

The Charlottetown Guardian

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THE THINGS THAT MATTER

In these hot July days few people care to wade through columns of more or less complicated figures prepared for purposes of impassioned oratory. Might we suggest, therefore, in the most friendly way that the Patriot and our Opposition stump orators are needlessly wasting their energies in their voluminous compilations of statistics. There is an easier and more direct way of ascertaining whether the present Government has effected a betterment in the financial condition of the province. That way is to compare the indebtedness of the province when the present Government came into power in 1911, with its indebtedness at the end of last financial year, Dec. 31, 1916. When they came into power in 1911 the debt of the province was \$1,072,000, besides \$11,000 that afterwards cropped up as a claim against the Government. On Dec. 31, 1916, the indebtedness of the province was \$1,062,151, a betterment of \$10,000, to say nothing of the \$11,000. These are the figures obtained by competent and reputable bankers who examined the accounts and who affixed their signatures as auditors to their findings. The figures in all the years between can be twisted and turned upside down and inside out, but they cannot alter these figures nor lead any one to any other conclusion than that under the present Government the debt of the province has been reduced on an average \$2,000 a year.

Figures are available also to show that the late government during its twenty years, ran the province into debt to the tune of \$900,000; that year after year they piled up a deficit which ran from a few thousand to a maximum of some \$120,000 and averaged a net deficit every year of about \$45,000.

Now what the people want to know is, why should the party who reduced the debt of the province by \$2,000 a year besides providing the necessary public works, increasing the efficiency of the schools and doing more for the agricultural interests of the province than had ever been done before, be turned out of power to give place to a party that ran the province into debt at the rate of \$45,000 a year, starved the public works and the schools, did little for agriculture or for anything else, who in fact, never during their twenty years of office did anything which received the general approval of the people, except once, and that was when they got out of office.

This is the question that the people are asking today, and on which they will vote on the 25th inst., and no amount of manipulation of figures by the Patriot or by Opposition orators will obscure it.

INDUSTRIAL REORGANIZATION

The war situation, says the Ottawa Journal Press, has been so absorbing during the last few months that proposals made six months or a year ago for assisting industrial reorganization in this country upon the return of peace have been very largely lost sight of. Early concern for this reorganization was prompted by a belief that the war would be over sooner than now seems possible. While the end of the war is not yet in sight and while the business of winning it is of first importance, it would be well if conditions which its end will bring about were kept in mind. In the Old Country preparations are being made against the return of peace, and the co-operation of the State with the private interests is being arranged for the extension of British foreign trade. In Australia, too, the proposal is being advanced that the Commonwealth appropriate \$50,000,000 for the establishment of manufacturing industries.

Canadian interest, as the Toronto News points out in again taking up this important question, has demonstrated by its munitions making that it has very great capabilities. With the organization assistance given it turned its peace activities to war work and has already supplied between \$600,000,000 and \$700,000,000 worth of munitions to the armies in France. "In the light of this achievement," the News quite properly says, "it is difficult to see why a similar systematic

organization of our industries for peace purposes should not bring equally satisfactory results."

Canadian manufacturers probably could not have produced such remarkable results without the co-operation of the Canadian and Imperial Governments. Their achievements show what is possible when State and private interests work together. It is of vital importance to Canada that our industries prosper. One of the principal concerns of all Governments has been to give them "protection." They will want great assistance at the close of the war in the effort to revert to peace time activities. The best possible method of assisting them would be through systematic national organization—joint effort of State and industry, such as brought about success in munitions making.

The question was brought up in the Senate the other day by Senator Frederic Nicholls. It should be given serious consideration by both branches of Parliament.

A NEW PROSECUTOR

Mr. Robert Jenkins has been appointed Prosecutor under the Prohibition Act in place of Mr. Allan Boisner, who has held the position for some time past. Mr. Jenkins is an old-time prosecutor, with a good record, and, being an ardent temperance worker, and enjoying the full sympathy of the temperance people of the province, there is no doubt that he will succeed in ferretting out the few remaining dives and violators. It must be remembered, however, that no prosecutor, be he ever so earnest in his efforts and zealous in the cause, can succeed in ousting the liquor business unless he has the sympathy and the support and co-operation of the people. The undertaking is a big one, and if more help and less criticism had been given in the past the last of the liquor business would have been seen ere this. In his difficult task we wish Mr. Jenkins the fullest measure of success, and bespeak for him the honest support of all who profess to have the cause of temperance at heart.

