

THE Charlottetown Guardian

Advertising Phone... 182-9
Subscription Phone... 182-2
News and Edit., Day Phone... 133
News and Edit., Night Phone... 182 & 133

Head Office at Charlottetown Branch Office at Summerside, Alberton, Souris and Montague.
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WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 1915.

ELECTION PROSPECTS

Our correspondent in Ottawa writes that the possibility of a June election is still an absorbing topic, notwithstanding the illness of Sir Robert Borden. Representatives both for and against an early appeal to the people have been made, but within the last few days the preponderance of opinion was in favour of a speedy dissolution. The cabinet is giving deliberate and close attention to the question, but probably will not announce the intentions of the Government until assured that the amendments to the B. N. A. Act which are now before Imperial Parliament have been passed into law. These amendments permit us to retain our four representatives and entitle the Government to appoint 12 new Senators for the West. While the opponents of an election urge that it would not only be an unseemly thing at such a time, but would cause dissension and disunion in the country, those favoring an election say that the idea of possible disunion has been greatly exaggerated, especially in view of the campaign of malignity in the Liberal press. They hold, also, that when the Government is adopting a course which is an entirely new thing to this country and fraught with most important consequences, it is a highly proper and constitutional step to go to the country and let the people express themselves upon the course the Government has appropriated. In view of the criticism of the proposal to extend the franchise to the soldiers, it is pointed out that something of the same kind has been proposed in Great Britain.

The political correspondent of the London Times on April 17th last wrote: "There has been some talk lately about possible arrangement between parties with regard to the general election and the subject is to be raised at question time next week. This is not an urgent question, and no decision is likely to be arrived at until much later in the year. The next appeal to the country must be made, by law, by January next, but much may happen in the interval. A more immediate problem is that of the compilation of the register for next year which begins in July. The preservation of the voting qualification of men fighting for their country on foreign soil must be quickly ensured and there is little doubt that the chief whips of the parties will come to an arrangement for the passing of the bill to effect this patriotic purpose."

So that altogether the policy of the Government has been more than justified, and an appeal to the country need not be more than a formal matter, seeing the Opposition do not want any strife or bitterness beyond what they have already introduced.

SUGAR BEET GROWING

A valued correspondent asks The Guardian whether sugar beets could be profitably grown and manufactured in this province.

To this we would simply say that sugar beets have been and are being most profitably grown and manufactured into sugar in Ontario and that the soil and climate of Prince Edward Island, as well as the facilities for manufacturing beet sugar, are just as good here as in Ontario. Sugar beets, when grown extensively, as they are in certain sections of Ontario, are regarded as the most profitable crop that can be raised on the farm. But there are difficulties at present which perhaps would be more serious in Prince Edward Island than in our sister province, namely, labour. Sugar beets require almost continuous cultivation from the early sprouting until they are harvested. In Ontario this labour is performed by foreigners, principally Belgians. In this province labour it too difficult to procure at present to make the undertaking attractive.

The labour problem is perhaps the most serious one that we in Prince Edward Island have to overcome. Scarcity of farm help not only prevents our undertaking many profitable lines, notably sugar beet culture, but very materially handicaps the lines on which we are already engaged. Many of our farmers are abandoning such lines as require most help. Even dairying, which is as profitable a line as can be taken up anywhere, has in many cases been cut down to a limit consistent with the amount of help available. This is regrettable, not only from the point of view of introducing new lines, but of maintaining our present agricultural prosperity.

This is the first and greatest problem that confronts our agricultural life at present and one that must be solved in the near future. There is a solution for it, or rather there will be after the war. We must make arrangements to capture our share of the European emigration that must inevitably take place after the war. Millions of men and women will leave the blood-stained fields of Europe, some of them compelled to leave on account of poverty; some of them to get away from unpleasant associations and painful memories; many, also, thrown out of employment consequent upon the war will seek new fields. We should receive our share of these, and we shall need them. Meanwhile we should prepare for them; we should as far as possible continue the most profitable lines, lines which will enable us to pay better wages and take up more extensively the duties and the privileges of agricultural life.

