

THE Charlottetown Guardian

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1915.

A STORE IS A "NEWS CENTRE"

News from her store is as eagerly awaited by the average home-maker as news about her friends, about her club's activities, about her church's work or about any of the events of the day in the world.

For a store is a news centre. The "Price Regulation Pencil" of the merchant is always busy, and what it writes is news for the housewife. For it means to her the opportunity to economize, or to buy opportunely.

The store's buyers are news makers. They bring to the city the products of the looms and the work-shops of the world—some of these so novel and interesting that the first word of them is "mighty interesting reading."

Every development of store policy, every decision to make a clearance sale is a matter of "news." Sometimes such announcements have an immediate "cash value" for their readers.

To falter in this "store news service" to a store's patrons—to make the store's advertising less than fully informing—would be to forfeit the interest of hundreds of valuable patrons of that store.

The news of a store should be printed with as much regularity as this newspaper prints the news of the world. This newspaper would not be a "record of events" if it were issued at irregular intervals, or merely at such times as "big events warranted." Store-advertising is not a record of the store if it is printed on any such plan.

LEND YOUR AID

In the People's Theatre to-morrow evening a delightful concert will be given in aid of the Belgian Relief Fund. No more praiseworthy object is at present before the public and all this itself deserves the support and encouragement of all right-thinking citizens. Added to the worthiness of the object, the fact that the programme to be submitted promises to be a musical feast of unusual merit and attractiveness should ensure a bumper house.

The programme will consist of vocal and instrumental music, dancing, musical drill and recitations. Children will have a large part in the programme, and the recently formed detachment of Boy Scouts will contribute exhibitions of their drill, vocal solos and quartettes; while other little ones will render songs in national costumes. Altogether the entertainment will be one of unique enjoyment and pleasure, and the audience will have the satisfaction of knowing that their pleasure will also mean the comfort of many Belgians who have sacrificed home and happiness in the interest of common humanity, truth and righteousness. The ladies who have so kindly and benevolently devoted time and energy to promoting this venerable concert deserve all the support and encouragement which an overflowing audience is sure to give them.

ICY SIDEWALKS

One thousand people brought to court because they neglected to clean off their sidewalks! This did not happen in Charlottetown—only in Brooklyn, N. Y., so, it would appear there are other places than Charlottetown in which the snow falls and the ice accumulates on the sidewalks; likewise, other places in which there is a law demanding that occupants, whether owners or renters, shall clean the snow and the ice off their sidewalks. In Brooklyn it is a "misdemeanor" to allow the snow or ice to remain on the footpaths twenty-four hours. After that the trouble begins for the occupant, and one day last week, according to an exchange, it began with a vengeance.

The report of the proceedings is interesting—and homelike, in places. Most of the 1,000 had previously offended, even as we do in Charlottetown, but were let off with a warning. Most of them, also, offended once too often, which we never do, and they were haled before the police court—which we never are—and were fined one to five dollars each, according to the number of warnings they had let go unheeded.

This significant sentence occurs in the report and it might occur under similar circumstances in a Charlottetown Court: "Those who told straightforward stories were let off with a fine of one or two dollars; the others were fined five dollars."

We have a law in Charlottetown making similar provision for the cleaning off of our sidewalks and many citizens observe it faithfully. There are, unfortunately, a few who do not, and it is on the spots left by these few that so many citizens sit down so often and do such hard thinking. This year, as far as the snow was concerned, the law was pretty generally observed—by timely thaws. The ice, however, was very generally neglected and as a result there were many exhibitions of undignified callisthenics and some unignited language, likewise bruises.

The rain, even during a rainy winter, cannot be depended upon to keep the sidewalks clean, neither will the law do it—unless it is enforced. If the police consider that a sufficient number of warnings have been given, it might be well to try the Brooklyn plan. It would probably require to be tried but once; either that or the law should be wiped off the statute books and something substituted that would work in all kinds of weather.

U. S. SHIP PURCHASE BILL

The United States Ship purchase bill appears to be meeting with considerable difficulty. In fact some of our American exchanges call it a "dead proposition," with or without amendments.

President Wilson has been told this by at least one responsible leader of his party in the Senate, and that body is now marking time and waiting for definite word from the White House as to what the President proposes to do about it.

Without amendments to satisfy some of the Progressive Republican Senators, the Democrats cannot muster a majority for the bill. Seven recalcitrants are standing by their guns. It is admitted that some of these disaffected Demo-

crats might vote for some sort of a ship bill, but not one that the Administration would be likely to accept.

By amending the bill, the Democrats can win the votes of at least two Republicans. Even then, they are short a vote.