CONSCRIPTION OF WEALTH

The wild talk of certain newspapers and politicians about the need for "conscription of wealth," says an exchange, seems to have provided its own remedy. It is apparently not the "wealthy" who have become alarmed, but the owners of comparatively small savings bank balances accumulated by careful thrift.

The wealthy know that "wealth" can be conscripted in only one way—that the confiscation of anything but the earnings of "wealth" is an economic impossibility without national disaster; they know that they are liable to have imposed on them further taxation of their incomes from invested wealth and, so far as can be judged by their silence, are quite willing that such taxation shall be imposed.

It is the man of small means who has become disturbed. He fancies that all accumulated wealth, his own included, is liable to seizure, and so he has begun to draw it out of the banks and post office where it earns interest and store it in old stockings where it will earn nothing and may be lost altogether.

So widespread has become that disturbance of the public mind by the silly demands of men whose business it seems to be to exploit the ignorant, that the Minister of Finance found it necessary to explain in the House of Commons that bank deposits of course would be immune from state exactions, that incomes only could be the basis for taxation of this character.

But just as interesting as Sir Thomas White's statement was the disclaimer of Hon. George P. Graham, one of the leaders of the Liberal party, many of whose members have been busy with the words "conscription of wealth." Mr. Graham impressed upon the House that he had never used the term "conscription of wealth" but had always spoken along the lines that accumulated wealth should be made to take its fair share in bearing the burdens of the war.

NOTES

The Patriot when challenged regarding its statement that official salaries have been increased by the Conservatives by from forty to fifty thousand dollars, replied that it was prepared to publish the details should The Guardian desire it. The Guardian expressed its urgent desire for an itemized statement and requested the Patriot to furnish it immediately and not wait until the eve of the election. The Patriot has failed to substantiate its offer and to comply with our request. Our readers may draw their own conclusions.

INDEPENDENCE OF FINLAND IS NOW CAUSE OF CRISIS

(Canadian Press Despatch.) PETROGRAD. — The Finnish Diet on Thursday passed the second reading of a bill virtually establishing Finnish independence. The introduction of the bill has created a serious crisis here, and N. C. Tchelde, President of the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' delegates, has gone to Helsinki in an effort to settle the differences.

An indication of the seriousness of the situation was a late sitting of the Petrograd cabinet and a decision of the Premier L'vov to summon back to the Capital the ministers who are now with the army. According to the Birch-Eviya, M. L'vov's Socialist colleagues declare themselves in principle in sympathy with Finland's move. The Premier and other ministers belonging to the cabinet party refuse, however, to allow Finland to determine her relations with Russia, insisting she must wait until the ending of the constituent assembly.

Armed Interference Likely.

The comment of the newspapers in Petrograd is sharp. The Birch declares it is impossible for Russia to tolerate Finland's move. The Birch-Eviya hints at armed interference, saying Russia is now about to make a last attempt toward a peaceful settlement.

According to the present programme, Helsinki will tomorrow put the bill passed Thursday into force "by simple declaration," meaning without Russia's sanction. This is the first formal denial of Russia's suzerainty.

The law which was engineered by the Socialists proclaims that Russia has lost all authority in Finland except in the domains of diplomacy, and in the army and navy, wherein, however, Russia's rights are undefined. All other prerogatives of the Grand Duke of Finland, which the provisional government claims passed automatically to it, belong to Finland.

Assume Grand Duke's "Right."

Specifically, the Diet assumes the Grand Duke's right to put into execution the law, convolve and propose the Legislature and appoint a supreme executive and appoint the Governor-General is not mentioned in the law, and as no functions are left him, he is practically superseded. Telegrams from Helsinki declare that after the promulgation of the law the Diet will appoint its own Senate.

Internal Autonomy Demanded.

M. Tokoi, Vice-President of the Department of Economics of the Finnish Diet, according to a Helsinki telegram, declared in an interview: "We make no claims in the domain of foreign policy or of war, and we do not desire any change in our relations with Russia until the end of the war, but we must immediately receive internal autonomy which should be guaranteed internationally after the war." Regarding the projected Finnish war loan, M. Tokoi said the money might be raised if a guarantee were given that it would not be employed for the furtherance of any imperialistic designs, but he devoted exclusively to expenses arising from the revolution and the maintenance of the Russian garrison.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

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SHADOWS.

