

THE Charlottetown Guardian

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1915.

BRITISH PREFERENCE

How do the war taxes affect the British Preference?
Liberals claim that they have seriously affected British importations, while Conservatives show that the rate of preference remains practically the same but in the increase in duties Britain gains a still further advantage over foreign competitors for our trade.

Suppose the general tariff is 30 per cent., and the British preference 20 per cent. Then the British manufacturer has an advantage over foreign competitors in our market of 10 per cent.

But the Government increases the general tariff by 7 1/2 per cent., and the British preference by only 5 per cent. That is to say, the impost on foreign goods becomes 37 1/2 per cent., and on British goods, 25 per cent.

Then the British manufacturer's advantage in our market is 12 1/2 per cent.

Therefore, the British advantage in the Canadian market is better by 2 1/2 per cent., than it was before.

Suppose for instance a merchant in Canada purchased \$1,000 worth of goods outside this country. Suppose the general tariff on these goods was 30 per cent., and the preferential tariff would be 20 per cent. Before the war taxes were imposed these goods bought in United States, France, Germany, or any other foreign country would pay customs duties amounting to \$300 but if purchased in Britain would pay \$200 or a difference of \$100 in favor of the British goods.

Now the foreign goods would pay 37 1/2 per cent., or \$375 and the British goods \$250 or a preference of \$125 in favour of the British production.

Under the old tariff the preference given to British goods over foreign make was \$100; under the new tariff \$125.

Thus in so far as foreign competition is concerned the new tariff is more favorable to British goods than the preference given under the former customs tax.

How do the war taxes affect British competition with that of our own production? Britain is a free trade country and its manufacturers obtain all their raw material without customs tax. The new tariff increases the tax on British goods 5 per cent. but at the same time increases the tax on the Canadian manufacturers' raw material 7 1/2 per cent. British goods that formerly paid 20 custom duties on \$100 worth of goods will now pay \$25. The Canadian manufacturer does not receive this additional protection but less 7 1/2 per cent., increased customs duties on the raw material consumed in making the goods.

Thus the British manufacturer pays higher duties coming into Canada but his raw material remains unchanged. The Canadian manufacturer receives 5 per cent., additional protection against British goods but he pays an addition at 7 1/2 per cent. on the raw material. So that so far as the competition between domestic and British goods is concerned there is little change in the protection given the domestic goods or the preference given British goods.

The new war budget gives an additional advantage in our markets to Britain over foreign importers and varies but slightly the relative positions of domestic and British goods as affected by tariff impositions.

OUR OPPORTUNITY

When we read of the millions Great Britain is spending in the present war, millions that have already gone beyond any calculation, we may make or even conceive when made by others; when, in addition to these vast sums she adds other millions lent to her allies and to her colonies, we stand amazed at her greatness and wonder what is the apparently inexhaustible source of all this wealth.

It would be useless here to enter into that subject, useless to tell how the nations of the world pour their raw material and their food products into the insatiable maw, how the former is returned again manufactured to the nations, how the latter furnishes a market that is never glutted. And these are but a corner of the mine from which she draws her inexhaustible supplies.

Some figures recently compiled by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa give some idea of the size of the British market and incidentally the opportunity now afforded to Canada to supply the shortage caused by the war.

In 1913 Great Britain imported 2,393,363 bushels of wheat and flour from Germany, Austria and Turkey; 6,663,300 bushels of barley from the same countries and 11,273,450 bushels of oats from Germany alone. Her total import of wheat, on an average each year, during the past decade has been 21,643,300 bushels of which Canada supplied less than a fourth. Of barley Canada supplied in 1913 about one ninth of a total of 52,358,245 bushels, and of oats about an eighth of 59,829,950 bushels.

Germany, Austria and Turkey are now out of the way. What they supplied must come from elsewhere. This is Canada's opportunity, and this too is why the Patriotism and Production campaign is being conducted by the Canadian and all the Provincial Governments.

In catering to the market, not only in products above mentioned but in practically all food products, there is just one essential that must be kept constantly in view, that while the British market is the largest in the world it is also the most exacting. Only the best can secure a foothold there. If Canada is to secure and retain this market, now that it is open and waiting, she must prepare herself to supply the best. To try it with anything short of this would be to fail.

