources?

The answer is plain—we must economize. Every wasteful expenditure must be cut out. We must also strain every energy to increase the wealth-producing power of the people.  
It is estimated that the annual loss in Canada through the liquor traffic is about \$150,000,000. By the passing of such an Act this great loss can be avoided and a saving to the country can be made equal to more than one-half of the estimated war expenditure. Are the free born citizens of Canada equal to this sacrifice—a sacrifice cheerfully made by the nobility and peasantry alike in Russia.  
Our political leaders may be willing to lead in this great patriotic movement, but they must be supported by Parliament and the people.  
What, then, is the duty of the People? Let the citizens call upon the Senators and Members to grant this legislation. Let every constituency elect the Churches, the Temperance Organizations, the Boards of Trade, Canadian Clubs, and other local bodies in each constituency make clear to their Member their desire for such legislation.

As soon as the answer of the Member is obtained advise our Secretary, so that the Central Committee may know upon whom to rely.  
If the people of Canada see in earnest, as we believe they are, on this question, a united effort in every Province brought to bear on our public representatives will produce the desired result.  
Let the people act.  
Signed on behalf of the Committee,  
EDWARD SEYBOLD,  
Secretary,  
80 Elgin St., Ottawa.

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# PATONS

## BASIC SLAG

(Sometimes known as Thomas Phosphate Powder)

The two sources of Phosphoric Acid, the element of fertility lacking to the greatest extent in the cultivated soils of the Maritime Provinces, are Basic Slag and Acid Phosphate, or Superphosphate. These two Fertilizers both contain from 250 to 300 lbs. of available Phosphoric Acid to the ton.

### BASIC SLAG

Contains in addition to the Phosphoric Acid from 800 to 1000 lbs of Lime. In the form in which this Lime exists it does not burn up the humus in the soil like burnt Lime. It is calculated that 95 p.c. of the soils of the Maritime Provinces are sour and the effect of an application of Basic Slag is to correct this acidity.

### BASIC SLAG

In addition to the Phosphoric Acid and Lime contained in Basic Slag there is also present a quantity of iron, the effect of which is to aid bacterial growth in the soil, a matter of the highest importance.

### BASIC SLAG

Also supplies magnesia and manganese, which in conjunction with the other elements present, especially Lime, will prove a great aid to the farmer in rendering available the crude potash contained in the soil and making him independent of potash which in former times was supplied at enormous cost from Germany.

### BASIC SLAG

Is the only phosphatic fertilizer in which all these valuable elements are combined. Do not overlook the fact that when you buy a ton of Basic Slag you get as much available Phosphoric Acid to the ton as in any other fertilizer and in addition you have the benefits of the other elements referred to herein.

## Prof. Cumming of the Agricultural College, Truro

In the annual report of the Dept. of Agriculture for Nova Scotia, for year 1914, writes, referring to their experiments in connection with commercial fertilizers as follows: "In our experience with roots the best results were obtained from Phosphoric Acid, either in the form of Acid Phosphate, or Sydney Basic Slag. The addition of Muriate of Potash did not materially increase the yield. The heaviest yields of mangels were in the plots treated with Slag instead of Acid Phosphate. In the turnip fields Basic Slag gave better results than Acid Phosphate. Where potash was used on this land there was no advantage"

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