UNITED STATES OPINION

As was expected the United States papers to had yesterday, the first since the torpedoing of the Lusitania, express burning indignation at this, perhaps, the greatest crime of the century. Under the caption "Ineffaceably Stained" the Brooklyn Eagle of Saturday treats the matter editorially. It refers to the "shadows before the event of murder at sea"; to the warning notice to travellers from the German Embassy at Washington "leaving unsaid what was told yesterday," "told in the terms with which the women and children of Louvain have become familiar," "in the terms barbarians translate into deeds." "So was it told that only from beyond the confines of civilization can clear comprehension of it come."

The Eagle refers to the "other shadows," the William, avenged.

P. Frye, the Falaba and the Gulfight, the latter with its list of dead, and to the warning issued by the United States Government in which the German Government was asked to take into account what would happen were its naval forces to destroy any merchant vessel of the United States or cause the death of any American citizen.

Continuing the Eagle says, "The position in which they, the Germans, place this country is one from which it would not recede if it could and could not if it would. There is no escape from the conclusion that orders to torpedo the Lusitania emanated from Berlin. All the accessories are conclusive contributions to that climax. They harmonize with it perfectly. And another conclusion rendered unavoidable is that the object of Berlin is to shatter the relations, to substitute enmity for friendship."

"Whatever the outcome, one result is sure. The blow at humanity, at civilization, hard as it hits the world, hits Germany harder still. Its effects will be cumulative. They will grow wherever there is response to impulse other than those which are wolfish, bloody and ravenous. They will convert Prussia, if not all German militarism into a byword and a reproach. For the Von Tirpitz regime has drawn up its own indictment, and the finger-prints are in crimson. They are there to stay. They are there to blast a name as long as anything keeps a place on the tablets of the memory. They are there to alienate whatever was left of sympathy. They are ineffaceable."

The Sunday Brooklyn Eagle concludes an editorial in the same strain as follows:

There is no disposition to urge rash and precipitate action upon the Administration, but there will be throughout the country a universal insistence that a course compatible with the power and dignity of the United States be announced with as little delay as possible. We know that the President will deal with the crisis in the temper of a statesman, not in that of a demagogue. And in that temper, and in the face of this awful deed, he is bound to sustain his previously assumed position, that the right of Americans to sail the seas immune to piracy and murder is not to be disregarded by any belligerent on any plea of necessity whatsoever.

FIGHT GASES WITH GASES

Indignation throughout Great Britain over Germany's unfair and uncivilized methods of warfare has at last reached a point where reprisals and "similar methods" are insisted upon. All sentimental ideas regarding the "playing of the game" have vanished in the light of the events of the past two weeks.

The London Chronicle says: "Unless our troops are to feel that they fight an unfair battle, with one hand tied behind their backs—and that is a feeling which, if justified, might destroy all the morale of even the bravest soldiers—we must fight gases with gases, and do so with the least possible delay. We must arm our front with equipment at least as deadly as the German gas equipment, and, if possible, deadlier. This is not a matter to stand arguing about, posing pros and cons, whether in parliament or elsewhere. In justice to our own soldiers, we need to act, and act promptly; and at the same time there ought to be as rapid a development as possible of defensive measures, not merely for the wearing of respirators, but of spraying of alcohol, ammonia, and other chemical agents."

"Every humane person must deplore that warfare has entered on this new phase, but we cannot prevent its being entered on; all we can do is to see that our men are not put at a relative disadvantage by it. If normal weather returns, with the normal preponderance of southwest winds, the enemy may come to be sorry for their own barbarous innovation; but the fact that the Allies are compelled to copy it will not in any sense exonerate Germany for having introduced it, nor take the crime of having introduced it out of the category of those things for which an account must be duly exacted at the end of the war."

And the Chronicle is right. We are fighting a savage, a self-outlawed and criminal nation which will stop at no treachery however base, at no crime however fiendish. "Marquis of Queensbury rules" in this fight are a mockery and suicidal.

