

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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WAR CLOUDS

The situation in Europe is exceedingly menacing and what the outcome will be it would be vain to attempt to conjecture. The Turks, flushed with their recent successes against the Greeks and no doubt taking advantage of what they believe to be the exhausted condition of the Allies, are making a determined effort, or else putting up a bluff, to regain control of their ancient capital, Constantinople. It will be remembered that in the settlement of the recent war Constantinople was taken from the Turks and has since been administered by the Allies, the Dardanelles and contiguous shores being neutral.

If Turkey alone had to be reckoned with the task before the Allies would be a comparatively easy one. But there are possible complications; Russia with her unknown resources is behind her, Mohammedanism in India is to be reckoned with, France has committed herself to the Nationalist party in Turkey although still friendly with the Allies who saved her from annihilation at the hands of the Germans. Italy is friendly to her Allies. The Balkan States are ready to take a hand on either side.

The situation is developing; it may result in war; it may settle out. A day or two may probably determine whether it shall be war or peace.

An element of uncertainty is added by the fact that Europe generally is saturated with Bolshevism. Whether correctly or not the overwhelming defeat of the Greeks in their recent war with Turkey is attributed to the machinations of Bolshevik agents who treacherously and stealthily operated among the soldiers until the whole Greek army was literally honeycombed with Bolshevism. Whole regiments mutined, arms and munitions were abandoned and the Greeks were betrayed by their own friends. This may or may not have been the cause of the Greek debacle but it is generally believed that the Greeks could have put up a better fight had military matters been as they believed they were.

As to the main question and the interest manifested in it our despatches tell all that is known up to the present. That the "whelps of the lion" will stand by the mother country in this as in the late war, no one will doubt. Should war develop no doubt many Canadians will volunteer for service, as will also Australians, New Zealanders and South Africans but whether there shall be a general mobilization or not will depend upon what action the government will take. A special meeting of the Cabinet was held yesterday but, as stated in our despatches, no decision was arrived at.

A PRACTICAL STEP

Without waiting for federal or other action the province of Quebec is moving rapidly and definitely in the matter of securing immigrants and retaining their own population. In the canton of Langley a number of colonization lots have been surveyed and mapped out. Men are at work on these lots, clearing ten acres on each and erecting on each potential farm a dwelling costing \$600 and a barn at a somewhat lower figure. As it is not intended to place settlers on these farms before next spring and the work is merely in process it has not been determined what the exact cost to the settler will be but it has been authoritatively stated that the settler will receive a farm at actual cost and that repayment may be spread over thirty years. The province will of course protect itself against loss and, in order to guard

Notes By The Way

The latest news from the late German Kaiser is that he is determined to marry a widow relic of the late Prince scoenich Carloth, whoever the latter may have been, which matters little at this distance. It is also related that his family are opposed to his intended second matrimonial venture, which attitude on their part is by no means a new one either in high or low life.

William II, German Emperor, was born at Berlin on January 27th, 1859 and is now in his 63rd year. He is as all the world knows by birth a grandson of William the First, Emperor of Germany and also a grandson of the late Queen Victoria, of happy and illustrious memory. He came to the throne on the death of his father, Frederick III, in 1888, and remained in power until November, 1918, when he fled to Holland where he has since remained in exile after a reign of 30 years. In the earlier years after his accession to the throne great hopes were felt and expressed that his reign would be prosperous peaceful and beneficent.

An English encyclopedia published in 1900 tells that he was "trained from early boyhood for kingship and on his accession to the throne gave evidence of the 'excellent schooling he had received to equip him for the high post he was called to fill; he showed that the old Hohenzollern blood still flowed in his veins and that he was minded to 'the every inch a king; one of the first acts of his reign was to 'compel the resignation of Bismarck, as it was his intention to 'reign alone; that he has proved himself equal to his task events since have fully justified and it is hoped it will be seen that his influence on public affairs will lead to the advantage of the German people and the peace of the world; his relationship to Queen Victoria is full of promise for the union throughout the world of the Teutonic peoples, who have already achieved so much for the good of the race."

How he blasted these high hopes and lived to deluge the world in suffering and blood, we all know. And yet to himself and to many of his people, he was a profoundly religious man. So easy it is to be in part self-deceived and quite infatuated and enslaved by the adulation and flatteries with which the Kaiser was surrounded. At times he preached in the churches; at other times he assumed almost an equality and partnership with the Almighty.