Prince Edward Island, the smallest province in Canada, is in a better position than any other of its larger sisters to bid for and to secure a foothold in the British market and can do it if only an honest attempt is made. To get in on the "ground floor," now, should be the aim of every Prince Edward Island farmer.

"DUNDONALD'S SECRET"

Most of our readers have no doubt read of "Dundonald's secret," an alleged discovery capable of carrying death to a whole army at one fell swoop. Some speculations concerning this wonderful device are given in the current issue of the North American Review, by Mr. Edgar S. Maclay; which whether authentic or not are at least interesting.

Mr. Maclay, expresses the belief that the discovery was neither an explosive nor a poison, but an adaptation of the "burning glass." Dundonald's "war plan" has never been disclosed. It was first laid before the British Government in 1811. Its author declared that it was capable of destroying any fleet or fortress in the world. A committee consisting of the Duke of York, then Commander-in-Chief; Lord Exmouth, a famous naval officer; Lord Keith, and two Congresses, experts in explosives, considered in secret Admiral Cochrane's plan, and pronounced it to be "infallible, irresistible, but inhuman." On this ground it was not adopted, and Cochrane gave a pledge never to use it for any other country than his own. During the Crimean war the secret plan was again brought forward by Lord Dundonald when an old man, and once more it was set aside as too terrible and inhuman for use in war. The details of the proposal are unquestionably still preserved in the pigeon holes of the War Office, and if Britain's existence were at stake the "secret plan" might be called into use.

Mr. Maclay's idea is that Dundonald had adapted to the purposes of warfare the then recently invented "burning glass." The essential idea of the singular device was the arrangement of several hundred mirrors in a great fan-like shape such as to catch and concentrate the rays of the sun on a direct spot. The power of these concentrated rays was so great as to explode any magazine, quickly set all woodwork in a flame, and to cause the instant death of any human being who came within the influence of their scorching breath. It was claimed that so great was the heat generated in these concentrated sun rays they could be swept along a line of advancing troops, causing each man to drop dead the moment the rays fell upon him.

While difficulties were encountered in adapting "burning glasses" to naval warfare, not one of them was insurmountable. The rolling and pitching motion of water craft was easily accommodated in a manner similar to that employed with "floating" compasses, whereby a degree of stability was acquired sufficient to maintain a direct line with the sun and transmit its concentrated rays to the desired objective. As to the delicate mechanism or fragile nature of these glasses being shattered by hostile shot, it must be remembered that a century ago, ordnance was of a comparatively low power; so much so, in fact, that it was the rule rather than the exception for opposing war craft to hammer each other for hours and sometimes days without any being sunk—and the thickness of planks in militant craft then was only about four inches.

It would have been an easy matter to fortify the small space occupied by a frame of "burning glasses" with timbers massive enough to render them impervious to shot—the narrow slit through which the concentrated rays were to be projected against the enemy affording an infinitesimally small target for the cumbersome cannon of those days. With this "horrible" engine of death and destruction thus projected, it was quite possible for a war craft to approach close enough to an adversary to set the latter instantly afire. Perhaps if the baby-killing Zeppelins ever become a real menace the secret war plan may be resurrected for their destruction.

GREECE'S NEUTRALITY

In view of the determined stand taken by King Constantine of Greece to maintain the neutrality of that country, it is worth recalling the fact that the King's Consort, Queen Sophia, is a sister of Kaiser Wilhelm. While it is quite probable that King Constantine would naturally object to raising a row with his wife's relations his stand on neutrality has more likely been taken because he knows something of the horrors of war.

