

The Charlottetown Guardian

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THURSDAY APRIL 11th, 1918.

THE FOOD SITUATION

Whether we believe it or not the most serious feature of the war situation today is the food problem. This has been preached to us for over a year; figures have been given us showing the food requirements and the average production of former years; showing us what the probable production of the present year will be and gravely telling us that unless this probable production is greatly exceeded we cannot feed our allies or even our armies. What that means it is unnecessary to dwell upon.

What are we doing about it? Our provincial legislature has discussed the question and have organized with a view to impressing upon our people the seriousness of the situation; they have adopted measures which they hope will result in greater effort by our people; have agreed upon ways and means by which those whose former best may be improved upon so that farms now only partially worked may be enabled to do more. They have encouraged the enrolment of boys and girls as soldiers of the soil in order that more help will be available.

It is recognized by all that although extra effort will be a patriotic move it will also be a remunerative one for the farmers, that prices of farm products during the coming years will be so much higher than ever before that every extra effort will mean dollars. It is to be regretted that the remuneration side of the question is still the important one, the one that appeals. If it were a question of patriotism only, a question of Christian charity only, there would be little haggling over prices; everybody would do his utmost as every Canadian soldier at the front is doing. In time of war, when it is everybody's war as in this case, physical strength is the limit of effort. Our soldiers, who are holding the line, day and night, often without sleep, often without food, always facing death and many meeting it, little thought is given to the dollar and ten cents that is going to be received for the day's work; little thought to overtime, little thought to personal comfort or safety. Everyone works as if the result of the battle depended upon him alone—as it really does—for the full strength of each individual is needed to hold off the enemy.

This must be the attitude of the soldiers at home, not of the farmers alone, most of whom are now doing all they can, but of everybody. It is to be regretted that in this city of Charlottetown alone, as there are in our towns and villages, there are many who are doing nothing to help, men who are not worth their keep. We are because they are eating the bread of idleness, living upon the earnings of others, men who are not worth their keep. We are pleased to note that the reign of these parasites is over, that an Order-in-Council has been passed making idleness a penal offense; that every male person over sixteen and under sixty shall be regularly engaged in some useful occupation under penalty of a fine of one hundred dollars or imprisonment with hard labour in case of violation of the order.

It is now up to everybody to do his or her part, with an eye first to the necessity of doing it and, secondly, to the remuneration. It will require the united effort of all to meet the requirements and when we have done all it will be infinitely less than our soldiers are doing at the front.

IMPORTANT JUDGMENT

The judgment given by Judge Stewart, recorded in yesterday's Guardian is one that should be of considerable interest to farmers especially. Action was brought by one farmer against another for damages caused by the latter's cattle breaking into a field of oats. Evidence was submitted that damage to the extent of twenty-five to fifty per cent. of the crop had been done. The case of the plaintiff was clear and his claim for damages was recognized, by the judge. But here the law stepped in. The Domestic Animals Act provides that action for damages of this kind must be entered within three months. Either through ignorance of the law or through having wasted too much time in trying to effect a settlement by arbitration, the plaintiff was three days late in entering his claim.

suit and he lost the case as well as twenty-five to fifty per cent. of the crop in the field broken into.

Judge Stewart pointed out that the period for entering an action of this kind had formerly been six years but that the legislature in 1888, while consolidating the statutes had, either through oversight or otherwise, left out the six years limitation clause and substituted one limiting entry of suit to three months. He was obliged to give judgment according to the law, not necessarily according to justice and he ordered that judgment be entered for the defendant. In giving his judgment he very properly recommended that the original limitation of six years be re-enacted.

The incident, besides proving that law may not always be justice, shows farmers and others the necessity of either knowing the law or of consulting one who does before bringing suit.

CONTROLLING COLD STORAGE FOODS

The new regulations by the Food Board limiting the quantities and periods of storage of meats, lard, butter, eggs, cheese, etc., are well-directed. In their practical application, it may be found that minor changes may be necessary, but the principle involved is sound. As the chicken waste in Winnipeg showed, and the excessive accumulations of eggs in Montreal, there was strong need of action to put a time limit on foods held in storage, and to prevent the buying in of large quantities for speculative holding. The new order seems well designed to cut off the hoarders and speculators in storage foods.