In the event of amending the bill so as to suit a sufficient number of Republicans, the President has been flatly told that it will fail. A number of Democratic Senators who will vote for the present measure will refuse to support an amendment bill calling for Government ownership and operation. This is particularly true of some of the conservatives from the South. Mr. Wilson has been told that if the Administration wins Republican votes by compromising on the bill, he will lose an equal number if not more Democratic votes.

What most of the Democratic Senators now desire is the consent of the President to lay the bill aside for the session. He has received word that if this is done the Democrats and Republicans in the Senate will get together and clean up the annual appropriation bills, so that no extra session of the new Congress will be necessary. If the ship bill fight is forced much longer an extra session will become a certainty. In that event there is doubt that the House can be induced to accept such a measure. There is great anxiety on the Democratic side to avoid an extra session, even though the ship bill may fail.

Assuming, however, despite all the above difficulties, that the Senate Democrats demonstrate their ability to muster a sufficient number of votes to pass the measure, the Republican filibuster will be immediately resumed, with every prospect of success. The Republicans have had a good rest, and are ready to begin all over again, with the advantage of a shorter period of time before the expiration of Congress.

If the Administration finally assents to laying the bill aside, the President is expected to take his fight before the country, and renew his efforts to get a ship bill at the next regular session. This solution of the present situation will satisfy most of the Democrats, who can see nothing but trouble if the fight is kept up at this time, with a prospect of almost certain defeat added.

CANADA AND BRITISH GOLD

The revelation between British capital and Canadian progress may be gauged by the fact that the total investment by Great Britain in this country amounts to not less than \$2,800,000,000. The size of this sum may be better understood when, by a little figuring we find that if distributed among the population it would give every man, woman and child in the dominion \$400. The investment by Great Britain in the United States, with a population twelve times as great as that of Canada, and riches in proportion, is not more than \$4,000,000,000. Outside of the United States Great Britain has invested more money in Canada than in any country in the world.

As recently as twenty-five years ago there was little interest taken in Canada by Great Britain. Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, speaking before the Women's Canadian Club in Toronto the other day explained the awakening of British interest in Canada.

The South African war and Strathcona's Horse, Sir Frederick remarked, probably did more towards arousing England's real interest than any event since the conquest by Wolfe or the trek of the U.E. Loyalists from the United States. With almost startling rapidity the scene changed. "It would seem," said Sir Frederick, "as if some magician had touched the Dominion with his magic wand, galvanizing it from sleepy mediocrity into one of the most interesting countries of modern days, with possibilities undreamt of a brief quarter of a century before. The magician was London credit, London gold, London wealth."

The eye of the spectator and of the investor was turned toward the country. Our governments, our transportation companies, our cities, our companies, were enabled to borrow money in London in ever-increasing volume, on more and more favorable terms—"until a point was reached where the yield in Dominion Government stock corresponded to that upon the premier security of the world—British consols. It is noteworthy that in the midst of the panic of 1907, C. P. R., was able to dispose of its 4 per cent. perpetual debenture stock at over par, when the best railways in the United States were unable to borrow money on any terms in reason."

Sir Frederick discussing the investment in the Dominion by other countries, notably the United States, remarked that a very different process had been in operation. Until recently the bulk of investment by the United States had been made by the manufacturers, who established branches of great industries or original enterprises under their own management. "The shrewd American invests in Canada, but camps beside his investment and manages it himself." The Briton handed his money over to us in vastly greater volume in exchange for promises to pay in the shape of stocks, bonds and shares, leaving to us its disposition and management. The merchants and manufacturers of Great Britain have not, to our regret established themselves in business in the Dominion to the extent we would wish, to the extent we think circumstances would justify.

The whole national funded debt of the Dominion of Canada had been advanced by the people of Great Britain, and the same applied to almost the entire funded debt of the various provinces and the chief cities of Canada. The G. T. R., and the G. T. P., had been built entirely with British money. The main portion of the money invested in the C. P. R., came from London. The Canadian Northern had reached its present stage almost entirely with British capital. Many millions of dollars had been invested by Great Britain in our public utility and industrial enterprises.

A dozen years ago Canada had become the vogue in Great Britain. The vogue developed into enthusiasm, merging into something approaching a craze. As a natural sequence, British credulity was taken advantage of by men whose sole motive was self-aggrandizement. "I cannot speak temperately of these ventures," said Sir Frederick, "and the law of Abel is strict."

Reaction from this unhealthy condition was inevitable, and commenced prior to 1910. The defeat of reciprocity gave a fresh impetus to Canada's popularity in London, however, and when the tide of favor commenced to ebb once more, it was checked and fresh enthusiasm aroused by Canada's proposed naval contribution. Then came the defeat of the naval bill and the collapse of the land boom, coupled with the misadventures of several industrial enterprises, all synchronizing with the Balkan War at a moment when the international monetary situation was causing universal perturbation. "And so we came to the month preceding the present devastating war. London continued to buy our securities, to provide us with working capital, but the craze for Canada vanished—forever, let us hope."