That the worship of his followers and courtiers knew no bounds we have abundant evidence. Among the greatest of these and also an idol of militant Germany, was Hindenburg who even now that his master is in exile and disgrace, recently addressed a letter to him as "the Most Exalted, All-Mightiest Kaiser, Most Gracious Kaiser, King and Lord." Hindenburg writes to excuse the Kaiser's cowardly flight by saying that he had advised it, as he probably did. Herein we have an exposition of the character of both the fallen Kaiser and his greatest field marshal.

We are accustomed to speak reverently of the Supreme Goodness as The Almighty. Hindenburg, addresses his fallen and inefable disgraced and dishonored leader as the "All-Mightiest." He would not have so addressed him had he not thought these blasphemous.

Three fortunately died young. The nine who grew up are all feeble-minded. One of these, a young woman now in her twenties, is the illegitimate mother of five children, all feeble-minded; fourteen mental defectives, each one a social problem, from one marriage that never should have been allowed.

It is estimated that two thirds of all prostitution is due to feeble-mindedness and that the great majority of social evils including venereal diseases result from these uncontrolled relations. It is estimated also that fifty percent of all crimes result from feeble-mindedness.

It is false economy not to provide for the care and training of these defectives but a large proportion of the cost and the sorrow could be saved by making adequate provision for their segregation, for more rigid marriage laws and for specialized training and restraining from childhood of those who are mentally defective.

The Public Forum

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by its correspondents.

NOTHING PERSONAL

Sir,—May I be permitted through your columns to refute the false insinuations contained in the latter part of a letter signed "Veritas" of the 15th. Anyone who has followed the discussion re Prince of Wales College will remember that "Educationalist" in reply to my first letter, questioned my qualifications for entering the discussion. Answering the request, I stated my qualifications, at the same time remarking they were inadequate and that therefore I had based my arguments on the Carnegie Report. In return I asked "Educationalist" the same question he asked me, i. e. to state his qualifications. I do not think any fair minded person could object to this procedure.

Even if my remarks were personal, and they plainly were not, at least cannot be accused of seeking the protection of a non deplume in order to "throw mud" at an opponent who is in the open. I note that the letter, evidently intended to be signed "Veritas" is by a strange error signed "Veritas" which readily suggests the translation "GREEN". Truly the hand of Fate plays some strange tricks.

Thanking you for your valuable space, I am, Sir etc. C. J. TIDMARSH

Pass Mark No Criterion

Sir,—I have followed with considerable interest the series of letters which has been appearing in your columns with regard to the Prince of Wales College Examinations. Those who, like Mr. Tidmarsh and "Pedagogue," are in close touch with the education of the Province, must be intensely amused at the patent absurdities which have appeared over

words would be pleasing to the ex-Kaiser's ear, if not even exacted by his autocratic will. What a commentary we have here upon the character of one whom we are compelled to believe the greatest criminal of the age, yet wholly impotent for his colossal crimes and claiming still to be the All-Mightiest upon earth! It is not charitable to think of this slaughterer of millions as a madman?

But a few years ago it was thought incredible that any one man could so deluge the world in blood and misery as has been done in our times. In the common judgment of mankind this crime of the ages lies today at the door of the Imperial Criminal Impotent who is now courted by a wife to solace his loneliness in his declining years. And the nations that his madness despoiled and ruined, the Europe which he made the slaughterhouse of millions, now await, not his trial and punishment, but tidings of his betrothal! This also is among the marvels of the age in which we live.

Daily Selections for Guardian Readers

From the W. B. Louson collection

THE TWO GOLDEN DOORS

I wonder if my readers have ever thought what the two golden doors can do for them when depressed, worried, anxious about things, etc. These two golden doors can take your heart light even through care and trouble. Golden door No. 1 opens backwards, for it is "Memory." We pass through it, and all the happy times of the years gone by rub through our brain, and revive us in our hour of need.

Like rain on the parched grass, sweet recollections of bygone days fall gently on our hearts, and dropping blossoms revive and unfold. With most of us, the door of Memory opens into a garden with shade and flowers, and from the barren cheeks of old age we can wander down Memory's golden paths back to the green spots and fountains of life, and find cheer and help.

