

THE Charlottetown Guardian

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1914.

SOME TAXES

During the piping times of peace we all with one accord talked fluently, and sometimes earnestly, about the curse of taxation and we bore the burden with mingled resignation and indignation.

And yet there are countries that are more heavily taxed than ours—by a considerable percentage. Take, for instance, Great Britain. From an analysis of the new British income tax, given in a recent London paper, we find that the tax there is a real, tangible thing whose weight will unquestionably be felt.

On an income of \$1,250 the tax last year was \$16.75; this year \$22.50 next year it will be \$33.75. On an income of \$2,500, the tax last year was \$66.50; this year \$87.50; next year it will be \$131.00. On an income of \$5,000 it grows from \$187.00 to \$250 and \$325. As there are evidently some moneyed men in the Old Land provision is made for bleeding the more affable ones. A man with an income of \$10,000 paid \$500 last year, \$666 this year, and if he lives till next year he will be asked to pay \$750. The man who has an income of \$250,000 will pay next year \$8,900, having paid proportionate amounts for this and last year. An income of \$250,000 will next year pay a tax of \$61,650, and so on through the varying sizes.

And this, be it remembered, is only one tax. They are taxed on property, etc., just as the unfortunate taxpayers of this country are taxed.

Before the war was begun or was thought of the people of Great Britain were paying for the maintenance of the navy alone five dollars for every man, woman and child in the country. That navy was for the protection of the whole British Empire, including Canada, including even Prince Edward Island, and Canada and Prince Edward Island paid how much? Not one dollar.

It would appear that we owe something on this account. If every man, woman and child had not paid that five dollars each, year after year, for many years past, and that navy had not been kept up, it is not only possible but very probable, almost certain, that the British Empire, including Canada and Prince Edward Island, would, today, be either possessions of Germany or fighting an unequal battle in an invaded country with an enemy that, as invaders, would be overwhelmingly powerful.

While we have cause to thank God that the good people of Great Britain paid the enormous cost of the maintenance of the navy and that that navy is at present guarding our own trade lanes on the Atlantic and Pacific, and keeping our enemy locked up in the North Sea, in order that we may go on doing business as usual, we may perhaps look with more kindly eyes upon what we in our haste have hitherto called our "burden of taxation." We might even, if the opportunity again presented itself, contribute a paltry \$35,000,000, for the upkeep of the navy.

We may also be encouraged to regard more sympathetically the various funds that have been instituted to help the Empire in the gigantic struggle in which she is at present engaged on her own account and ours.

URBAN AND RURAL

The Census and Statistics Monthly for November publishes some interesting facts about the distribution of rural and urban population. From 1871 to 1881 the urban population increased over the rural by 32.5 per cent; during the next decade it increased 65.2 per cent.

During the period 1901 to 1911 there was a large immigration, equalling 34 per cent. of the whole population, yet the rural increase during these years was only 17 per cent.

Referring to the causes leading to the increase of population in the cities as compared with that of the country, the Monthly quotes Dr. Peter H. Bryce, Chief Medical Officer of the Department of the Interior in part as follows:

"The foreigner who would have gone on the land has been encouraged to stay in the city to build our sewers and streets at high wages; and, as we have seen this summer, the boom being over and work slack, he too being debauched by the impress of town life, likewise refuses to take work in the country. Living cheaply in slum quarters, made so by the high cost of land and materials, which mean the high cost of rents, he adds to our problems without adding to our wealth. Surely then we must ask ourselves if the situation is satisfactory, or is it one which can go on indefinitely without producing lasting national deterioration? Can we expect to see, as we have seen, the urban population go on increasing decade after decade and the rural decline, till in England 89 per cent., in Germany, 79 per cent., and in this Continent, 60 per cent. of the total population are living on the labors of the other part?"

"Can children brought up largely indoors retain the sturdiness of muscles and firmness of nerve tissue adequate to the future needs of the nation? Is insanity, as Dr. Mott, Pathologist of the London Asylum Board, says, begotten of the neurotic or nervous constitution to be allowed to go on multiplying continually as it has greatly in cities. Must the high pressure life, which is showing itself in steadily increasing death rates after 45 years of age, continue, without our realizing its meaning and determining in these days of aroused patriotism to cultivate saner national ideals? We are a very young nation, and yet we see ourselves refusing to take warnings from the older peoples of Europe and rushing headlong along the same pathways which have created city slums and a degenerate slum population; and this too when ever extending railroads, tramways and motors are bringing yearly thousands of uncultivated acres almost to the doors of our towns and cities. Is it possible that an ever increasing proportion of the population can be parasitic, living upon the labor of the producer of the food and raw materials of wealth and yet that a proper balance between production and consumption, capital and labor, employment and employee be maintained?"

