

The Charlottetown Guardian

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MONDAY JANUARY 7th, 1918.

A POSSIBLE SURPRISE

Who knows but that out of the chaos in Russia some good may come as suddenly as the revolution which produced the chaos. In our despatches yesterday Mr. Litvinoff, who has been appointed Bolshevik Ambassador to England, is credited with the significant remark that by the present negotiations and propaganda among the German soldiers in the east, Trotsky and Lenine are contributing more effectively to the downfall of Kaiserism than are the Allies fighting on the western front. To this he added the still more significant statement that he was sanguine enough to imagine that the Russian and German armies on the eastern front would some day march together against the common foe of the world's proletariat in Germany itself, and perhaps in other countries also.

We have not yet learned the whole truth about Russia, nor do we know all that underlay the revolution and its sorrowful sequel. We may safely assume, on the authority of Mr. Litvinoff, that the factions now at war with other factions there are neither pro-German, anti-Ally or mere pacifists. The thinking Russians know the Germans and know also that no good to Russia can come out of Germany. The "propaganda" referred to by Mr. Litvinoff is evidently an attempt of the Russian Socialists, and possibly of the German Socialists as well, to bring about a revolution in Germany. If they succeed in this they will have done as much to bring about peace as the Allied guns on the western front.

Revolution in Germany has long been expected, long looked to also as the only means by which permanent peace can be secured. We have it on the word of Lloyd George and President Wilson, concurred in by the other Entente Allies, that no peace can be made with the present German Government. Once the German people realize this, realize that their Kaiser and the government surrounding him cannot be trusted by the nations, they will demand a government that the nations will trust, a government in which the people will have a voice.

There is one thing, however, that militates against a revolution in Germany, namely, the dominance and the power of the military circle which is really the government. Any symptoms of rebellion are mercilessly crushed at the outset and any regiment becoming mutinous would be wiped off by German guns. Mr. Litvinoff believes in the propaganda now being conducted, evidently with a view to revolution and there is room to hope. In any case there has been a change of program on the Russian front within the past few weeks. The peace proposals are off; the movement of troops to the western front has stopped and the East has become threatening again. Russia may have another surprise in store for us. In the meantime she is not being abandoned by the Allies.

MORE FOOD PRODUCTION

Again there is a call on the part of the authorities to produce more foodstuffs. The call is to all, to farmers especially who are the chief food farmers. The reason given is the certainty that there shall be food shortage during the coming year at least with a probability of increasing shortage in the years immediately following.

There are two inducements held out for increased production; first, the rendering of necessary assistance to win the war because if serious food shortage threatens either our armies or our allies we are beaten; second, because of assured markets and high prices. This double call will appeal to the patriotic and to the selfish.

At a time like the present the former is the great incentive, to help in every way to win the war. And yet big prices and a steady market are factors that cannot and should not be ignored. It is known that when prices rule high and the market's demands are such as to absorb all that is offered farmers will find some means of increasing their production to the highest possible limit. This is what is now required and every possible preparation should be made for it during the winter months. The great question here for increased production is the matter of procuring sufficient fertilizer. The commercial variety will no

doubt be scarce as well as dear. Citizens near Charlottetown and other urban centres can, by making the necessary arrangements sufficiently early, procure considerable quantities of stable manure. Musement can be delivered at all points along the railway; the barnyards and stables can be watched more closely and everything possible thrown into the compost heap. Preparation in time is of vital importance and we have no doubt our experienced farmers will be quite prepared for a banner year in their business.

Amateur farming such as was carried on to a certain extent last year is one of the doubtful propositions. There is no doubt that many homes in this city and in the towns and villages profited considerably by their efforts in vegetable growing. Neither is there any doubt that many spent time and money on plantations that yielded no harvest. Amateur farming requires patience and perseverance, and these virtues are usually in evidence only during the planting stage; they seldom last through the heat of summer and they often wilt entirely in the presence of weeds and other pests which seem to take a fiendish delight in mocking the efforts of the amateur. Before laying out any money on seeds, farming implements and other necessities these things should be well thought out, for waste of any kind is going to be a crime during the coming year.

There are several things that could be taken hold of now and arrangements made for carrying them out. There are many farms throughout the province whose owners cannot afford to make the necessary outlay for seed and for fertilizer. Merchants, or other farmers who can afford it could co-operate with these by advancing the necessary funds, seeds or fertilizer; by financing the farm help or in such other way as might be mutually agreed upon. There are vacant farms in the province which could be worked by those who have no farms; there are farms which could be rented for a term of years and worked profitably. In this connection one example may be noted here. A commercial traveller, whose home is in Toronto, has been spending his summers with his family in the western part of this province for several years past. He has a farm of five or six acres. He began gardening by way of amusement and becoming interested in it he has gradually extended his "garden" to several acres, hiring such help as was necessary. Last year he grew enough potatoes and other vegetables, made enough butter, bought enough Island flour from the proceeds of his farm, to keep his family in Toronto during the winter. This is possible to others and would be a most excellent way for others similarly situated to spend their summers, especially on the eve of a period of scarcity.

