

The Charlottetown Guardian

Morning Daily, (founded 1891), \$3.50 per year (Delivered in advance); \$2.50 per year (Mailed) in advance, in Canada, and \$3.00 for U. S. A.
 Evening Daily (founded 1907) \$2.00 by Mail in Canada and \$2.50 for U. S. A.
 Head Office at Charlottetown, Branch Offices at Summerside, Alberton, Souris and Montague.
 President—Major A. A. Bartlett
 Editor and Publisher: J. R. Burnett. Associate Editor: D. K. Currie.

MONDAY, AUGUST 19th, 1918

LEST WE FORGET

The war has now dragged its weary and bloody length through four years, and has entered its fifth. In these four years much has happened. Belgium, Serbia, Roumania have been crushed, a third of Northern France has been laid waste, millions have been killed and property the value of which cannot be estimated and which can never be restored has been destroyed.

Practically all the civilized nations of the earth are involved in it and will be involved until the common purpose of all is attained, namely, to crush Germany into absolute inability to again plunge the world into such a welter of blood, and to teach the whole world that international righteousness must prevail. It is not necessary at this stage to recall specifically the causes which led to this world tragedy. On the admission of the Germans themselves, notably on the statement of Prince Lichnowsky, the German ambassador, who told the truth not intending it for publication, the war was precipitated by Germany for one purpose only, the domination of the world. This was the outcome of German teaching and preaching long before the war began. A decade before the war Reiner, inspired with the imperialism of Prussia, announced "It is precisely our craving for expansion which drives us into the paths of conquest, in view of which all chatter about peace and humanity can and must remain nothing but chatter." Not less ominous to peace are the words of Professor Meinecke: "We want to become a world people. Let us remind ourselves that the belief in our mission as a world people has arisen from our originally purely spiritual impulse to absorb the world into ourselves."

Quotations of similar import might be multiplied indefinitely. There is absolute and irrefutable proof not only that Germany had been for nearly fifty years preparing for this war but that her aim was world domination. Her preparation included the building of a fleet that could match the British navy, the recruiting of the largest army in the world and honeycombing every country in the world with Germanism in order that when Great Britain, France and Russia were crushed the rest of the world would the more easily fall into her arms. As to these aims there is no question.

The war has now been in progress for over four years and Germany, realizing that she is being beaten, that her scheme for world domination is thwarted for the present, is whining for peace, peace by the map, peace with control of the territory she has conquered, peace with indemnities to Germany, but no consideration for the countries and the nations she has outraged.

Is it necessary to ask what is Germany's aim in wanting to quit at the present stage? Is it necessary to ask if the arrogance and the egotism and the German superman training of a century, would be satisfied to quit short of the original purpose "to absorb the world into ourselves?"

There are still some of Lord Landsdowne's stripe who in his senility wants peace, peace any way, peace even by the map. There are those who are becoming war weary and want peace, peace any way. These are not the kind of men who have built up the British Empire, not the kind of men who handed down to us the heritage of freedom which we enjoy; not the kind of men who are prepared to lay down their lives if need be in order that that heritage shall be handed down unimpaired to future generations.

Those who talk peace today, who imagine that we can compromise with Germany, who advocate coming to terms with Germany, are either traitors to their own country or they ignore all the facts of the history of Germany and of the war. There can be no safe peace with Germany until she is beaten and compelled to accept such terms as the civilized nations now at war with her shall dictate; no safe peace while a Hohenzollern sits on the throne of Germany. Anything short of this would be to give her the opportunity she wants, to further develop her militarism and to try again, perhaps under more favorable cir-

cumstances, to dominate the world. A nation that in four short years has violated all the laws of God and of nations, and of humanity, that has deliberately ordered and deliberately sanctioned the murder of innocent women and children, the murder of wounded soldiers and nurses in hospitals and hospitals ships, is not to be dealt with by ordinary international agreements.

THE GERMAN BEAST

The Germans have vainly attempted to shift from themselves to their opponents the eternal shame of being the first to use poison gases in warfare. A few weeks before such gases were actually employed by them near Ypres, early in May, 1915, some of their papers insidiously suggested that they were being used by British troops. The suggestion was artfully based on a legend which had been current in England for a century or more and which was revived at the time of the Boer War, to the effect that the famous Admiral Lord Dundonald had submitted to the military authorities of his day a scheme for wiping out an army—a scheme so frightful that it was scouted, although it was placed under seal in the archives of the War Office or Admiralty. Results quickly showed that the legend was revived in Germany in order to prepare the way for the use by her army of gases which had been distilled in the laboratories of German chemists months and probably years before, the cylinders and paraphernalia for the distribution of which were all ready, while picked men had been carefully trained in their use.