GERMAN TRIBUTE

The Berliner Tageblatt publishes without comment a remarkable tribute to the kindness with which Germans in England are treated. The author of the article is a fine art publisher, who only recently returned to Germany. In the course of the article, he says:—

"Hatred against Germany does not exist, and the great feeling of hatred that one encounters on arriving in Germany is quite foreign, and indeed, is incomprehensible to the English. Lissauer's song of hate, the dreadful brooches and rubber stamps inscribed with the words: "God punish England" have not produced what one might call a gratifying effect from the German point of view. Educated Englishmen with whom I spoke have a deep aversion for the fabulous being whom they call the "War Lord" and who, they think, completely rules Germany, and of whose non-existence even the best-educated people cannot be convinced. Such people, however, as butchers, bakers, green-grocers and workmen do not understand hatred between people, and see in the mighty war only a contest of two giants, Germany and England. For the enemy, who they now regard as beaten, they have only esteem."

After describing the politeness and courtesy of the English police, the writer continues: "Still greater consideration and friendliness were shown us by the Home Office officials in the numerous conversations I had with regard to obtaining a permit to leave the country. No English official and no Englishman with whom we had to deal during the days preceding our departure parted from us without the most cordial wishes for our journey. Germans who go away may take with them any sum of money they like, though, of course, gold is prohibited. Not only do Germans receive kind words, but the tremendous amount of relief work, which is undertaken for German prisoners as well as for German women and children, would not have been possible without the collaboration of the authorities, and especially without the financial help of English people."

NOTES

The appearance of Scottish names in both Russian and German army lists recalls a story of Grant Duff's. During one of the Russo-Turkish campaigns the rival generals met to arrange a truce. As the Turkish commander entered the Russian leader's tent, the latter rose and greeted him with, "Eh, Mac, I thocht it maun be you, man!"—Exchange.

The International Women's Congress has named a committee of peace envoys with the idea of starting a world peace movement, and it has been decided to have the envoys first call on Great Britain. The idea behind the movement is no doubt a worthy one, but why do the ladies not begin with Germany? Great Britain only took up the sword after war had commenced and when the Kaiser's hordes were marching into a neutral and unoffending country and trampling down its inhabitants. She can only drop it with honour when the outrage has been

OUR PROMOTION EDITION

Owing to unforeseen circumstances there has been some delay in the publication of our Promotion Edition, but the work is well in hand and we hope it will be ready for issue on June 1. The leading people of the Province have responded loyally to the appeal for assistance in bringing out such an important souvenir number, and Mr. L. A. Krigbaum, who is in charge, reports that the work has extended beyond the proportions originally intended. He earnestly desires to express his appreciation of the magnificent support given him in his efforts to make this the most attractive and important publicity campaign ever carried out for Prince Edward Island. It will be impossible to take any further applications for space after Friday, 14th inst. In the meantime Mr. Krigbaum will endeavour to see the few remaining "men of action" whom he has been unable to call upon earlier.

The following is a list of those who have already given the project their endorsement and support:—

- His Honour Benjamin Rogers.
Hon. J. A. Mathieson.
Carvell Brothers.
Mr W. H. Aitken.
Hon. Murdoch McKinnon.
Hon. James A. McNeill.
Hon. A. E. Arsenault.
Hon. Senator Murphy.
Hon. H. D. Dobie.
Hon. J. E. Wyatt.
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Mr John E. Whitten.
Mr G. N. Matthews.
Mr C. Elmer Whitten.
Mr W. R. Maynard.
Mr Archibald Matthews.

(Continued on page seven.)

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR READERS OF THE GUARDIAN

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

ALL THINGS NEW
A richer, tender beauty on the hyacinth was glowing.
And the crocus blossom showed a sweeter hue.
The great bare elms were whispering a new-found, wondrous secret.
As the morning flashed its sunlight on the dew.
Oh, why did all creation seem to speak of consecration mixed in a clearness and a depth like heaven's blue?
Mine eyes had looked in worship on my Saviour in His glory.
And all the world was new.
A Divine illumination gave the simple hedgerow flow'ret
An equal charm with Orient blooms of Kew.
And the daisies in the churchyard sang to me that death was vanquished.
While a ray celestial crowned the solemn yew;
Yea, the young ferns and the grasses where the bubbling brooklet passes.
And the little buds for the summer sue.
Choir'd: "The blessed Lord from heaven hath redeemed thy soul in mercy."
So all the world was new.

