

THE Charlottetown Guardian

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CO-OPERATION

Co-operation is not the "cure all" for every agricultural ill that some would lead us to believe it to be, but, just a simple means, exceedingly useful in appropriate circumstances, for the achievement of a definite result.

Manufacturers, merchants, dealers and others have co-operated for mutual benefit, which is quite legitimate until the rights of others are implicated. They are successful because their members are few. The farmers have an equal right to organize for mutual benefit, but their numbers are so large, that a distinct form of co-operation is necessary.

Modern civilization and the complexity of the distribution of food in the large centres of population have forced the producer and consumer farther and farther apart. The successful gathering together of the food for a city is a task of great magnitude—it is drawn from various parts of the country. Middlemen have grappled with the situation and are standing between the two extremes.

When our farmers once decide to pull together to effect a definite end that end will not be far distant. Before anyone can become an efficient manager of a farm he must have the progressive spirit—he must want to become efficient. After that it is only a question of time.

How will we reach the indifferent farmer? It comes down to a question of leadership. We must have leaders to inject new life into the fellows who have ceased to think of larger things and this want, we believe will be supplied very largely by the district representatives who are now taking up the work in King's and Prince counties.

The direct results from co-operative societies have been almost unbelievable but the most important results are those that follow in the work of such society. In 1875 Denmark was a country without markets, without marketable products without productive soils and without suitable channels for marketing if the products were forthcoming.

The Government of Nova Scotia proposes to levy an emergency tax of 1 per cent. on the gross earnings of companies doing business in the province. The province ran its expenditure last year some \$200,000 over its revenue, and men in business are being asked to make good the deficit.

OUR WORST FOES

If the little people who are at present moving heaven and earth and elsewhere in their efforts to make political capital out of anything or nothing, succeed in getting themselves believed abroad, Canada will very soon have a reputation that few Canadians will take pride in. Liberal newspapers are filled with the most ridiculously exaggerated rumors concerning the enquiry into the quality of boots furnished the soldiers.

And all this mud-throwing and scandal-mongering is for what? To discredit the Government and so secure the coveted treasury benches. Is it not a contemptible business? While the nation is fighting for its very life, while the best blood in the Empire is being shed for the Empire's life these zhoons are muckraking with a view to sneaking into office.

In our own little province similar efforts are being made

on an even more contemptible scale. In order to lay some blame upon the Government and its officials drunkenness and vice are being exaggerated; our Prohibition law is being held up by the liquor interests in our sister provinces as a failure and our temperance advocates are given as authority for the charge. And for what? To promote temperance? Not a bit of it. Simply to, if possible, injure the Government.

If it be true that "a man's foes are they of his own household," it is equally true of a province or of a nation: its worst foes are those who are within its gates and who will malign their country for the sake of personal or party advantage.

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

We note that at present the Ontario papers are devoting a good deal of space to the Patriotism and Production campaign and all, without exception, are pinning their faith to the District Representatives. The reasons given for their faith is well founded and is as applicable to Prince Edward Island as to Ontario. Here also, we have arrived at the stage of district representation of the agricultural department. As already announced representations have been appointed for King's and Prince Counties and, within a few days their officers will be fully equipped and open for business.

The Ontario argument for the expected development of agriculture is well put forward as follows by one of our exchanges:

"About the most practical method yet devised of getting home to the farmer has been the district representative system. In a way the county demonstrator is an interpreter of all the agricultural instruction that has gone before.

"Our experimental farms and our agricultural specialists have been working for many years securing and compiling accurate information. They have been wonderfully efficient scientifically. A vast quantity of data has been collected in reports and bulletins about crops and farm methods. If it were applied upon the farms of Ontario production would be increased, possibly, one hundred per cent.

"That is the point. "If it were applied"—but it isn't, and that has been the weakness of our departments. They have collected a great deal of valuable information, but they have never shown the practical, hundred-acre-farmer how to use it. They have not viewed the matter from his angle of vision.

The farmers have never been satisfied that the increase in crops would pay for the increased work in securing them, and they have not been certain that markets would hold if all else were favorable. Then there were the questions of labor and finance, and other questions, that the bulletins didn't attempt to answer.

These are some of the problems which the district representatives are expected to solve, and which they will solve, provided the farmers co-operate with them. They will be the "men on the spot," personally acquainted with the conditions in their respective districts, in touch with the central laboratories and experimental station, with the latest discoveries in agricultural science, with the markets, with market conditions—and in touch with the farmers, to confer with them, to advise and to enable them to apply the discoveries of agricultural science to their farming operations.

And yet with all the help the government can give with all the science that can be brought to bear on the work of the farm, all will depend on the farmers themselves. The development of our farm work must come from the inside.

When our farmers once decide to pull together to effect a definite end that end will not be far distant. Before anyone can become an efficient manager of a farm he must have the progressive spirit—he must want to become efficient. After that it is only a question of time.