We all know the story of the first gas attack by the Germans, how it caught British troops completely unprepared, bringing to hundreds an excruciatingly painful death and submitting many more to prolonged and horrible tortures. The danger was met as promptly as possible by the manufacture and distribution of masks covering mouth and nostrils. These, however, proved but an indifferent protection and more effective means were resorted to. Eventually, though reluctantly, the British authorities came to the conclusion that they must fight the beast with his own weapons. They give him doses of his own medicine, and if possible administer something in the gaseous and mephitic line still more deadly. This they have done, also the French, while it is sufficiently well known that the United States has not neglected the method of warfare invented and first resorted to by the universal enemy.

"Having first used poison gas on land," says the New York Herald, "the beast is now first to use it on the sea. The incident off our coast at Smith Island is none the less serious because the lighthouse and coastguard personnel were only lightly affected by the gas emitted by a German sea prowler. It is the sheer devilry and malignancy of such an attack which fire the whole nation with a righteous indignation and a fixed resolve to beat the universal enemy to the dust. A nation which does such things and a people which approves and applauds them are infamous. We know that if by some devilish contrivance they could exterminate the entire population of New York by empoisoning the surrounding waters or by casting down gas bombs from the air they would unhesitatingly do so. Americans now realize that they are fighting an enemy which shrinks from no deed, however atrocious; that a veritable beast has been let loose in the world, and that for our own sake as well as that of civilization we must destroy it."

NOTES

Haig has the tanks, and Foch has the Yanks, and they both wallop Wilhelm and his blank, blank, blanks.

Where, asks a writer in the Boston Transcript, in these crushing days is Herr Rosner? "Is there not a high tower near Noyon? Are there not pro-German frogs in the marshes of the Somme to croak a barrage for the retreating Huns? It is a great mistake for the sake of history that the All Highest and the All Littlest should remain silent at such a precious moment."

By conversation on the part of the people of Canada and the United States the greater danger, which but few realize, that the Allied nations in Europe would be forced to make peace on account of food shortage has been averted. The spectre of famine has vanished. The need of conservation and increased production is still urgent. This country and the United States are practically bare of 1917 wheat today. Reserves must be built up to meet a possible crop shortage next year.

NEW CONTROLLER TRAINED FOR POST

A man who is tackling one of the most important and difficult civilian jobs in the world today is John R. Clynnes, who follows Lord Rhondda as Food Controller. He has the initial advantage of a training under Rhondda, and the other advantage, that as regards food, the worst is over; and that the great man who, with Herbert Hoover, saved the situation in the British Isles, established a system that is likely to answer all future demands that are made upon it. Nevertheless, there are sure to be anxious and trying days ahead for Mr. Clynnes, and it may be that his days, too, will be shortened by the great labors and responsibilities which he is now undertaking. That Lord Rhondda was a victim of the food shortage is not to be denied. He died as truly in the service of his country as though he had fallen on the field of battle. A man used to good living all his life, he ate always the minimum ration that he imposed on others, despite the greater need there was in his own case for nourishment.

Rhondda a Great Man

In time to come, the late food controller will be remembered, perhaps, as one of the greatest civilians developed by the war. No civilian ever tackled a harder job than he when he succeeded Lord Devonport. Despite the fact that Lord Devonport had a lifetime's experience in the grocery business and had distinguished himself for powers of leadership and organization, he was a failure as food controller. The chief reason was that he changed his mind too often, and displayed the very qualities which his previous career had given no hint of. Perhaps the magnitude of his task daunted him. At any rate when he resigned more than a year ago he was one of the most unpopular men in England, and there was a general impression that nobody could make a success of the Food controllership. It is said that the position was offered in turn to four men before Lloyd George appealed to Rhondda on grounds of patriotism to accept it.

