

THE Charlottetown Guardian

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21st, 1914.

"THE SECRET DOSSIER."

Captain Dreyfus was convicted and sent to life long imprisonment in Devil's Isle on the strength of a "secret dossier" which, on subsequent investigations proved to be the fraudulent production of his prosecutors.

Trial in camera and the admission of secret information are entirely contrary to the British sense of law and justice. Any verdict obtained in an interior court under such circumstances would be instantly quashed on appeal.

Yet it is the "secret dossier" that forms the stock-in-trade of those who are condemning the Government for lax enforcement of the Prohibition Law.

A secret document was circulated among certain clergy and quoted from in the Presbytery and at Temperance meetings throughout the country. It has been used as a threat of exposure against the Government, and we have been told that when it is published, the Government will stand self-condemned before the people.

Again, a scandalous document was published by the Patriot under an assumed name, purporting to give the impressions and experiences of a visitor to Charlottetown. The Guardian was able to expose this fraudulent misrepresentation without loss of time, and the plot has had the usual boomerang effect on those who connived at it.

And yet again, we have our esteemed contemporary coming out editorially with the intimation that it has still another "secret dossier" in its editorial sanctum; the so-called "facts" may be disclosed, but the "secret dossier" may only be submitted to the favored few who care to visit the editorial sanctum.

Out with such abominations of trials and judgments! They are the methods of the despot and the bureaucrat and foreign to our ideas of freedom and open handed justice. Don't let the Province get into the hands of "dossierites" or no man's character, no man's freedom will be worth a moment's purchase.

The advantage of letting light in upon the dark places of the "dossierites" was clearly evidenced at the public meeting held under the auspices of the King's County Temperance Alliance at Montague on Thursday evening. The Hon. Murdoch McKinnon was present and submitted the record of the Government in the matter of Prohibition enforcement, and not a single speech was made nor resolution passed condemnatory of the Government. Which goes to show what the critics of the Government most do fear is that reliable information should be placed before the public.

For nearly a fortnight we have been asking the Patriot and its henchmen to produce the document which was supplied to the Rev. Mr. Littlejohns, quoted in the Presbytery, and at meetings throughout the country as evidence of the Government's alleged laxity in carrying out the Prohibition Act. This statement was composed largely of a list of prisoners to whom clemency had been extended, and the public were informed that the Government was responsible, that where the prisoners were not let out by the Premier they were let out by the Governor on the advice of the Attorney-General.

Today we publish the entire list, and it will be seen that only in three instances was the Attorney-General concerned and in each for good and sufficient reasons. First: In the case of John Hughes who was reported by Dr. Warburton and Dr. Ledwell to be in a dying condition, the Attorney-General concurred in his release by the Lieutenant Governor. Second: Lawrence Gaudet, a South African veteran, in prison for the first time, volunteered for the front, and in response to an appeal from his commanding officer, he was discharged by the Lieutenant Governor with the concurrence of the Attorney-General, and is now at the front fighting his country's foes. The third was the case of John McLure who is in the position of an escaped prisoner. McLure, who is over eighty years of age was sent to prison from the country, and took suddenly ill. He was removed to the Hospital and on recovery was discharged instead of being returned to prison. When the matter was reported to the Attorney-General he took steps to order the man's re-arrest, but on representations made by people in the district, including members of the Temperance Alliance, it was considered better to allow the old man to remain out on suspended sentence. It appears both he and his wife are over eighty years of age, are in poverty, the wife is an invalid, and the old man is her sole support and nurse. Under such circumstances it appeared to the leading residents of the district that it would be cruel to re-incarcerate the old man, when the suspended sentence would have as salutary an effect upon him.

We have examined each of the cases in which, the Lieutenant Governor extended his clemency, have seen the documents submitted to him; we have examined the prison books and documents in the possession of the Jailer, and we are satisfied that the Governor could not have acted other than he did under the circumstances submitted in each case, notwithstanding that in two or three special cases he acted contrary to the advice of the Attorney-General. Under our blessed British freedom loving constitution, acts of clemency may be extended by the King or his representative in each Province, and exercising the prerogative, and with all the information before him the Lieutenant Governor was well within his right and discretion in saying to whom, and to what extent clemency should be meted out. Governor Rogers is not the man to take these aspersions on his honor and integrity lying down, and we should be sorry for the circulators of the "secret dossier" if they ever meet him on ground where he can have an opportunity of telling them in plain unvarnished language what he thinks of them and their tactics.