He is a soldier and knows from actual experience what war is. Probably what he saw in the fierce struggles with Turkey and the later Balkan mix-up convinced him that a state of peace has great advantages. His father was assassinated while fighting was on, and he witnessed many horrors while commanding the Greek army in the field. Constantine's work as leader did much to make the monarchy popular with a people who care little for kings, being among the most democratic in the world. He is a Greek of the Greeks. He was born in the country and brought up in it. Furthermore, he is the first sovereign of Greece to belong to the National Church. The capital is his natal city, and the year of his birth was 1868. He was well trained in military matters from childhood and possesses exceptional knowledge of the science of arms. When the war with Turkey was fought in 1897 Constantine was general administrator of the army and was wrongly blamed for the disastrous Greek defeat. In Parliament and in the press he was assailed and his name was slandered in public, but his friends defended him, and had the satisfaction of eventually seeing his character cleared. In time he became a public idol and after the Balkan wars of a few years ago he was more popular than ever. Today a section of his people is condemning him for not encouraging the politicians who desire war in the belief that by entering the fray Greece would be in the way of greatly adding to her territory. The storming of the Dardanelles has stirred the people, yet the King seems determined to keep neutral. Athens has no desire to see Russia established in Constantinople. In the latter connection it may be worth mentioning that there is an old prophecy to the effect that Constantine is to be taken from the Turks and to become Greek when a King Constantine and a Queen Sophia reign on the throne of the Hellenes. The present King's consort is Queen Sophia. It is Russia that is reaching out for Constantinople to-day, and the prospects are not bright that the Greek prophecy shall be fulfilled. There is revenge to be had for old wrongs perpetrated by Turkey on her Greek subjects, however, and that is one of the reasons for the war party's clamor. If the forces are too strong for the neutral faction and arms are taken up King Constantine will not be responsible. There is no doubt that in that event he will again lead his forces nevertheless, for he is a military leader of good calibre. His task at present is a very hard one.

NOTES

Two men in Italy, one a college professor and one a soldier, have been condemned to imprisonment for selling plans for the Italian army's mobilization to France. This was before the outbreak of the war, and when Italy was regarded as a possible ally of Austria and Germany. It is, nevertheless, interesting just now. Every country in Europe seems to have regarded every other country as a possible enemy.

Members of the foreign Red Cross units in Serbia report that in addition to typhus the country is being ravaged by typhoid, cholera, smallpox, diphtheria, scarlet fever and other ills. The ignorance or incapacity that brought on these epidemics is likely to cost the Serbians a heavier loss of life than the bullets of the Austrians.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

(Continued from page three)

which will be available the latest information than can be had, from every department of agriculture, from every agricultural centre in the civilized world. There will be assembled the results of the experience of the leading farmers in every state and province and country, the government reports, the reports of societies especially organized for promoting special industries, and with that, all the information dealing with the fisheries that can be obtained from every source. We intend to make that a thoroughly equipped and properly maintained bureau of information that will be second to none; and a reading-room will be there to which every farmer, fisherman or every citizen will have free access. I believe that information in education of that kind is capable of giving us an uplift to the highest plane of achievement that any country in the world can show.

THE REDUCED DEBT.

And now to conclude. The statement has been made that a further reduction in the debt of the province was made during the past year. That also, I am sure, will be received with some surprise and with general satisfaction by this country. We have been called upon to expend over twenty thousand dollars on the war, seven thousand more on an ancient debt that had been a discredit to this province, \$28,000 in all. And notwithstanding all this, and notwithstanding that certain sources of revenue have shrunk we have been able to bring this province through, effecting a small reduction in the debt. And I don't think that any hon. member of this House will say that the public works of this province have suffered appreciably. It may be now also a proper time to say that, taking the accounts covering the full period that this Government has been in power, there will be noted a reduction of little more or less than \$100,000. (Cheers.) At the same time, there has been added to the property of this province a magnificent provincial agricultural building in Charlottetown and another in Summerside. They have been bought and paid for in the year that is closed. Turning back our pages four years and looking at the things then promised, I cannot recall a single promise made which we have not either fully redeemed or which we are not now in progress of redeeming. That is only the beginning of things. There lie before us problems to be solved as great and important as anything with which we have had to deal; and I feel sure that no other four years could find a progress that would be as distinct and marked as that of the years we are leaving behind. The time will never come when one can say, "the work of this country is done, we have achieved all the things that are necessary and all we have to do now is to sit back and let the country run itself." That time will never come. Every year will bring its fresh problems, and every day new difficulties will arise. But Governments are made just as men are made—to meet difficulties and to strive to overcome them.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have spoken at vastly greater length than I intended. I again desire to express regret at the absence of my hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition, and to express the sympathy of the House with him in the cause which has occasioned his absence.

The SPEAKER then put the motion for the adoption of the reply to the address.

The PREMIER then moved that the reply be presented to His Honour by a Committee of the whole House, and on enquiry it was ascertained that this afternoon at 5.30 would be convenient.

On the motion of the Premier the first reading of the Companies Act was taken, and the second reading set down for to-day, and the House adjourned till eleven o'clock this forenoon.

INTERNED SHIP ESCAPES.