The quantity of meat, lard and oleomargarine that may be held by any dealer for Canadian trade must not be greater than a 60 day's supply. After December 1 no egg accumulations are allowed beyond a quantity sufficient to supply the dealer's Canadian trade until March 1, when only 15 days' supply is allowed. Holdings of butter are similarly limited to May 1, when only 15 days' supply is allowed. The date for cheese holdings is June 1, when 30 days' supply may be held. For poultry it is September 1, when 30 days' supply is allowed. The board obtains power to prescribe the quantity of food that may be purchased or held by any person, and to seize any excess of the quantity so prescribed. Dealers who fail to comply may have their licenses to do business cancelled. Such stiff conditions as these, if properly enforced, ought to limit the use of cold storage facilities to their proper function—that of carrying over foods from the season of plenty to the season of scarcity, and allowing a more equitable distribution, without permitting hoarding or speculative "cornering," or waste in an effort to hold up prices. In the season of plenty prices will be allowed to take pretty much their natural course, influenced only by cold storage demands sufficient to lay in stocks for the Winter season. With the ending of that season the warehouses must be fairly well emptied, and may be stocked up again only on a reasonable basis.

This order is an honest attempt to correct the evils to which cold storage misuse has led. The facts originally let out to the public by Mr. O'Connor regarding cold storage abuses have had their sequel in action. Mr. Thompson has seen the unwisdom of his attitude that such episodes as the waste of chicken in Winnipeg were none of the Food Board's business. The people will feel pleased over the new regulations if they are enforced strictly and impartially.—Ex.

NOTES

AN EMPIRE VERSE.

Our far-spread Empire use. O God, as Thou shalt choose. The world to bless. At council, altar, mart, O keep us pure in heart, To do a nation's part, For righteousness. —Alexander Louis Fraser.

The cost of operating the Military Service Act is about \$1,400,000, and about 40,000 men have been obtained. The cost is about \$35 a man. But under the old volunteer system the cost was usually several hundreds per man.

Hon. Mr. Meighen, Minister of the Interior, is having a bill put through the House setting aside Dominion lands within 15 miles of the railways in the Western provinces for soldiers' settlement. It is a very essential part of the scheme that the lands have reasonable railway service, and, under present conditions, the locations must go to the railways, not the rail-

BRITISH LABOR IS LOYAL, BUT ILL-USED

Just as a man usually can blame himself for whatever trouble he gets into, however responsible another person might appear at first glance, so we may blame British public men for being the indirect cause of all the misery and suffering that the war has brought to the Empire. Especially does this hold good with regard to the labor troubles in England. In the view of a special correspondent of the New York Tribune. He does not think that there is the slightest ground for alarm lest Bolsheviki doctrines permeate trades unionism in the Old Country. The British Labor party, he says, lays the emphasis on the "British," and not on the Labor. It is quite as loyal as any other class in the community, and if, at this distance, it appears to be restless and to be thinking of other things beside the winning of the war it is because it has already suffered more severely than the classes that condemn it. This has been due to the blunders of the Government.

Victims of the Profiteer

One of the most serious of the blunders appears to have been the delay in finding and appointing the right food controller. Lord Rhondda is the right man, and has been toiling with his tremendous task with a patriotism, courage and intelligence beyond all praise. But he came late. Profiteering had already got in its disloyal work. One firm of millers made more than 100 per cent profits on one year's business, and there were tens of thousands of others with profits almost as great or greater. Government taxation which forced the profiteers to disgorge did not help the working man. The money was not returned to him; and the advance in foodstuffs and other necessities amounted to a decrease in his wages. The workingman saw himself poorer than ever before, and like a good Briton he would not complain if he did not see others waxing richer than ever. Had the Government heeded the advice of some far-seeing men in the early days of the war it would have taken over the whole food and fuel supplies of the country.