THE KAISER'S MISTAKES

That the Kaiser made many mistakes both in the launching and in the conduct of the present war has been indicated by many circumstances since the war began. All his mistakes appear to have sprung from the fact that he misunderstood the people with whom he has been dealing. He misunderstood the British in imagining that they would regard the treaty with Belgium as a "scrap of paper"; he similarly misunderstood the Belgians and miscalculated their strength.

He later misunderstood the Mohammedans whom he thought he could stampede into a Holy War. It was no doubt because he believed in the ability of the Sultan to enlist the sympathy of the Mohammedans that he prevailed upon Turkey to stand by him and Austria. It is even told him that he has caused a legend to be spread among the Mohammedans to the effect that he had become a convert to their faith. The Sultan claims to be the supreme head of the Mohammedan world, the Caliph, the representative on earth of God and the Prophet. There are about 82,000,000 Mohammedans under British rule; 30,000,000 under French rule; and about 18,000,000, in Russia. Had he succeeded in kindling a Holy War among these people it might easily have become a serious matter. He has tried it, and his emissaries are now engaged in the undertaking but with poor prospects of success. A good many of these Mohammedans do not acknowledge the caliphate of the Sultan, and of those who do not theoretically many hold the view that religion and honor bind them to the flag under which they live.

The corrupt nature of the Turkish Government as compared with the fair treatment accorded them under British, French and Russian rule is fully appreciated by the Mohammedans and we have the Mohammedans of Baku uniting in prayer for the success of Russian arms, we have contingents in the French armies from Morocco and Senegal, and we have Mohammedan princes warriors from British India enthusiastic in the service of the King, Emperor. An exchange points out that as British people we are naturally most closely interested in these our fellow subjects. Nihal Singh divides the Moslems of the British Indian army into three groups. First there are men descended from Hindus who for one reason or another became Moslems in the centuries gone past. Secondly, there are those whose forefathers at different times migrated to India from Turkey, Arabia, Persia, Afghanistan and other countries, and thirdly there are men of the Moslem clans which furnish recruits to the British Indian forces and belong to the tribes inhabiting Baluchistan, the North-west Frontier Province, the tribal areas of the North-west Frontier and even Afghanistan. All of these are of splendid fighting stock and all have given proofs of sturdy loyalty.

To win and hold the loyalty of these strong men has required many fine qualities. It used to be said in India of John Nicholson that he seemed like one of the early Mohammedan saints come back again. In like manner Lord Kitchener, when in Egypt, became "en rapport" with the native mind. Even the wild Arabs against whom he had fought, afterwards acknowledged him as one evidently appointed by Allah to be their ruler, while the soldiers and fellaheen ever found him ready to talk to them in their own tongue and to redress their grievances. It would be folly to claim that all British officials have been equally strong and wise, but there is no doubt that our Moslem subjects have seen so much of these qualities manifested by British soldiers and civilians, that they will spurn with pride any advances made either by the Emperor William or by his tool the Turkish Sultan.

ALLIANCE POLITICS CONDEMNED

In another column we publish the official report of the afternoon sitting of the King's County Temperance Alliance. It is noteworthy that for the first time for many weeks, at a temperance meeting there was no resolution condemning the Government for laxity in the enforcement of the Prohibition Act.

In the second place a motion deprecating the introduction of politics into the work of the Alliance was lost by only one vote, four to five. This resolution was not published by our self-styled "impartial" Contemporary, although the meeting formally resolved that it should be given to the press together with the explanation that it was unnecessary, as the motion was already included in the Constitution of the Alliance. An explanation will therefore be necessary from Mr. D. Schurman, who contributed a letter over his name as "Secretary of the Alliance," to the Patriot of Saturday, 14th, threatening to deal with the general programme of the Provincial Government, regarding automobile legislation, oyster conservation, appointment of judges, etc.

Resolutions expressing renewed confidence in Mr. David Schurman, Secretary, and Rev. W. D. Wilson, Field Secretary, were unanimously passed, showing a commendable spirit of tolerance on the part of those who deprecated political partizanship.

GERMAN FINANCES

At noon on Saturday, says an exchange, there was a little over \$100,000,000 in gold in the custody of the Finance Department at Ottawa, placed there to the credit of the Bank of England by United States concerns to meet payments falling due in England or for the purpose of steadying the rate of exchange. Shortly after the outbreak of the war a man in New York who had to pay a debt of a pound sterling in London had to put up \$6 or more of American money in New York; but now the rate has dropped to normal, \$4.89 or less. On the other hand, New York exchange on Berlin has, as the brokers say, "gone to the dogs" against Berlin. The par of exchange between the two places is 98 3/4 cents. American for four marks German, and 93 1/2 is the point at which New York should theoretically get gold from Germany. But the rate on Saturday was down to 86 1/2. In other words, the value of German money in Berlin as computed at New York in American money has been steadily falling, one reason, according to the New York papers, being that people are convinced Germany is in a bad way and likely to be in a worse.