Rhondda's Three Principles

He consented, and in a year made a most brilliant and conspicuous success. From the beginning he saw that there were three chief things to be done. In the first place, profiteering was to be killed wherever possible; a rationing system was necessary wherever there was a limited supply of a commodity; and finally the Food administration was to be decentralized by the establishment of a network of branches. This would utilize local advantages of season and specialty, and distribution, and would put a check on the waste of food due to the lack of cold storage and quick handling. As he worked on Lord Rhondda was able to substitute food cards for food queues, and later a ration book, which everybody now accepts without a murmur. While Lord Rhondda was firm as a rock once he took a position, he was always anxious to improve his system, and looked keenly to the public to notice what bright mind had found a

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

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THE SHUT-IN

I know a crippled woman who lives through years of pain with patience superhuman — for never does she complain. An endless torture rages throughout her stricken frame; an hour would seem like ages if I endured the same. Sometimes I call upon her to ask her how she stacks; it is her point of honor to utter no alacks; she hands out no alases, but says she's feeling gay, and every hour that passes brings some new joy her way. "I'm all serene, old chapple," she says, "as you can see; my heart is always happy, the Lord's so good to me!" Thus chortles pain-racked Auntie, and says it with a smile; and when I leave her shanty I kick myself a while. For I am strong and scrappy; I'm sound in wind and limb; and yet I'm seldom happy; I wail a graveyard hymn; when'er I meet reverses my howls are agonized; I say, with bitter curses, the gods are subsidized. When life seems like December, a thing of gloom and care, I wish I could remember old Auntie in her chair, forget my whinnings hateful, and that wretched-in see, who says that she is grateful, "the Lord's so good to me!"

WALT MASON

means to avoid some of the inconveniences that were unavoidable to the general public. Having learned this, Rhondda would make the bright idea available to all by official command.

From Labor's Ranks

His successor, Mr. Clynnes, is a different type of man. Both Devonport and Rhondda were great employers of labor, while Clynnes' father was a laborer in a Lancashire cotton mill. There young Clynnes, too, earned his daily bread at a time when he ought to have been learning his lessons at school. He did manage to scrape together some sort of education, and we are told by J. P. Collins, in the Boston Transcript, that on one occasion he actually copied out a dictionary in order that he might remember the meanings of words. Fortunately this dictionary habit did him no harm, for when he went to Parliament man years later he was distinguished for the simplicity of his language, and for his resolute refusal to adopt a style of debate that justifies the old epigram that language is given us to conceal our thoughts. It was as a labor member that Clynnes got into Parliament, having worked his way to the front in the party as secretary of a union of engineers.

A Popular Choice

Having arrived in Parliament it was not long before Mr. Clynnes had won the respect of the members. He did not shine as a Labor orator, and spoke only when some question was before the house which concerned the trade he represented. Then he spoke with a knowledge of the facts open to few, and a moderation and reasonableness without attained by fewer still. He was always rather a moderator than an attorney. That his appointment to succeed Lord Rhondda is approved by those who know Clynnes is sufficient tribute to the esteem which this Labor member, almost unknown to the general public before the war, has inspired. The late Lord Rhondda was somewhat of an autocrat, but he and Clynnes built up a relationship as colleagues which stood many a hard strain and ripened into warm friendship. As Mr. Collins says, "He stands out as one of the signal contributions of the labor camp to the coalition of parties," and has well proved his ability to work harmoniously with representatives of other groups, which is rare indeed among Labor members.

YOUR PROBLEMS SOLVED

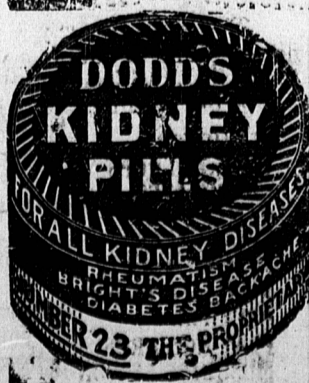
BY REV. T.S. LINSOTT, D. D.

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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.

A CHRISTIAN SOLDIER:—"A Minister" asks, "Can a man be both a soldier and a Christian?" General Gordon was looked upon as a Christian of heroic type. And certainly he was a true soldier. Doubtless there are wars of aggression, wars of extension of territory, and wars of commercial gain, in which a Christian knowing the aims and motives of the war, could not conscientiously engage in. But a Christian may certainly fight in defence of home and country, and in defence of oppressed and helpless people, and for great principles of liberty and justice.

AUTOCRACY AND DEMOCRACY—"A Socialist" asks how England can be a democracy when



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she is governed by a king? As a matter of fact England is not governed by a king, she is governed by the parliament at Westminster. England is what is called a constitutional monarchy, that is there is a constitution which provides that the

people elect a parliament to make laws for the government of the country and it is the king's duty to sign all such laws no matter what his private opinion may be. England is as democratic as if she were a republic.

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