The Munitions Act

Another grievance of the working man was a clause in the Munitions Act which provided for the "leaving certificate." Men in munitions factories were granted exemption from military service, since they were doing work as important if not as dangerous as that of soldiers at the front. When a man was not wanted in a munition factory, or when for any reason, he wished to leave the factory he had to produce a leaving certificate before he could apply for work anywhere else. This certificate could be refused, or it could be delayed. In the meantime the man was without work, and under Military Act while he remained unemployed he became liable to conscription. It is plain that if a workman had incurred the ill-will of his employer, he could be forced into the army by the mere withholding of his leaving certificate. Thus the men were dependent upon the kindness of employers or foremen for their exemption from service at the front. The loophole was left for intolerable tyranny. Later on the Munitions Act has been amended and the objectionable clauses stricken out.

No Class Hatred

Whatever may happen in the future it is the testimony of the Tribune writer that there is little or no class hatred in Great Britain. The British Trades Unionist does not believe that his real enemy is the British employer and his real friend the German Trades Unionist. The doctrine preached by Lenin would find no echo in his heart. He recognizes that the enemy is Germany, the German Trades Unionist included. Moreover, he is not, as it is the ordinary German and French Labor man, an atheist. Many of the leaders of British Trades Unionism are profoundly religious, and they have a respect for the things that are Caesar's. Of course it is up to Caesar to show that they are his. While the labor situation in England may prove serious, the fault will probably lie with the Government's handling of the problem. The loyalty of the average workman is not more in question than the loyalty of the average Cabinet Minister.

DO YOUR LEVEL BEST

Do your level best, boys, always, everywhere; Never mind what others do, you act fair and square. Duty's call is urgent, and life no empty jest; Pull yourselves together, boys, and do your level best. Do your level best, boys, what'er your lot may be; Grinding in the study or sailing on the sea. Pen or plough or hammer or in scarlet tunic dressed, Pull yourselves together, boys, and do your level best. Do your level best, boys; all honest work will wear. Yours is now the springtime; improve the season rare. Use each precious moment, all trifling ways detest; Pull yourselves together, boys, and do your level best. Do your level best, boys; all honest work will tell. Though the task be irksome; resolve to do it well. Tinsel oft may glitter, but will not stand the test; Pull yourselves together, boys, and do your level best. —David Johnsons, in "Lutheran Ob-

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF P.E.I.

(Continued from page one)

population. It has on the whole gone up in the value of production, proving that the per capita wealth of the province is increasing and that what matters most is not increase of heads but increase of intelligence in the heads that remain. Whereas the field crops of the Island increased in value by 55 per cent between 1911 and 1916 the area under cultivation only increased 1 1/2 per cent. Milch cows and cattle fell in numbers in the province from 114,900 in 1912 to 101,000 in 1917—and swine from 50,000 to 35,000—a serious diminution having regard to the need for natural fertilizer as a means of increasing production. This province has no greater or more urgent duty in connection with its agriculture than that of promoting the increase and improvement of its live stock. The curious fact is that this falling off has been accompanied by a great increase in the value of dairy produce. The fisheries of P. E. I. only produced one-tenth of the fisheries of Nova Scotia in 1916 and presented a decrease as compared with 1916 although the other maritime province increased by over one million.

THE NEEDS OF THE FUTURE

Faced with the foregoing facts what is to be done? Transportation needs improving both between the Island and the mainland and within the Island. Do not let your demand for the one blind you to the absence of the other. There was a time when the farmers of England shot at the road surveyor who tried to improve their roads, and when riots were created by trying to force farmers to get better road communication. Now it is recognized that the value of farms may be doubled by being rowed by good roads. The strength of your case to get the Dominion Government to give you a proper railway will be immeasurably increased if you take up the question of improving the planning and construction of roads with zeal and courage. Adequate drainage is almost all that is needed in many miles of your highways and macadam surfaces are only wanted in the main arteries between your populous districts.