SIR ROBERT BORDEN'S SPEECHES

The Canadian elections and the enormous importance that they derive from the circumstances of the moment give a peculiar interest to a small book that has just reached me from Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton—"The War and the Future," which Mr. Percy Hurd has compiled from the speeches that the Canadian Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden, has delivered at various times since the beginning of the war, in Canada, in the United States, and "at home." As Sir Robert himself, in a letter to Mr. Hurd, points out, there is much in his speeches that may enable us to form a better idea of Canada's attitude and of her difficulties—the mixture of races among them—than most of us have; and while the temptation to concern ourselves with the domestic affairs of the great Dominion is so great as at this moment such a book may serve a very useful purpose.—Westminster Gazette.

PARTY NAMES

In the recent election in New Brunswick, Ontario and the four Western Provinces only a fraction of the Liberal party opposed Union Government. This is not true to the same extent in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island nor is it at all true in Quebec. But taking Canada as a whole, and especially the English-speaking population, the Parliamentary opposition had no right to dignify themselves by the designation of Liberals. The great strength of Liberalism in Canada as the vote has proved, is behind the men who represent Liberalism in the Union Government. Some other designation as for example "Opposition," or Laurierite should be employed in speaking of those who oppose the Union Government; otherwise the rank and file of the Liberal party in Canada may be misled by the false use of a name which has ceased to have any true application to those who are supporting Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The majority of Liberals have become Unionists.—Montreal Gazette.

THE MESSAGE OF THE ELECTION

By H. F. Gadsby.

OTTAWA, Jan. 5.—By this time the wise men, who seem to constitute an overwhelming majority in this fair Canada of ours, have figured out just what their decision of a week ago last Monday means. What did the election say to all and sundry?

To the world at large it said: "Canada can rise above party in a crisis, putting herself confidently in the hands of men chosen on merit, who will have an eye single to two great purposes—to make the world safe for democracy and to make democracy safe for Canada, the latter being the long end of the job. We have put our hand to the plough and we shall not turn back."

To the other members of the Empire the election said: "We agree with you that in union there is strength. We appreciate the fact that coalition has been found necessary in all the warring countries and we follow your example. This Union Government of ours is a pledge that from now on this is to be all the people's war—not excluding Quebec at that."

To the United States of America it said: "This is our answer to the graven cry 'Let Uncle Sam do his bit.' Uncle Sam will do his bit—and Canada will do hers. We fight shoulder to shoulder right through to the finish. Blood is thicker than water. North America is willing to stake her life on that. Our two pairs of hands are across the sea."

To our brave soldiers at the front it said: "Here is the finest Christmas present we can give you. You will observe that the old folks at home are of the same mind as the boys in the trenches. Our votes, our money, our prayers, our best intelligence, our surest moral force are with you. We will see you through the war and make you comfortable afterwards. Stick to it. Canada is no quitter."

To the party manipulator, to the machine politician, to the dark-lantern brigade all over Canada it said: "This shows you what the people think of political parties as they have been conducted in the past. Let this be a warning to you to purge party of its deceit, to implement promises with deeds, to make platforms to stand on, not to get in on, to think of office as a chance to do good, not as an opportunity to loot—in short to turn over a new leaf and make party a real rivalry in good works. If you do not heed this warning Union Government may become a habit."

To the past with its scandals and mistakes it said: "We forgive but it will take us some time to forget. The present must atone for many guilty stains. It is up to Union Government to make good—with the accent on the good."

To the women of Canada it said: "You have risen to the occasion and have so nobly shown that your judgment is as sound as your hearts that we must take you all in. By your splendid endeavors in this election you have won the right you have so long craved—the right to take a full share in the affairs of your country. You bring to the jury of the nation that just proportion of sentiment which gives warmth to reason."

To the profiteer it said: "Look out. You have seen your best days. You must cease to squeeze money out of the world's agony. If you cannot moderate your greed we must moderate it for you. The man who takes profit in times of peace and three profits in times of war must be prepared to give up the extra two profits to the state if he persists in the error of his ways."

To Quebec it said: "We do this more in sorrow than in anger. We believe you have been misguided by your leaders of both parties for fifty years back. This is your chance to turn your reactionaries, your ultramontanists, your bigots of race and creed, your Bourassas and Lavergnes and come out into the light. Confederation waits to welcome you back. December 17th was the referendum you asked. It has gone against you. Swing in now and do your part cheerfully with the sister provinces. This is not for England or France. It is for freedom, humanity, responsible government, the faith of treaties and the peace of mankind—all objects in which Quebec is as much interested as anybody else. So long as you persist in a separate opinion in a matter of universal consent so long will this sad cleavage exist. Henceforward let there be an actual bonnie entente of sympathy and effort between Quebec and the

rest of Canada. If there is not it will be your own fault."