I have watched the shadows on the lawn all summer. At first they were short, and only a portion of the lawn was in cool, dark green shade; now they are lengthening in the rays of a departing afternoon sun. They reach nearly to the opposite fence, quite distant, leaving only a large patch of sunshine; yet even now the shadowed part is most beautiful in its cool, dark green of late August. The heated flowers now in shade are again raising their heads with renewed vigor.

These shadows make one think of the advanced afternoon in life, whose shadows came very slowly, very welcome in the heated day of struggle, temptation, toil and sorrow; for one can rest so gently when the shadows are calm—like the shadows on the lawn.

Sometimes these tree-shadows dance and wane in a strong, bustling breeze, like the rough tossings in life. Shadows mean shade, and give strength, coolness and renewed vigor from the heat of the day. One seldom sits in the shade until pressing duties are done. The young carelessly think—and perhaps it is well—stop for the shade in their life of joy and pleasure.

It remains for the older ones to enjoy the calm restfulness of the shadows. When their work is done comes the peace of the shadows.

The sun always seems brighter, after the shadows or shade; our blessings appear fuller after the shadow of pain, toil and sadness.

The shadow now have entirely covered the lawn; the sun is lower, and getting ready for its night of panorama of glowing colors as its good-bye to the day. It has done its duty well, this glorious day of blue, sunny skies and now rest-time is drawing near. Oh, may it be the rest-time of peace and hope to all. There must be a few clouds to make a more glorious sunset—a few are gathering now.

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BUTTERICK PATTERNS

EDISON FILLS NEED FOR CARBOLIC ACID

NEW YORK. — Representatives of Thomas A. Edison announced at a dinner of dealers in Edison appliances at the Waldorf-Astoria last night that the inventor had made such progress in the manufacture of carbolic acid—a product for which the country depended on Germany and England before the war—that he was not only supplying his own laboratories in New Jersey but was selling considerable quantities to the trade. Protected by tariff laws, before the war carbolic acid could not be built up in the United States. The progress made by Mr. Edison in the manufacture of carbolic acid was reported to the convention in the afternoon by William Maxwell, one of the Vice Presidents of the Edison Laboratories. C. H. Wilson, Vice President in charge of production, was interviewed last night at the dinner of the dealers at the Waldorf, and confirmed what Mr. Maxwell had said.

Before the beginning of the war, Mr. Wilson said, carbolic acid could be had at from 8 to 10 cents a pound. After the beginning of hostilities imports were shut down and the price rose to \$1.50 a pound, with every prospect that it would go still higher. Carbolic acid being one of the agencies largely in use at the Edison laboratories, Mr. Edison set to work to provide against a possible exhaustion of the supply and to reduce the cost of production within marketable bounds. In this, after many hours of patient labor and the exercise of his inventive genius, he has been partly successful.

Recently the production of carbolic acid at the Edison laboratories rose to 3,000,000 pounds a month, and the cost, while not made public by Mr. Wilson, was said to be considerably below \$1.50.

"We have discovered no new process," said Mr. Wilson, "but we have found a way to produce carbolic acid in large lots, and, after the war, proper laws are enacted there is no reason why the trade in this commodity should not be retained in this country. We are not only producing enough of the acid for our needs, but we are producing enough to supply a great deal of trade."

It had been reported earlier in the day that the laboratories had also been supplying the American Government, but Mr. Wilson said this was not true. "Many Governments are in the field for carbolic acid," he said, "but we have not sold any of it to the United States Government yet."

About 900 persons attended the dinner. There was a cabaret performance, but no formal speech making. Mr. Edison was not able to attend, but sent the following message: "Tell the boys I will come over to the convention if they say so, but please tell them that I believe they would rather have me keep busy on the work I am doing now. I hope to be at the laboratory Saturday morning and spend a few minutes with those who come out at that time."

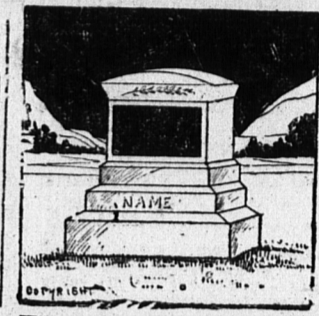
The business session of the convention will be resumed this morning, and tomorrow morning the delegates will visit the Edison laboratories.

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