These are questions worthy of serious consideration. In an age like ours such questions should not be insoluble. There should be a way in which not only immigrants, but our own people, should be enticed, not compelled, to remain in the country in preference to rushing to the cities.

Dr. Bryce refers to the penalty attached to city living; neurotic, increasing death rates, parasites living on the labors of others, etc. Yet, people will live in the cities in

preference to the country. The question of wage earning has much to do with it; the question of pleasure and entertainment has also something to do with it. Can these be remedied?

The farmer business is the most important business on earth. His is the one calling which must be kept going though every other should fail; his product is the only thing that the market must be supplied with and without which the world would starve. And yet the farmer, controlling the world's greatest business, cannot pay a wage that will keep his own sons on his farm! There is something wrong and there should be a way to make it right.

One of the causes operating against the farmer is the fact that a satisfactory system of co-operation is impossible owing to diversity of people engaged in his calling. He is not half paid for his product and he is not in a position to demand a reasonable price. Yet from his earnings a number of middlemen make a fat living.

The question is one of business solely. When farming is carried on along the lines followed in other callings, it will be sufficiently remunerative and attractive to keep not only the sons but the immigrants on the farm.

MORE OPTIMISM

Yesterday's news contained two outstanding items of financial optimism which may be noted. Mr. H. V. Meredith, President of the Bank of Montreal, in his address at the annual meeting of shareholders, expressed confidence in the soundness of Canada's financial structure and a firm belief that the present pause in activity and advancement would be followed in the not distant future by an era of renewed prosperity.

"War and other adverse conditions," he said, "are bound to retard our progress. A period of rest and recuperation may be expected, but the future depends to a great extent upon the spirit with which the people meet the changed conditions.

"Economy and prudence in the matter of expenditure, and an earnest effort to increase production of exportable articles, will in time usher in an era of active trade and renewed prosperity.

"There is no question in my mind that after a pause, the duration of which will be determined by the measure of our production and by our savings, we shall again enter on a period of progress and development, and that pause, I believe, will not be long continued."

Sincerely optimistic were the predictions of Sir W. Van Horne, President of the C. P. R.:

"Unquestionably things are on the mend," he said. "Evidences of this are becoming more apparent each day, and I look for a big revival in business in the not distant future. Primarily, I should say this country is bound to benefit tremendously by the European war. The effects of this are already being felt in the constant demands on the agricultural and manufacturing resources. It is doubtless the appreciation of this which has aided more than any other one thing in restoring confidence.

"This demand has just about started. It is bound to grow as the needs abroad become more urgent. Therefore, the future for business and for better times here is bright, and this outlook cannot fail to impress any business man who tries to keep in touch with current events."

AMERICAN SENTIMENT

The acid-like comment of many American papers apropos of Count von Bernstorff's rash remarks regarding the Monroe doctrine and Canada are still most significant. They show that while the Count's utterances are regarded with that measure of patience customary accorded to the sayings of dolts and habitually rash talkers, there are limits set.

In his latest and most foolish utterance, therefore, the silent patience of the journalistic commentators gave place to sneers, quibs and sarcasms. "Would the Germans violate the neutrality of New England in attempting to reach Canada?" asked one paper. Another wondered at the maladroitness of raising a question respecting which there was no possibility of accomplishment in an invasion of Canada. And there have not been wanting comments that voiced resentment, that a diplomatic agent should project into the foreground, with mischievous intent, a suggestion that was both gratuitous and ill-timed. And, on top of this, there has not been lacking the roundabout hints that Count Von Bernstorff's room would be more welcome than his company.

We all, of course, realize that it is a most delicate question to call up for official criticism the utterance of the ambassador of a great power, and, accordingly, official Washington remains silent.

But the press is not hampered by any such considerations and Count von Bernstorff has been handled without gloves.

The popularity of the Belgian relief funds in the United States is as pronounced as is the unpopularity of the German cause and the German official representative.

If the Washington Government were moved by the spirit of the majority of the American people, it would send a short and sharp protest to the German Foreign Office respecting the Belgian atrocities, just as Mr. Gladstone made his famous and effective protest against the Bulgarian outrages. And the temper of the American people is steadily rising.

THE LATE MR. BEYERS

In connection with the death of the rebel leader, Christian Frederick Beyers, which was reported in our recent cables, it is interesting to recall the "dressing down" given to him by Mr. J. C. Smuts, Minister of Defence, of the Union of South Africa.