How will we reach the indifferent farmer? It comes down to a question of leadership. We must have leaders to inject new life into the fellows who have ceased to think of larger things and this want, we believe will be supplied very largely by the district representatives who are now taking up the work in King's and Prince counties. Some sections are already fortunate in having leaders whom the rank and file are proud to follow. These leaders will co-operate with the district representatives adding strength to strength and greater progress will be the result.

Where there are no leaders, where there is apathy and perhaps discouragement, a new enthusiasm will be awakened by the general forward move now in progress and larger and more profitable crops, greater contentment and greater prosperity will be the result. The thing is to get in line, to pull together, to aim at the general good; with that, individual good is assured.

NOTES

The Government of Nova Scotia proposes to levy an emergency tax of 1 per cent. on the gross earnings of companies doing business in the province. The province ran its expenditure last year some \$200,000 over its revenue, and men in business are being asked to make good the deficit.

The "TO LET" ADS ARE MORE INTERESTING TO THE home-hunter than any other reading matter." The landlord who makes his advertisements INFORMING, and who really offers something desirable, will always find the kind of tenant he desires.

The Vorwaerts of Berlin publishes a eulogistic review of a pamphlet by a German, which absolves England from all blame in connection with the bringing on of the war in Europe. The Vorwaerts has been in trouble several times in recent months for having the courage to express its convictions. Apparently the official warnings have only served to make its conductors more determined than ever to say what they think whenever they feel like it.

City reports show, says the Montreal Mail and Empire, that in the civic and private abattoirs the number of animals being slaughtered for food is considerably diminishing. In February the number was 1,058 less than in January. The conclusion is that the household economy forced on so many families has brought out a much lessened consumption of meat. The price of beef is high enough that very important economies can be made by leaving it out of the family diet. It would be worth knowing what the people are eating in place of the meat they forego. There is no perceptible increase in the consumption of fish. The retail price of fish is high enough to forbid the poor using it extensively as a substitute. The decrease of meat consumption may not, of course, necessarily mean an increased use of other articles of food, and perhaps the explanation is that the void is being filled with a mixed diet. Coming along into the warmer weather, the consumers will find it increasingly easy to get along without rich meats, and still retain their health and properly nourish their bodies. Medical men have consistently advocated the using of lighter substitutes, but the diet reforms they have advocated on scientific grounds have fallen quite flat until economic necessity issues its mandate.

FISHER RAISING

Sir,—I see from time to time in your paper, that there has been a litter of foxes born on certain ranches. Now we would appreciate it very much if you would announce that we had a litter of fisher born on March 30th and expect several more in a few days. Now all have been mated in our ranches. The most of them raised us a litter last year, but were captured after they had mated, and then raised their young in captivity.

This proves beyond all doubt that fisher will mate and raise young successfully in ranches. Our Marten also look quite heavy in young. They also have been mated in our ranches. We have had good luck with our foxes, so far we have three litters, one litter is three weeks old.

I think it is of great interest to the business of fur ranching, to be able to prove that one more valuable fur bearing animal successfully produced in captivity. Fur farming has a great future, and a man that gets weak knees over this war and drops out, is better out of it anyway. What this business wants is men that are willing to take the good with the bad years and stick right to it like a puppy to a root, as there is going to be big money made in raising these valuable animals for their pelts, in years to come.

We are counting on a good year next year as we are already in touch with several parties that want a lot of stock, and if the war clears up in mid-summer there is going to be a lot of business done this fall.

I am enclosing \$5 cheque to renew our subscription to The Guardian as long as it lasts as we cannot do without it.

Thanking you in advance we are etc. GRAHAM BROS., PER D. L. GRAHAM.

Strathroy, Ont. (P. S.) For the good of the business perhaps you had better announce also that as soon as the female fisher shows signs of being in young that the male ought to be removed as they get fighting and often the male will kill the pups. Several people may lose a litter and never know that they had one at all. It don't hurt to quietly look at the female to see if in young or not.—G. B.

TWO LIVES LOST AND SEVERAL VESSELS DAMAGED IN GALE OFF N.S. COAST.

HALIFAX, N.S., March 31.—As a result of the terrific gale that swept over the fishing banks off the Nova Scotia coast last Saturday, two lives were lost and several vessels were damaged.

The American schooner Virginian put in here to-day for repairs and reported that one of the crew, Wm. McNair, of Argyle, N.S., was swept overboard and drowned. Two Lunenburg vessels with loss of sails and gear came into port to-day.

A wireless from the steamer McKay-Bennet to-night says that she spoke to the Lunenburg fishing schooner Marjorie Beckman, which reported that William Cresser, of Lunenburg, had been carried overboard by a sea and drowned.

FULL BENCH TO DECIDE IF ALLEN WILL GET NEW TRIAL.