Dilution of Labor

Progress in other parts of Canada in applying Planning and Development legislation is satisfactory in spite of the war. Seven provinces have passed Acts to deal with the matter, and two of these make the preparation of development schemes compulsory. Among other things that the war has taught us is that the borrowing and redistribution of money by a Government creates a condition of prosperity while the restrictions lasts. In the case of the wasteful use of the borrowed money on war or speculation, the time has to come when the adversity follows the inflated period of prosperity. But when money is borrowed by Governments to undertake real social and civic improvements, the process both creates a season of prosperity during the distribution of the money and a source of revenue out of which to repay it. It is said that the war has widened our ideas, and given us a deeper consciousness of the things that really matter in life, are we to prove all that to be idle talk or that it is really true that in trying to teach Germany a lesson we have also learned one ourselves. We hear much talk of German efficiency and are apt to condemn efficiency for that reason. Are we not confusing the means with the end? Autocracy uses efficiency for evil ends; democracy uses efficiency in order that it may destroy these ends and make social justice endure. On the motion of Premier Arsonault seconded by Mr. J. H. Bell and supported by Rev. J. J. Macdonald, Kinross, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Adams for his interesting and instructive address.

HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES NEEDED

These are your first needs—highway improvement and development schemes designed to facilitate communication, promote sanitary conditions, to improve urban and rural amenities, to make agricultural co-operation possible and social inter-course easy, to prevent future evils, and to secure commercial value out of assets of natural beauty. For the present I am here to do more than suggest the legislation and administrative machinery needed to carry out the work of development. One step must be taken at a time and the first step is to promote the organization needed to give time, thought and energy to the numerous problems awaiting solution. You have Government departments dealing with agriculture, education, law, and public works. You have no department giving attention to municipal affairs and to the planning of new construction and development. The municipal system of Prince Edward Island differs from that of other provinces. You have two cities, five towns, and outside of these have no municipal organization. For the present that system may be adequate for most purposes, but there is needed a provincial department or a branch of an existing department to deal with purely local government, to coordinate local activities to assist in local engineering problems, and to plan the development of the areas which are outside the incorporated areas such as Borden and the proposed settlement for soldiers. I have submitted the details of a scheme for this purpose to the Government. If some action is taken, and very little expense is involved, I can promise hearty cooperation on the part of the Commission of Conservation in preparing your plans. With some such organization great improvements and the proper planning of places like Borden will be easy of accomplishment; without it I fail to see what progress can be made in the present haphazard methods.

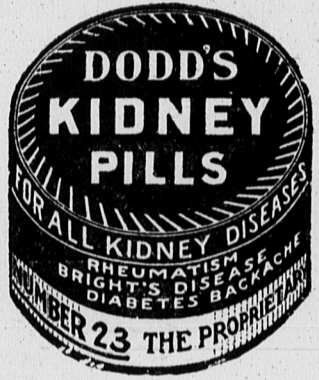
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YOUR PROBLEMS SOLVED

BY REV. T.S. LINSOTT, D. D. (All rights reserved) Dr. Linscott in this column will help you solve your heart problems, religious, natural, social, financial and every other anxious care that perplexes you. If a personal answer is required, enclose a five cent stamp. No names will be published; if you prefer, sign your initials only, or use a pseudonym.

CHURCH MEMBER—On the law of averages the report is untrue. A busy body expresses doubt concerning some trivial act of a minister and the next tells it as a fact. Tell your pastor direct.

A DOUBTER—You put your doubts with force. You tell of a devout minister in the prime of life who had climbed more than half way up the pinnacle of fame, suddenly stricken with an acute form of rheumatism from which he never recovered. All his joints became rigid; and then the cruel disease took away his sight. His friends constantly prayed for him, but God, you say, turned a deaf ear to their supplication, and you ask how can there be a good God at the heart of things? God or no God, we know that we are under law. The blessings that come from keeping natural laws are health, vigor and long life. The penalties that come through breaking natural laws are sickness, sorrow and early death. This is true, and there is no sense in butting against facts, nor are the facts contrary to the theory of a good God being at the heart of things.



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