NOTES

The Russians are renaming German places, the Germans are renaming Belgian places, and the same thing is going on in a minor way in every country engaged in the war. Geography is going to be a puzzling study when hostilities have ceased.

Nietzsche, who became so mad that he had to be confined, is as dead as Napoleon, and had about as much to do with the present debacle as that world trampler. The highly-cultured gentlemen of Europe who made the present war are alive and kicking, and no doubt some of them are dreaming of conflicts to come after the present one is over. They would have acted as they did if a phil...

DON'T SACRIFICE YOUR FOXES.

Sir,—At the present time the average price of wild silver fox skins in London is about \$200, and for ranch foxes, such as are found with the best ranchers, \$1,200.—Commission of Conservation Report, 1914.

This year, according to the Provincial Government census of the fox industry, our silver foxes produced and averaged 1 3/4 young per pair over the whole industry. Good ranches produced a much better average, but let that go. On a pelt basis at \$1,200 each, our average product was a value of \$2,100 per pair of all our silver foxes. Deduct 15 per cent. for cost of ranching, which would be \$315, and there remains \$1,785. That is sufficient to pay 10 per cent on \$17,850 per pair, or 15 per cent, on \$11,900 per pair. Surely on any reasonable basis of calculation good silver foxes produce a worth \$19,000 to \$15,000 per pair to keep as breeders, and any company selling for less than \$10,000 per pair is making a sacrifice. I am, sir, etc., J. E. B. McCREADY.

ISLANDERS IN THE WEST

Sir,—Although four decades have nearly passed away since I left my native island home, yet I still cherish fond recollections of its green fields and shady groves, of its beautiful bays and widening estuaries and not less of its kindly and generous people, and although I have traveled over the greater portion of this continent—from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Red River of the South to the Red River of the North, and to the Big Saskatchewan beyond, yet I have seen no fields so green, no people so comfortable situated, enjoying the comforts of life without the degenerating luxuries as I have seen on the "Garden of the Gulf" Prince Edward Island.

Here in the city of Victoria its sons and daughters are well and honorably represented. Here they come many of them, to impart to the rising generation of this Province that education and culture they themselves received in the institutions of learning of their native home. They are to be found representing the pulpit and the press, law and commerce, and in the army and the navy. Only a few years ago and every school inspector in the province of British Columbia was from Prince Edward Island. And although there is no lack of graduates from the colleges of Great Britain in this province yet the teachers that come from P. E. I. are preferred before them; probably because they understand how to approach and take hold of the young Canadian mind better than the born Britisher does.

Here is Miss Maria Lawson, a native of Charlottetown, an author, having written a History of Canada which for many years was the authorized text book in the schools of British Columbia, and is in my estimation, the best history of Canada I have yet read. Having taught school for many years, she is now a daily writer on the Colonial staff and is an important adjunct to the popularity of that paper. Her father, the late Henry Lawson, was chief editor for that paper for many years. Here, too, are A. Campbell, and his brother Ernest hailing from the eastern part of King's County, and each principals in the schools of this city. The principal of the John Jay School is H. B. MacLean. The Head Master of the High School, Samuel J. Willis, B. A. from near Charlottetown, west of the North River. No man in the community is more highly esteemed than is Mr. Willis. The two Miss McLeods, daughters of Judge McLeod of Summerside are here also, holding excellent positions teaching the classics in the High School. In fact pretty nearly all the principals of these schools in Victoria are from P. E. I.

The Rev. Leslie Clay, D. D. has been the pastor of an Anglican church for many years, and has one of the richest congregations in the city by whom he is held in much esteem. The Rev. J. S. Gordon, who had retired from the ministry on account of failing health, has been for some years inspector of the schools of the Province and an important factor in establishing the schools of British Columbia on the excellent basis on which they are now.

These are only a few of the sons and daughters of Prince Edward Island that are holding positions of trust and enrolment in Victoria, I might mention many more that I know of that have worked themselves to the front. W. H. McDonald, born in the West Royalty, is one of the head clerks in the C. P. R. Freight Department and is highly respected in this community.

