

The Charlottetown Guardian

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THE POTATO CROP

There are complaints this season from many parts of the province about rotting potatoes, and naturally also, complaints from the markets to which we have sent consignments. This is most regrettable, regrettable chiefly because we have sent sufficient quantities to such markets as are available to us to show the quality of our crop, and regrettable also because we have grown this year the biggest potato crop in our history. Regrettable as this is, however, it is more regrettable still that the trouble is of our own making, that the rotting of our potatoes is because of our own neglect. We have grown a crop of approximately six million bushels of potatoes and because we neglected the precautions taken elsewhere, precautions we were advised to take, precautions which we should have taken, we have lost a very large proportion of it. Last spring we published in The Guardian some statistics giving the results of spraying conducted under direction of Professor Murphy of the Agricultural Department. It was shown that potato rot was due to blight and that blight was preventable by spraying. It was shown also as the result of actual test that sprayed potatoes yielded on an average ninety-seven bushels per acre more than unsprayed potatoes in the same field and planted under exactly the same conditions. Notwithstanding this, the great majority of our farmers neglected taking this precaution and as a result so many of our potatoes are rotten, or ready to rot in transit, that those properly grown cannot be shipped although there is a bigger demand for potatoes this year probably than ever before. Our potato crop at the current market prices would have been worth at least \$2,400,000. It will probably be worth less than half of that amount. Over a million dollars lost through neglect!

This is not the beginning of our loss in potatoes. We have been receiving yearly very much less for them than our neighbors in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia simply because we were growing varieties of potatoes that were not wanted in the best markets. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick farmers have been catering successfully to the Bermuda and West Indies markets, selling for fancy prices while we supplied at a lower price the cheapest markets in their home cities and towns which they did not think it worth while to bother with. Even this fall while our farmers are getting 40 to 45 cents a bushel for their potatoes New Brunswick and Nova Scotia farmers are selling theirs for \$2.25 to \$2.40 per barrel of 165 pounds, about 80 to 85 cents, and this because we are not growing the right varieties in sufficient quantities to go to market with.

The reason we are not growing these finer varieties is that the idea has got abroad that they are more susceptible to rot than the blue potatoes. While this is true to a certain extent, the rot can be so far prevented as to make the white potato a very much more profitable crop than the blue. Farmers who have taken the trouble to spray their potatoes at the proper times have had very little trouble with rot this season. At the Experimental Farm where spraying was carried on systematically the vines have held their greenness throughout the season and no considerable rot has been observed. These potatoes have not yet been harvested and no figures are available but it is expected that the crop will turn out as usual and will, as usual, also show comparatively little evidence of disease next Spring.

It would be interesting to know from our farmers throughout the province what their experience has been in potato growing this season, what precaution they took to prevent blight and with what results. There is something wrong and it is only by comparing notes and by mutual help that the wrong can be righted.

NEW SUBMARINE BLOCKADE

The arrival at Newport, R. I., of the armed submarine U-53 opens a new chapter in the war, a chapter which concerns the United States as well as Great Britain and her Allies, as it means practically a blockade of United States ports, and consequent interference with United States commerce. The arrival of this submarine should not occasion either surprise or alarm. It only means that the Germans have in the past few months been able to complete several more of their submarines and have sent this one, perhaps as reported three, as commerce raiders. It is not at all probable that the threat of a renewal on a gigantic scale, of the submarine warfare will be carried out to any very great extent. The mission of the U-53 was to enable German officials to tell their dupes at home again of the sinking of the British Navy and the starvation of England. The U-53 attacked unarmed merchant ships and sank them. The loss was considerable no doubt and is regrettable. As a factor in the war or in the starvation of England it will have no more effect than the submarine blockade of a year ago. The submarines which participated in that blockade are almost all either at the bottom of the sea or tied up in British harbours. In all probability the U-53 will join them without seeing Germany again. In the meantime it will be interesting to see what action the United States will take. Following is the editorial opinion of the New York Herald, one of the most influential of American newspapers:

"The blockading of New York and other American ports by Prussian submarines cannot be tolerated. A virtual blockade of New York and other American ports has been created by the appearance of the Prussian submarine U-53 and its destruction of shipping in American waters. There can be no avoiding the issue raised by these acts. It is not whether in individual cases there has been technical adherence to a policy of warning. It is that submarine operations in the lanes of sea travel leading immediately to American ports CANNOT BE, MUST NOT BE, TOLERATED.

"Today New York is in effect as much a blockaded port as any port of Germany. Steamships contemplating leaving New York will of necessity be held in port, steamships headed for New York will of necessity, be turned back. Stagnation of sea borne commerce will follow. German ports are shut off from the world by the warships of enemy nations. New York is being blockaded by warships of a professedly friendly nation. It is a situation calling for prompt and drastic action by the government of the United States.

"There is precedence for such action as may be necessary to end the evil. In the early months of the war the Washington government notified Great Britain that belligerent operations against commerce in American waters were inconsistent with friendly relations between the two powers.

"In response to these American protests the government of Great Britain yielded and issued instructions to British commanders to desist from all molestation of commerce on this side of the Atlantic. In case of the depredations of the U-53 the offence against the U. S. is immeasurably greater than any committed by British or French warships. These at no time went beyond search and this was abandoned in response to the American protests. Now the Prussians bring war itself in its most hideous form to the very shores of this land. President Wilson will talk with Count Von Bernstorff at Shadow Lawn today. No indication of what the government policy will be comes from any official source at Washington. There is talk of diplomatic representations, but can a situation like this wait on diplomatic representations?