HALIFAX, March 20.—In the supreme criminal court yesterday afternoon Judge Longley granted the application of counsel for Harry Allen, found guilty, ordering James R. Johnston, lawyer for a stated case before the full bench. The point on which the application was granted was the absence of a jurymen from the care of the sheriff for about twelve minutes, after court adjourned for lunch, on the day of the trial. It appeared that in leaving the court room the jurymen got away and went home for lunch. As soon as the sheriff learned of this the missing jurymen was gone after and brought back to the jury room.

Counsel for the prisoner applied for stated case on three points, namely, misdirection of the judge's charge to the jury, the judge not explaining what is meant by "homicide," and the absence of a jurymen. Judge Longley refused to grant the first two, but granted the third, he said, in view of the importance of the case. Allen was remanded for sentence until April 4th.

GERMAN SPIES DISGUISED AS FARMERS IN FRANCE.

PARIS, March 30.—The Temps, in belittling the renewal of the spies are since the Zeppelin raid a week ago, declares editorially that it can give every assurance that there is no cause for uneasiness in this respect now. It is said, however, and apparently upon official information, though such is not stated to be the case, that the widely circulated stories last July of German spies disguised as farmers and stationed at important railway centres to blow up tunnels and otherwise cripple the rail communication, were well grounded in fact.

According to this newspaper's information these spies were stationed throughout the eastern part of France. Most of them were occupied on farms, which were within easy reach of strategic tunnels. It was their mission at the first call for mobilization to so cripple the railway system by dynamiting tunnels and otherwise injuring the roads, that the transportation of troops would be seriously hampered. The government, however, was cognizant of the plan in its every detail, with the result that before final mobilization orders were issued all of these spies were put out of the way and not a single railway accident occurred.

ADDRESSING OF MAIL

In order to facilitate the handling of mail at the front and to insure prompt delivery it is requested that all mail be addressed as follows:— (a) Rank (b) Name (c) Regimental Number (d) Company, Squadron, Battery or other unit (e) Battalion (f) Brigade (g) First (or Second) Canadian Contingent (h) British Expeditionary Force Army Post Office, LONDON, ENGLAND.

BLACK CLOUDS IN EAST.

PEKING, April 1.—The concentration of picked Chinese troops around the capital has been practically completed. A hundred thousand men with artillery reserves are now distributed along the railway and a network completely bars the roads to Peking.

The government, dissatisfied with Japan's reply concerning the increase in Japanese garrison in China, sent a note to the Mikado's emissaries today. It is reported that Japan was occupied strategic positions at Mukden, Tsinau, The Tientsin-Pukow Railway, carrying China's military communications between north and south, would be easily cut by the Japanese as a result of the reinforcement of Tsinau, it is declared. No immediate danger exists, but every where, in the conversations and mental attitudes of the Chinese, one finds those curious half-tones reminiscent of 1900, when China drifted into anarchy and murder.

If, finally, China comes to believe that the treaties guaranteeing its integrity were mere "scraps of paper" and all the fine phrases and beautiful hopes expressed regarding Chinese regeneration were nothing but polite pleasantries, something unexpected and ugly may occur.

SEVEN YEAR TERM FOR COL. DESCHAUX.

PARIS, March 23.—Colonel Franco-Deschaux, former paymaster-general in the French army, charged with stealing military stores, was convicted Thursday and sentenced to seven years solitary confinement and military degradation. His name was ordered removed from the list of the Legion of Honor.

Mme. Bechoff, the wife of a German, in whose house the stolen goods were found, also was declared guilty by the court-martial and sentenced to two years' imprisonment. A soldier named Verges, who was accused of aiding in the thefts, was given a one year sentence. All the other defendants were declared not guilty.

SECRETARY TO CAILLAUX

Deschaux, who was formerly chief secretary to Joseph Caillaux of Finance, was arrested in January, charged with stealing military supplies and sending them to his home of Mme. Bechoff, one of the best known dress-makers in Paris. On account of the conspicuous political connections of Deschaux and the prominence of Mme. Bechoff the charges created a sensation.

268 DEATHS IN RANKS SINCE THE CANADIANS LEFT.

OTTAWA, March 31.—Since the Canadian forces went abroad there have been 268 deaths in the ranks. This includes those who died at Salisbury Plains or elsewhere, who have been killed in action or who have died from wounds sustained in action.

The Princess Patricia list of casualties is counted as part of the regular division. No separate check has been kept of the Princess Patricia's losses, but to-day's heavy casualty list, taken in conjunction with those which have preceded it, show fully half of the total losses have been sustained in the ranks of this regiment. From the first it has been subjected to fighting of the severest character and in the face of constant losses has maintained its steadiness under fire.

For the whole Canadian Division the number of wounded at hospitals in France and England is around 500 and is growing.

A RULING AFFECTING MANY CHURCHES.

CHICAGO, March 30.—A ruling that the actual physical property of a Methodist church is under the control of the church, and not under the jurisdiction of Methodist church conference, was upheld by the appellate court here today.

The decision affects more than thirty thousand Methodist churches in the United States, the aggregate value of whose real estate holdings is more than \$30,000,000, according to Emil Wetten, of counsel for the church.

Corset Talk

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