LONDON, March 20.—A despatch from Las Palmas, Canary Islands, says:—The interned German liner Macedonia disappeared from this port during the night. The Macedonia was towed here by a Spanish cruiser last November from Palma and was moored in the inner harbor, where the authorities removed parts of her machinery.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR READERS OF THE GUARDIAN

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

SOUL COMMUNION.

The mystic union of soul with soul. The sympathy That comes unbidden to meet our needs Where'er we be!

Hast thou a friend beloved whose path Is far from thine Then thou must soul communion know, And oft a sign.

Will follow these blest hours, some taken from Thy friend to thee: Perhaps it is a note—perhaps a flower Sent lovingly.

How this sweet intercourse is carried on We may not know, Nor can we see the messengers of love Pass to and fro.

But, Choir invisible! your ministry, Your tender song, Sounds ever above earth's toll and strife Life's whole day long.

ONE DOLLAR PARCEL of smallwares will be mailed anywhere in the Maritime Provinces for \$1.05 postpaid. If you are not entirely pleased with contents, send the parcel back, and we will mail you your money and your postage both ways. Inquiries? MOORE & McLEOD. 9125-3-23M31

FROM FRANCE

The following letter which refers to the weekly paper being sent to the P. E. Island boys on the firing line has been received by Miss Doris Gill from Corporal Ernest Weeks:

No. 5604 Cpl. Weeks E. Hdqrs. 1st Inf. Bde. Signallers 1st Can Dw. "Dear Doris,—On behalf of the Island boys who are enjoying the "News From Home" so much, especially the pretty covers, I want to thank you ever so much for your nice note. Owing to the censor we are not allowed to say exactly where we are but we are at the front and in the trenches, and when we come out after four days of mud and cold you can't imagine how nice it is to read the "News From Home."

We are not able to send any more pictures home as we have no chance to get one, but when we do, we certainly shall.

Thanking you again for the kindness you girls are showing, I remain sincerely,

ERNEST G. WEEKS.

The following letter has been received by Mr. J. D. Seaman, Charlottetown, from Ernest G. Weeks, one of the Island Signallers, now at the front:—

6604 Corporal E. Weeks, Hdqrs. 1st Inf. Bde., 1st Can. Div., 715/15.

Dear Mr Seaman,—I am very sorry that I have not written you before now thanking the girls of P.E.I. for the beautiful books that they have been sending us. As we are in the trenches now we have no opportunity to send you any pictures, but our first chance we shall do so.

We are not allowed to say just where we are or where we have been, but the Canadians are certainly in action now. There has been very few casualties.

The other night one of our boys was walking along a trench fixing a telegraph wire with a stick in his hand when suddenly the moon came out, and the stick that was under his arm was shot away. Needless to say, he kept low till the moon went under.

The other night I was in a ration party coming from the trenches to the supply point, where we drew the rations for the next 24 hours. As I was walking along we came to a small pool of water, and thought it to be of little depth, but when I stepped in I found it was up to my neck. And the consequence was I had to sleep that night in wet clothes.

The town that we are in now was shelled to-day by the Germans. You can hear their whistling overhead, and you duck your head almost unconsciously. It's all very well for people to say don't duck, but when you hear the bullets whistling about your ears it's the only thing to do.

Well, I want to thank the girls again for the trouble they are taking, and also yourself for the great interest and trouble you are taking. Sincerely, ERNEST G. WEEKS.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

The Treasurer of P.E.I.W.P.A. gratefully acknowledges the following donations:—

- North Milton, Proceeds of Social (per Mrs C. Coles) \$50.00
Brookfield Branch (per Mrs Finlay McKinnon) 25.00
Lower Montague, Proceeds of Social (per Mrs C. H. Poole) 17.50
Collected by Miss Lena Martin and Miss Minnie Jardine (Bangor) 28.55
Members Fees 1.50
Previously acknowledged, \$3,332.18
MRS CHARLES LYONS, Treas. March 23rd.

BOB FITZSIMMONS TO WED AGAIN.

NEWARK, March 20.—Robert Fitzsimmons, former heavyweight champion, came to the City Hall here and applied for a marriage license, but as he lacked the proper certificate of his divorce, Clerk Frank Crissey was unable to comply with the request. Fitzsimmons said he would return with the evidence.

The ex-pugilist announced that on Saturday he would take for his fourth wife, Mrs. Teme Simonin, the divorced wife of Henry Simonin, a wealthy resident of Portland, Oregon. Fitzsimmons lives in Dunellen, New Jersey. He is 53 years old, and his bride to be is 28.