To Sir Wilfrid Laurier the election said: "This country reveres your gray hairs, admires your distinguished career, admits the charm of your presence and the spell of your eloquence—as your bumper meetings abundantly prove—but regrets your wrong-headedness on the subject of conscription, as our votes go to show. We still have you in our hearts as the Grand Old Man of Canada, the most impressive and venerable figure in our politics. Join with us now in the effort to maintain Canada's honor untarnished to the end and round off your life work for unity and harmony by bringing Quebec into line with the common endeavor. You have nothing to fear from Bourassa. He is a dead dog now. In doing his best to make Quebec solid against the war he has done his worst in making her solid against the rest of Canada and Quebec realizes it. Now is your time to deal a fatal blow to Bourassa while Quebec is still sore at the isolation he has brought about. Be with us heart and hand."

To the East, the election said, speaking by the voice of the West: "We put measures before men, principles above party. A plague on both your houses! We are the inheritors neither of your feuds or your delusions. The quarrels of Quebec and Ontario, the ancient animosities which had their origin before Confederation, have little meaning to us who are its latest members. What we seek is the good of the whole country and to that end we would have a better understanding all around. There ought to be a rapprochement with Ontario on other matters than winning the war—a friendly spirit, for instance between Western enterprise and Eastern capital. The old shibboleths of party have no great weight with us because our eyes are wide open. Even such a good patriot as Frank Oliver (who has two sons at the front) we turned down because he had nothing better to recommend than stale scandals and party grudges."

To the West, the election, speaking through Ontario, said: "Our thoughts and feelings are the same as yours on the supreme issue. Why shouldn't we be nearer together in other matters? We recognize the growing strength of the West. We believe that some day it will hold the balance of power. You are one of our bone and flesh of our flesh and we ought to work more together. Let us put our thinking caps on and figure out a modus vivendi which will consolidate our efforts for the prosperity of Canada."

To the Maritimes Provinces the election said: "YOU ARE LIVING IN THE PAST. YOUR POLITICS ARE THE PERISHED RECS OF FIFTY YEARS AGO. WAKE UP, RUB YOUR EYES AND PITCH IN WITH THE REST OF US TO MAKE THE GREATER CANADA WHICH WILL BE TOO BIG FOR PAROCHIALISM."

To the slackers, shirkers, grouchers, the election said: "Stop it. Be a man. Do your duty and we will help you."

OTTAWA, Jan. 3.—Canadian enlistments in the fighting and construction units in the first half of December were 2081. The wastage in the C. E. F. was 3702.

(Canadian Press Despatch.) WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—Extracts from German papers received here by cable contain boasts that the peace formula given the Russians means nothing, and have no binding force upon Germany.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

A TRUE PERSPECTIVE

It is a great satisfaction to know that men at the head of our army and navy are actuated by definite and persistent moral principles. The Bishop of London recently read a letter from Sir William Robertson, the Chief of our British Staff, and the words are well worthy of being quoted.

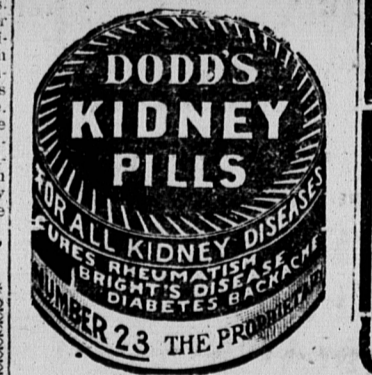
"This is to wish you complete success in your National Mission work. I fear that even yet too many of us are putting an undue amount of trust in chariots and horses. We may confidently rely upon our soldiers and sailors fighting bravely and count upon having abundant ammunition, but we must not stop at that. I am old-fashioned enough to think that this great war, like those of which we read in the Old Testaments, is intended to teach us a necessary lesson, and if this be so it follows that we ought to examine ourselves and take the lesson to heart."

This emphasis on the moral factor of the war is particularly valuable and needs constant and increasing attention. As Sir William Robertson goes on to say, "a serious determination on the part of the nation to seek God's help will enable us to take the true perspective of the war and to see it through to its proper end."

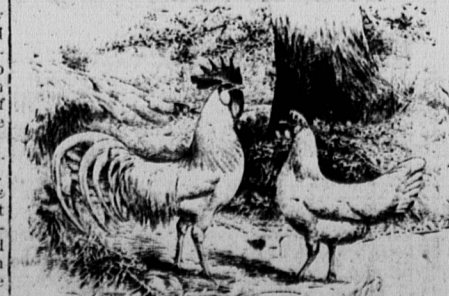
CANADIAN ENLISTMENTS AND WASTAGE

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