Pointing out that one of the outstanding economic features of the war as affecting Canada was that English capital, formerly pouring in at the rate of \$30,000,000 per month, had ceased abruptly, Sir Frederick said—that in the interval before the flow could be resumed it would seem well for us to undergo the course of introspection to review the financial events of the past, to turn the key of economic time.

CONSUL MAYS INTERROGATED

Sir.—Will you kindly permit me a word in reply to the letter of Consul Mays in the Guardian of February 3, 1915, inasmuch as he charges the Boston paper with having incorrect figures.

Consul Mays has reported to this country that the average price received for pelts in the March and June sales was \$155.72. In this same report he tries to show that the average for Prince Edward Island pelts was less than the general average. In our hand at the time we had copy of an invoice showing that pelts from Prince Edward Island, none of which were first class, brought an average of over \$90.00 each. Does Consul Mays say that these figures are true? The editorial quoted states further that:—

"The average of all pelts sold at these London sales for seven years ending in 1911 was only \$225, but the average for the 171 Prince Edward Island pelts sold in that period was \$330."

Does Consul Mays deny the correctness of these figures? Consul Mays says: "The statement of the number of foxes in Prince Edward Island being 4,587 applies to all foxes including the large number of ordinary red foxes. My figures as to plain state refer to Silver Black foxes." This is exactly why we criticize him as being unfair, as he takes the capitalization covering all kinds of foxes, ranches, farms and equipments and divides it by the number of one class of foxes. If he wishes to be correct why does he not give the actual capital covering the Silver Black Foxes and divide that by 2,600?

Does Consul Mays deny the fact that of any ranch cost \$5,000.00? Does Consul Mays know the average cost of the ranches and equipment of the incorporated companies in Prince Edward Island? If he does we challenge him to publish it in the Charlottetown papers.

The Consul states that he is a true friend of the fox business. He seems to be rather unfortunate in his attempt to be a friend as no American investor that I know of considers him a friend, but rather the opposite and are heartily ashamed of being represented by a man so unjust and unfair.

In the letters which he has written to this country it is very plain to be seen that not one dollar of American money will be invested in the fox business if it is possible for him to prevent it. Perhaps this is friendly but we fail here to understand it as such.

He has stated in the Charlottetown papers that every statement he has made is correct. I submit the following quotations from his report and which of them is correct as they cannot all be right.

A.—"The average price of silver fox furs for the last ten years has been \$524.00 each. For breeding purposes foxes are worth only slightly more than this price because they are non-reproductive." B.—"If you could buy the best silver foxes at one thousand dollars a each and could raise foxes for several years, you might make a profit, provided the present average price for their skins should remain at somewhere near \$500.00."

C.—"The value of the foxes in the companies here is much less than the price at which they are capitalized, consequently, those who invest in these companies run considerable risk of losing their money. It was openly stated by a prominent fox man at a public meeting that the pups of some registered silver foxes were common red foxes."

"The average price obtained for black silver fox pelts for the ten years ending with 1911 as \$325.30." "Hudson Bay Company quoted on page 208 of Fur Farming in Canada gives \$250.00 as the average price of the skins of silver foxes for the ten years ending with 1911." Reference to the above page in Fur Farming in Canada will show that the average which Mr. Mays gives was received for a period covering only two years instead of ten as he states. The average for the ten years ending 1911 is considerably lower than the figure he gives.

Continuing, in the letter last quoted, he attempts to prove by garbled quotations that the average price received for Prince Edward Island skins is very much lower than the general average quoted in these figures from Fur Farming in Canada. How does Consul Mays explain these statements when compared with the statement he is reported to have made to the Editor of the Patriot when he stated that he believed every word in the write up of that paper of January 7th showing the price received for Prince Edward Island skins?

E.—"The average price of the pelts which is from one-third to one-fifth of the value at which they are now capitalized." He gives the capitalization of foxes in one letter as \$16,000 to \$30,000 per pair in another \$14,000 to \$31,500 in a third \$16,000 to \$31,500—a fourth \$20,000 per pair. We know that some of the best foxes in Prince Edward Island at the present time are capitalized at from \$8,000 to \$10,000 per pair. We will let Consul Mays explain which of his statements is correct and make it fit with the actual and correct figures.

In one of his letters we find the following paragraph: "Companies formed here for the sale of stock, or for the sale of foxes to stock companies who expect to sell fox stock in the United States, capitalize their foxes at prices ranging from \$16,000.00 to \$30,000.00 per pair, and by a great advertising campaign around Boston and New York, have sold much stock. Whenever the American people cease to buy stock of these companies, the price of foxes will naturally drop to the price of their pelts which is from one third to one fifth of the value at which they are now capitalized." Will Consul Mays kindly state when a great advertising campaign was carried on in New York or Boston?