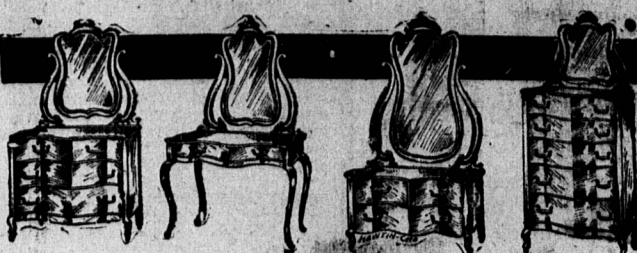
MAY OPERATE ON KAISER.

AMSTERDAM, March 20.—All information received here that the Kaiser is suffering from throat trouble of a serious character again directs attention to the condition of the German Emperor, which has been the subject of many alarmist rumors of late.

It is stated that an eminent specialist who was called in has warned the Kaiser of possible most serious results from the affection of the throat, which has reached such a stage that it is declared an immediate operation is spoken of.

The greatest annual sale of smallwares will commence Tuesday morning the 23rd inst. Study the wonderful values in our big advertisement. MOORE & McLEOD. 9125-3-23M31

"No matter what brand of tobacco you smoke, if it's good it's here. We have a complete stock of all the best tobaccos manufactured—they're fresh now, and our patent process keeps them fresh. Get your tobacco here. MacKinnon Drug Co., corner Great George and Kent Streets. MEH



Read what the Furniture Man has to say about Furniture

We received a large portion of our Furniture before the Boats got stuck in the Ice and we had the good fortune to have it purchased before the advance in price. Bureaus, Side Boards, China Cabinets, in fact everything with glass in, it has advanced heavily and our prices are the same as last year. Our business is growing rapidly and we predict the present year is going to be the best. Buying for spot cash and in Carloads enables us to sell at a very low margin on Cost. If you contemplate buying any new furniture for your home, visit our Furniture Department, see our styles and get our prices before purchasing. We believe and customers have told us that our Mattresses are the best value they ever saw. Try us for your next Mattress.

James Paton & Co.

Buy all your smallware requirements ahead—we are offering a special wholesale price on practically every sort of smallwares that you need. See our ad, MOORE & McLEOD. 9125-3-23M31

Smallwares sale—now going on—read our ad—read every line—make a list of your wants. MOORE & McLEOD. 9125-3-23M31

"PEACE" is the desire of all hearts and a visit to "Peaceful Valley" is the most desirable way of spending Easter Monday night. 9153

Read our smallwares sale ad—read it all—every item is worthy of attention—there never has been such a list of smallwares bargains since this store started business. MOORE and McLEOD. 9125-3-23M31

Just received in perfect condition one hundred and fifty cases Navel oranges Wholesale. Carvell Bros. 9075-3-19M51

MARBLE AND GRANITE WORKS

Marble and Granite Works

A large shipment of Marble Monuments of the 1915 designs in different colors, were purchased from the Vermont Marble Co. at their works in Proctor Vt. This selection was personally selected by the Company and have been shipped and will arrive by the Winter Boats any day, and will be placed in our show rooms Revere Hotel Building, Kent Street, lately occupied by Acorn & Brown.

The public are invited to inspect our stock. All kinds of Cemetery work promptly attended to. Lettering a specialty.

The P. C. BROWN & CO. Marble and Granite Works

MARBLE AND GRANITE WORKS

9150-3-24Mtf

We Aim To Please on Every Point

Come here for your every requirement in the hardware line and you'll get satisfaction. We have a large stock of everything really good, and our goods are so displayed that you can select in an instant just the article you want. Although our standard of quality is exceptionally high our prices are extremely moderate.

Our large staff of courteous, intelligent salesmen are always ready and anxious to serve you. Step in anytime, we'll be glad to prove to you that our supreme ambition is to give you perfect satisfaction.

Fennell & Chandler Victoria Row 152 Richmond St

New Spring Boots at Goff Bros

Just arrived the newest style in Ladies Vassar Classic and Art Boots. Patent Butted Glove or cloth tops all on the newest last with spool or curban heels. Prices Reasonable

We sell Ladies Men's and Children's Holeproof Hosiery GOFF BROS Call and see our Holeproof Hosiery The Shoe Men