The other golden door is Hope. This door opens outwards, and into the future, and through it we can escape the worries of to-day into an enchanted world. No artist ever painted such a landscape as that they look upon who pass through the door "Hope." Weariness, anxiety and disappointment are forgotten by those who wander in that magic country to which Hope gives entrance. It today seems hard and dreary and full of worrying things that tax your strength and brain, unlock the doors of Memory and Hope for in passing through them you will find refreshment for all your troubles—joy in place of pain. It is only when we forget to use the key which opens these doors of gold that life seems unbearable and so unsatisfactory.

er the names of "Educationalist" and "Parent." One of the first reforms suggested by "Educationalist" was a lowering of the pass-mark in order that a smaller percentage of the students should be "plucked." But who is so short-sighted as to suppose that the scolastic requirement in any institution depends on the arbitrary MARK which happens to be selected as a pass? Of course it does not. It depends partly on the general traditions and requirements of the institution, partly on the discretion of those who set and examine the papers. (The fact that McGill has a lower pass mark obviously does not imply that McGill exacts a lower standard of scholarship.) Change the pass mark to fifty, to twenty, to a combination of Greek or Hebrew letters—you merely rearrange the details of correction. The pass list will remain substantially the same unless there is some deeper change in the standards of teaching and examining.

But much more fundamental is the question raised about the standard required of candidates for teachers' licenses. Let us compare it with that of other professions. The community requires that a young man shall spend from five to seven years in study, after matriculation to P. W. C., before he can practise dentistry. The barrister must spend at least six years, the theologian and the physician at least eight. But the mental and moral development of the young is, forsooth, so unimportant, so trivial a matter that we entrust it to those who have spent one year or even less at P. W. College. And yet people dare to use the names of "Educationalist" and "Parent" when they suggest that our standards should be lowered or abolished. For shame! The most needed reform is that every teacher should spend at least two years in College. But, of course, such a reform would be impossible, as Mr. Tidmarsh has pointed out, until our teachers receive adequate remuneration. They simply MUST be induced to prepare themselves more thoroughly for their task, and to remain longer at the profession. If "Educationalist" would devote as much energy and vigour to bringing about such an improvement, as he has done to stirring up petty friction and undermining confidence in our educational leaders, he would be performing a rare service to the province.

I am Sir, etc. SON

How Teacher's Licenses Are Granted

Sir,—My last letter had already taken up too much of your valuable space before I made one or two further comments along the same line. You will remember that we are now working on the assumption of a 15 per cent. failure in P. W. C. classes, not 50 per cent., as heretofore accepted by "Educationalist" and "Parent." Now, if readers of this letter will be kind enough, let us look at what is the real meaning of this failure business. Let us see just what is meant by 15 per cent. of the students failing to get certificates, (or 50 per cent. for that matter). In the older days, the examinations of the Prince of Wales College were separate and distinct from the examinations for Teachers' Licenses. That is, first the students wrote their examinations for P. W. C. certificates, and then, whether they were successful or not, they wrote a different set of examinations in order to receive licenses. The former examinations, naturally, were set and written in the College, the latter were set by the Board of Education. Later on, the "Board" said to the College something like this: "See here! The majority of your students are passing our license examinations, but some are not. We will issue licenses to all of your students who have been successful in obtaining 75 per cent. of your total number of marks, for they will be presumed to be able to pass our examinations without difficulty. For those who do not obtain 75 per cent. at P. W. we will continue to conduct the license examinations as heretofore." Now, please notice, "Educationalist," just what this means. It means that the P. W. C. certificate was a "degree with honors" so to speak, and primarily had nothing whatever to do with the granting of Teachers' Licenses. As stated, however, the Board of Education some time ago saw fit to grant Teachers' Licenses to holders of P. W. C. certificates who had obtained, while at College SEVENTY FIVE PER CENT. of the total number of marks. Those who failed to obtain 75 per cent. at P. W. C. continued to write the License examinations set by the Board of Education whether they received College certificates or not. Again the Board of Education had a meeting, and found that there were still a great number of students passing their license examinations easily. They considered the expense and time of examining all these students a second time as somewhat wasted, and forthwith decided to issue licenses to all P. W. C. certificate-holders who had made an average of 65 per cent. and upwards at the College examinations, and to hold the License examinations as usual for the students who had failed to make 65 per cent. at P. W. C. And THIS system is the one we have today. The failure of a student to obtain a P. W. C. certificate does not mean that the "poor beggar" is thereby precluded from obtaining a Teacher's License. The P. W. C. certificate is, as stated, a degree with honors—the Teacher's License examinations are to give the PASS CLASS something to show for their work. And, since holders of First Class Teacher's Licenses are admitted to Universities, as well as allowed to teach,—the student who does not receive a P. W. C. certificate, and who subsequently makes the 50 per cent. required on the License Examinations, has not