THE FOX INCREASE

Sir,—As one interested in the Fox Industry, I wish to protest against your editorial of the 25th ult. The industry is capitalized to the limit already, and to introduce fresh capital is nothing but stock watering of the most aggravated kind.
Anyone making such proposals cannot have the best interest of the industry at heart: I want to say, with all earnestness, that it is of the most supreme importance that all increase be retained in the ranch for the next several years and capitalization systematically reduced.
Far from adding to the number of companies now existing, the tendency should be quite the other way. Leave such financial operations severely alone; give the industry a chance.
Reduce the capitalization to Four Thousand Dollars per pair, and it will prove a mighty solid business.
I am, Sir, etc.,
ALEX. MAIN MCGREGOR.
360 Seward Avenue,
Detroit, Mich., May 7, 1915.

Our correspondent must be under a misapprehension, or is unaware of the conditions affecting the industry as a whole. Taken all over the average capitalization of a pair of Silver Foxes is \$12,000. But some companies as the result of adding to their stock from last year's and this year's increases will have reduced their capitalization to \$3,000—and still have a surplus of pups. If our correspondent claims, at \$4,000 per pair fox ranching will "prove a mighty solid business," he cannot take exception to ranchers selling their surplus when that basis or less has been reached. If all this year's increase were retained in the ranches, the average capitalization would be \$6,000, but where, as the result of last year's operations, the capitalization has been already reduced to \$5,000, our correspondent cannot expect ranch owners to retain all this year's increase to provide for further reduction to \$2,500. Let the highly capitalized companies retain all their increase if the Directors think fit, but the others must have sales of breeders if the shareholders are to obtain a legitimate return for their investment, even on "a mighty solid basis."—Ed. G.

AUTOCRATIC PRINCE LIBERALS

Sir—Our earliest Legislature, consisting of 18 members, met first in 1773. The Government at that time however, was not responsible to the people, but could be dissolved at the will of the Governor who appointed both the Legislative and Executive Councils. No Kaiser was ever more autocratic than those Governors, one of whom, named Smith, dismissed his Legislature in 1814 and did not call it together again until 1819; then in 1820 having had a disagreement with it he dismissed it and never recalled it during his term which ended in 1824.

From the days of the first Island Parliament a strong agitation was kept up to secure Responsible Government, but it was not till eighty years had expired that this appeal was granted. In 1851 under Governor Bannerman our fathers finally obtained the object of their desires and the first Responsible Government was formed under the leadership of the Hon. George Coles of blessed memory.

Politics at that time dealt principally with the land question and the elections were sometimes very warm and feeling ran high. There was no secrecy then about the Convention meetings and every man had the right to nominate his man openly in the Convention and fight for securing his candidature. Alas, how different today. Recently a supposedly Liberal Convention was held in Summerside to nominate a candidate to run in the Liberal interest at the next Federal election. Instead of everything being done open and above board as true and independent electors should do, a secret ballot was taken to name Candidates. If it had stopped there and the names only given to the delegates without any suggestion as to who any one securing more mention on the ballots than another and the meeting been then thrown open to the friends of the different men named to give their views on their nominees qualifications, before a ballot for nomination was taken, the manipulators of that scandalous proceeding might be forgiven. But no such chance was given or offered by the presiding officers of this meeting, and their cut and dried programme went through consequently without a hitch. The steadfast fight that our fathers made is thus treated contemptuously and the spirit of the true lovers of liberty today revolts at this desecration of the liberties we should hold most sacred.

The same farce was repeated at Ellerslie where a convention was held by a few interested ones to secure their nominations for the running of the next Legislature. The retiring members of the Second District, believing they had a monopoly of the ability and brains of the District in a clearness and a depth like heaven's blue? Mine eyes had looked in worship on my Saviour in His glory. And all the world was new.

Two men who lately represented us, which is saying little, and we don't have to take our Candidates by appointment from them.
The work of the machine as indicated above has been exceedingly coarse, and altogether out of harmony with true Liberal ideals. The Liberal party has always endeavoured to free itself from contaminating influences and it will do so again, but rough measures may have to be adopted so that a free voice will be again given to each individual member of it in its councils.
I am, Sir, &c.,
J. A. MCKINNON.

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J. A. MCKINNON.

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That little plot of land of yours will yield enough vegetables to keep your table well supplied during the summer months. Think of the convenience of going to your own little garden, getting the vegetables you want, fresh and good without one cent of cost.

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