"Practically the neutrality of the United States has been grossly violated by the coming of the U-53 into an American port to acquire information concerning the whereabouts of vessels at sea and her prompt departure from that port upon her mission of destruction. Very probably this episode will result in a claim against the U. S. similar to that entered by France against Spain for an alleged failure to protect its neutrality involving exactly the same principle and almost the same state of facts as are found in the 'friendly visit' of the U-53 to Newport and her subsequent acts. The dealing with any such claim belongs, however, to the realms of diplomacy and can wait.

"The protection of this and other American ports against this Prussian blockade is another and much more vital thing. This cannot wait. It is the highest duty of the government of the U. S. to go to any length that may be necessary to put an end to this Prussian warfare in American waters and without a day's delay."

NOTES

General Joffre has seen fit to remind his armies that Verdun has been relieved and twenty-five villages reconquered as a result of the last three months' fighting on the Somme. His message shows that France is slowly but surely being freed from the grip of the invader.

And the heartening, lifting smiling word of admonition or suggestion brings a hundred per cent. better response than the other sort, it gets the very results that we are after, while the word that antagonizes is liable to defeat the whole thing.

Love is a paying proposition; unlove is a dead loss.

Corporal Hugh Simpson arrived last night from Halifax to spend a few days furlough with his parents, Rev. Canon and Mrs. Simpson, of this City.

CHILD GETS SICK CROSS, FLIVERISH IF CONSTIPATED

"California Syrup of Figs" can't harm tender stomach or bowels.

A laxative today saves a sick child tomorrow. Children simply will not take the time to play to empty their bowels, which becomes clogged up with waste, liver gets sluggish, stomach sour.

Look at the tongue, mother! If coated, or your child is listless, doesn't eat heartily, full of cold or has sore throat or any other children's ailment, give a teaspoonful of "California Syrup of Figs," then don't worry, because it is perfectly harmless, and in a few hours all this constipation, sour bile and fermenting waste will gently move out of the bowels, and you have a well, playful child again. A thorough "inside cleansing" is oftentimes all that is necessary. It should be the first treatment given in any sickness.

Beware of counterfeit fig syrups. Ask your druggist for a 50-cent bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," which has full directions for babies, children of all ages and for grown-ups plainly printed on the bottle. Look carefully and see that it is made by the "California Fig Syrup Company."

Fashion Demands Serg



The latest authoritative fashion indicates serge. Ever the favorite of many, it is now to reign supreme with those who wish to be correctly costumed.

Smart to the last degree, practical and full of those qualities that go to make tailoring, it is welcomed by all as leader. It hangs well, presses well, holds its shape, wears well, and always looks well.

Probably no other fabric could be found so appropriate for the new silhouette—for the straight lines of the Moyen age, models—for the new Russian military effects, or the long coats with their full skirts shirred on at the waistline—that elusive waistline that seems to rise or fall at the will of the designer to attain a pleasant effect.

To be sure no other fabric combines more beautifully with the trimmings of velvet or fur that seem absolutely essential if the garment is to be quite in the vogue. Individuality of line, soft rippling curves of drape and fold are most perfectly expressed in soft serge.

So the Fall fabric of fashion and economy is serge, and we are glad that we made early preparation for the demand, and now offer a complete assortment of the fine twill French Suiting Serges in which old dyes, not procurable today, have been used. They are absolutely dependable, all pure wool, soft finish, 42 to 58 inches wide, and priced according to width and weight, at \$1.50, 1.75, 2.10, 2.75, 2.95, and 3.50 the yd. We will be glad to show you this line.

PATONS, LIMITED



Millinery Fashion Suggestions

Among some of the most marked styles to be seen in Holman's Millinery Department this season are quite large hats, trimmed flat, also very becoming small close high draped turbans for ladies, which are so warm and serviceable for winter. The "Jockey" hats for young ladies are decidedly chic and smart, made with deep peak at front, closely resembling men's Quebec shaped cap. These hats are trimmed at front with narrow ribbon trimmings, and promise to be one of the most popular styles for the fall. The colors which will be used most extensively are purple, wine and teledenegre (nigger brown); grey is also much in demand. Gold and Silver Hat Pins are very new and stylish, especially combined with narrow ribbon edged with gilt or silver to match. This ribbon is very pretty, and one of the new trimmings in ribbons.

Tams made of black or colored velvet, and also chinchilla cloth will be very popular this season among young ladies on account of their smart appearance and serviceability. Some of these are effectively piped with red and green plaid, while others are becomingly trimmed with fancy long shaped hat pins. We might add that the large tricornees are decidedly new and stylish, especially when trimmed with large fancy wings. Small weasel heads, birds made up of colored beads, and ospreys are among some of the most used trimmings. One of the newest features is the hand painted flowers on hats, particularly roses. There is very little wide ribbon worn on the hats this fall.

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DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by
W. B. Louson.

Many an unpleasant thing needs to be done in a pleasant way. Teachers, and parents, and people in business life who are responsible for the work of others must from time to time speak in criticism or point out how an improvement can be made in the way of doing things.

Such a word of criticism, or correction, or of suggested improvement can have the effect of being either a shove down or a lift up. It can come to the one addressed as a slap in the face, or as a hearty grip of the hand. One word can be spoken with a