I may now mention something about the city, that has grown from being in 1857, simply a Hudson Bay port to a city of over 60,000 inhabitants. But of its history I need not dwell on as that can be ascertained from any Canadian history, but will state that with the exception of the Asiatics and the few Canadians and Americans this is an English town, and the different English idioms are heard on all sides. The climate itself is just like the climate of England they say. Well we don't have much frost here and fowers can be seen in the gardens all winter. The snow, when it does fall, seldom remains more than a day or two, and I have seen people cutting their lawn meadows in February. But this is not saying that the climate conditions make it a paradise. Far from it for we have cold chilly winds and wet drizzly weather during the winter months, which make it less agreeable than the dry frosty climate of the prairie.

In my next I will tell what is being done in the way of recruiting men to put down the power of the demagogues who have made of Belgium and France a field of slaughter of men, women and children. I am Sir, etc., J. R. McDONALD, Victoria, B. C. Nov. 10, 1914.

Five per cent of the amount you spend for Rexall goods goes to assist the families of those who have so gallantly responded to their country's call. McKinnon Drug Co., Cor. Great Geo.

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

Sewing and knitting for the soldiers is still being happily pursued by the ladies of Charlottetown, and during the past week several very novel and enjoyable sewing bees have been held.

The Friday sewing class for young people opened last evening in the armouries, and as much work is yet to be done large meetings are anticipated.

Mrs. (Dr) Dewar, who recently moved into her beautiful new home on Gratton Street, from Southport, received for the first time since coming to Charlottetown, last Tuesday afternoon, when a large number of friends called to bid her welcome. She was assisted in receiving by her sister, Miss K. McLeod.

To pleasantly while away a few hours weekly, an afternoon Bridge Club, for the winter months, was started last Wednesday, when Mrs W. W. Clark was the hostess. There were three tables, and a very enjoyable game took place, during which dainty refreshments were served.

Mr and Mrs G. A. Gane, after summing in Charlottetown, have left to spend the winter in New York. They will be sincerely missed in the social circles here.

Miss Pippey has gone on a visit to Boston, before proceeding to New York, where she will spend the winter.

Mr Percy Pope's many friends trust that the winter spent in the south will bring him renewed health and strength, and an early homeward journey in the spring. Mrs Pope leaves shortly to spend the winter in Ottawa.

Mrs W. T. Wellner received for the first time since her marriage, on Tuesday afternoon and evening, assisted by Mrs Bayer and Mrs Lloyd Wellner. Assisting in the tea-room, which was daintily decorated in pink carnations, were Mrs MacLaine, Miss Mildred McKinnon, Miss Beales and Miss Whear.

Mr and Mrs Frank R. Heartz and little Miss Ruth Heartz leave this morning on a ten days' visit to Boston.

Hon. Charles Dalton was a visitor to Charlottetown this week.

Among the visitors here this week was Sir Fredrick Borden, of Canning, N.S., who came over to visit the different fox ranches in which he is interested.

Major Bartlett's lecture in Summerside last evening on the French Chateau, given in aid of the Canadian Patriotic Fund, was vividly entertaining and splendidly received.

Much interest centres around the anniversary services in the First Methodist Church, which will be held to-morrow, when the two distinguished visiting clergy, Rev. G. M. Campbell, of Sackville, and Rev. A. B. Simpson, of New York, will preach.

The many friends of Mrs John McLeod, Souris, were sorry to learn it was necessary for her to enter the P.E. Island Hospital for surgical attention to an injured knee, received while in Quebec. It is expected, however, the patient will soon be out and about again.

AROUND THE FOX RANCHES

Mr John B. Rombaugh, formerly of Baltimore, now resident in Charlottetown, returned recently from an extended trip to New York, Philadelphia, and other American cities, in the interests of the silver black fox industry.

Notwithstanding the war and the general financial depression, Mr Rombaugh was very successful in interesting a large number of capitalists to invest in the industry. While in New York he visited several of the largest and oldest established fur houses in the world, and found that they were selling silver black fox skins at \$3,000 and \$3,500 each.

Having been associated with the fur business for many years past, Mr Rombaugh is a recognised authority on furs, and surely it must be gratifying to those engaged in the industry here to know that, in his opinion, these skins realising such high prices are not worthy to be compared with our famous Island foxes.

A shipment of ten pairs of foxes from the Massachusetts ranch was made yesterday to parties in Halifax.

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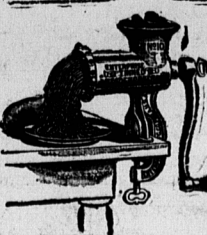
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