Mr. Mays makes the statement that the ordinary wild fox is worth exactly as much and is just as good as the best pedigree standard bred Prince Edward Island fox, and that there is little use of attempting to mark foxes in any way for identification because the imported stock is just as good. He also states that silver foxes which have been bred for 15 or 16 years or more generations may reproduce common red foxes. Mr. Mays states that silver foxes of the very best guaranteed stock can be purchased at the

present time for \$1,000 per pair. If he will indicate to me where standard bred Prince Edward Island silver black foxes can be purchased for \$1,000 per pair or for \$2,000 per pair, I shall be glad to hand him a check for \$1,000 for the information as several Boston parties are anxious to buy foxes provided they can be pure blooded. The above letter, while quoted above, the above letter, while directed to Consul Mays and asking for his definite reply to the above questions and statements is submitted to the Guardian for publication so that the people of Prince Edward Island, and every other place where the Guardian is read, may judge as to the correctness of the reports being sent to this country by the present American Consul. We request that his answers to all of the above shall also be printed in the Guardian.

The attitude of the International Fox Breeders' Association, of which the writer is the Provisional Secretary, demands in its constitution and by-laws that there shall be no misrepresentation or statement tending to mislead investors, put out in this country by any Company, and if Consul Mays is what he pretends to be he will work in harmony with the above Association and not otherwise, as he seems to be inclined to do. I am Sir, etc.

C. J. REILY, Boston, Mass., Feb. 8, 1915.

CANADIAN EARTHQUAKES

The Moncton Times recalls that on February 7th, 1855, an earthquake occurred which "is still remembered by the older citizens of Moncton." The first shock was felt about six o'clock in the morning, a second and a heavier shock followed a few minutes later, and lighter shocks continued throughout the day. The people of the Bend thought the end of the world had come. The ground trembled like a leaf in the breeze. Great rents were made in the roadway, and on the banks of the river, the tide being low when the heavier shocks occurred."

It may not be generally known that another and more serious earthquake occurred, also in February, 1863, which is known as "The Great Earthquake." The Baron D'Arvaux, a native of France, and at that time residing in Canada, briefly describes the earthquake as follows: "On the 5th of February we had an earthquake which continued during half of a quarter of an hour. It was repeated from time to time during nine days and was perceptible until the middle of the month, but steadily diminishing."

A description by Father Lalemant is quoted in the "Makers of Canada" of which the following are extracts: "It was February 5, 1863, about half past five in the evening, when a great roar was heard in the same time throughout the extent of Canada. This noise, which gave the impression that fire had broken out in all the houses, made everyone rush out of doors in order to flee from such sudden conflagration. But instead of seeing smoke and flames, the people were much surprised to behold the walls rattling, and all the stones moving as if they had become detached; the roofs seemed to bend downward on one side, then on the other; the bells rang of their own accord; joists, rafters and boards cracked; the earth quivered and made the stakes of the palisade dance in a manner which would appear incredible if we had not seen it in various places."

"Then everyone rushes outside, animals take to flight, children cry through the streets, men and women, seized with terror, know not where to take refuge, thinking at every moment that they must be either overwhelmed in the ruins of houses or buried in some abyss about to open under their feet; some falling to their knees in the snow cry for mercy; others pass the rest of the night in prayer."

"The disorder was much greater in the forest. It seemed that there was a battle between the trees, which were hurled together, and not only their branches, but even their trunks seemed to leave their places to leap upon each other with a noise and confusion which made our savages say the whole forest was drunk."

"There seemed to be the same combat between the mountains, of which some were uprooted and hurled upon the others, leaving great chasms in the places whence they came, and now burying the trees with which they were covered, deep in the earth up to their tops, now thrusting them in with branches downward, taking the place of the roots, so that they left only a forest of upturned trunks."

"While this general destruction was going on on land, sheets of ice, five or six feet thick, were broken and shattered to pieces, and split in many places, whence arose thick vapor or streams of mud and sand which ascended high into the air; our springs either flowed no longer or ran with sulphurous waters; the rivers were either lost from sight or became polluted, the waters of some becoming yellow, those of others red, and the (Continued on page 8)

You need Rexall Beef, Iron and Wine to build up your body after that attack of Grippe; should you take a capsule while your body is still weak, it might prove fatal. Now is the time to start taking it, it's delay. Price 75c. per bottle for \$2.00. MacKinnon Drug Co., Corner Great George and Kent Streets. MONTREAL.

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Our extensive business permits us to replenish our stock often, thus keeping it new and fresh. Come in and let us prove to you that our drugstore service excels all others—our staff of qualified pharmacists are right now ready and anxious to serve you to your entire satisfaction.

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