Failed,—he has merely failed to receive HONORS. I might say that anyone may compare the License Examinations with those set at P. W. C. and be compelled to admit that the former are by far the easier more leniently. I trust this explanation will more or less ease "Educationalist's" tortured mind in regard to the "slaughterer of the innocents."

Naturally, the above does not apply to Third Year, but granting that I do not see why "Educationalist" should suggest that the last Year be lopped off. There is a wealth of initiative imparted to the First and Second Year students by the mere presence of the higher class. The Third Year students are allowed much more freedom than the others, and they do not have as many subjects. They pass the Second Year students with zeal to get through their year and into Third. Or, if unfortunately it does not carry them into Third Year, it gives them a hope of some day entering University, and separates them from the smugness of feeling their education to be complete before it is fairly begun. In the experience of all who have ever taught in rural schools, it is found that it is only with the greatest difficulty that the pupils can be made to see beyond their little world of school activities. From this it can easily be presumed that the P. W. C. staff find the same difficulty, which would swell to far greater proportions if the Third Year were deleted. The Third Year probably has a much smaller percentage of Islanders leading, as they do everywhere, in the learned professions, had they not caught the spark of initiative and glimpsed the wide unconquered fields beyond, while still struggling with elementary principles at P. W. C.

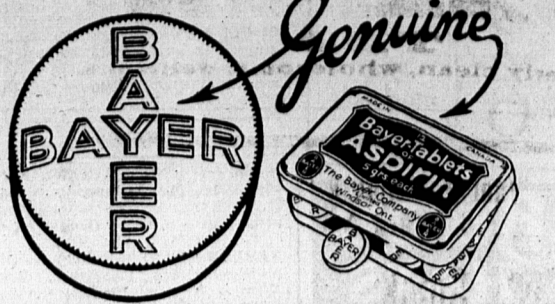
I am Sir, etc. PEDAGOGUE.

Where Are We Heading?

Sir,—The most serious condition of all to consider in connection with our present alarming forest situation is the fact that we should already cease cutting trees. Our country is denuded of forest growth to such an extent that our wells and art springs are drying up, also our brooks and streams which are now raging torrents in the spring and very low in summer, shutting our industries down for want of power in summer and putting them out of business in the spring from too much water. Before the war there was very little surface run off, the water from rain and snow entering the duff and soil, allowing its slow seepage into the springs and rivers, the sub-soil being thereby kept saturated with water; or, in other words, the forest acts as a sponge, and after its removal water springs are drying up, the onward rush of the water we have violent freshets followed immediately by low water conditions and drought. On this continent conditions have now reached a point where prompt and energetic action has become imperative. The water level in the soil has fallen and is continuing to fall at the average rate of more than 3 feet every ten years ever since the denuding of our forest growth which began more than a hundred years ago. This is a fact of which very few are aware, and its seriousness, when it becomes fully known and appreciated, will cause a forest panic such as they had in Europe in 1890. This rapid lowering of the water-table has more to do with the tremendous losses recently suffered in our forests through insects and disease than anything else. The drying up of the soil and consequent lack of water leaves our forest growth in such a weakened condition that the first insect pest that comes along, regardless as to whether it is the spruce bud worm, bark beetle or borer. Our Government should immediately withdraw all forested land from settlement. We have already too much land that has been cleared, a great deal of which has been abandoned, and a much larger portion of which is about one-tenth cultivated. If all our cleared and agricultural land was being farmed as it should be we would not need to clear any more land in Canada. There is no more profitable crop

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(Continued On Page 5)



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