When Beyers resigned he had some characteristically unpleasant things to say about the British Empire. To these Mr. Smuts replied courteously. After reminding him that "all the information in possession of the Government was communicated by you, all plans were discussed with you and your advice was followed," he proceeds:

One would have expected that this approval would make the matter easier for you, but now I find that you anticipated that Parliament would disapprove of the policy of the Government, and that your disappointment in this is the reason for your unexpected action. In order to make your motives clearer, the reasons for your resignation were explained in a long political argument which was immediately communicated to the press, and came into the hands of the Government long after publication.

I need not tell you that all these circumstances in connection with your resignation have made a most unpleasant impression upon my colleagues and myself. But this unpleasant impression has even been aggravated by the allegations contained in your letter. Your bitter attack on Great Britain is not only entirely baseless, but it is the more unjustifiable, coming as it does in the midst of a great war from the Commandant-General of one of the British Dominions. Your reference to barbarous acts during the South African war cannot justify the criminal devastation of Belgium and can only be calculated to sow hatred and division among the people of South Africa. You forget to mention that since the South African war the British people gave South Africa her entire freedom under a constitution which makes it possible for us to realize our national ideals along our own lines, and which, for instance, allows you to write with impunity a letter for which you would, without doubt, be liable in the German Empire to the extreme penalty. As regards your other statements, they have been answered and disposed of in Parliament.

THE PROSPEROUS PROVINCE VON SPEE CAUGHT AFTER ROUNDING THE HORNE

Sir,—Just having returned home after a visit to my native land after an absence of forty-five years I was more than over-joyed with the prosperous appearance of the Island also in finding that the hospitality of the old generation still remains with the present and nowhere can be excelled. Anywhere that I had time to visit amongst the many friends every one seemed to vie with the other in extending their friendship, which I heartily appreciated and will remember especially the attention on the beautiful banks of the West River; also the townships of New Haven and those few that remained in Charlottetown, with whom I spent some of my boyhood days. To one and all I am scarcely able to return my thanks of gratitude for the never ending pleasures I enjoyed among those many friends. Hoping when this cruel war is over which has brought a cloud of sorrow to our beloved land, that it may bring still more prosperity to those thrifty farming people, etc.

JAMES FRANCIS BUCKLEY, Haverhill, Mass.

GERMAN SKY-BOMBS

LONDON, Dec. 9.—The London Chronicle's Dunkirk correspondent writes the following: Twenty-four civilians were killed at midday Sunday at Hazebrouck by two German aeroplanes which dropped bombs on the town. An eye-witness of the affair, who arrived at Dunkirk shortly afterwards, gives me the following account:

"Just before 12 o'clock, two German Taubes of the latest type appeared over the town, dropped 17 bombs altogether. The first fell harmlessly on a plough field outside of the town, the other 16 fell in the town itself. The victims included an old woman of 70 and three children. The latter were playing in a street when they were hit and their bodies were terribly mangled. The death of one English soldier was caused in an extraordinary manner. The bomb fell in a square but did not explode. The soldier went out to examine it when two others fell near him. So great was the force of the explosion that his body was hurled through a thick plate of glass of a shop window. Two aeroplanes immediately ascended and pursued the marauders, but the latter, owing to their superior speed succeeded in escaping.

On the occasion of the last visit of a Taube one of the bombs killed a woman and wounded a young girl so that it was necessary to amputate her arm.

Lady Decies (formerly Miss Vivian Gould), who having been active in the work here, for the past couple of months, happened to be passing close to the spot where the bomb fell. She was struck in the shoulder by a splinter of iron, and long as she lives will carry the mark as a memento. Regardless of her own wound Lady Decies went to the assistance of the little girl.

A fresh battle has commenced at Dixmude, both Peris and Dixmude are being constantly shelled and roads leading into these towns are under a constant hail of shrapnel. Repeated night attacks are being made by the Germans and though official reports say little the battle is being waged fiercely as ever. The German attack is the first strongly offensive movement taken by the enemy for some weeks. The Germans succeeded in bringing up fresh heavy guns and they are now firing from a range of sixteen kilometers. Constant night attacks have caused the Germans further heavy losses, floods from well nigh impassable barriers and on each occasion the Franco-Belgian forces catch the enemy in midwater. Hundreds of dead bodies are floating on the water. The Belgian army is again bearing the brunt of the attacks. Their efficiency is unimpaired. Their numbers have been considerably strengthened, and they continue to play an important part in the struggle which extends from the sea to Switzerland.

NO MODERATION OF THE TEMPERANCE LAWS IN MANITOBA.

WINNIPEG, Dec. 10.—Sir Rodmond Roblin this afternoon sent a communication to Dan McRae, president of the Licensed Hotel Keepers Association, stating that the Government declined to amend or moderate its mandate to the effect that all bars in Manitoba must close at seven o'clock each evening, and the wholesale liquor stores at six o'clock each evening, beginning with December 10.

The reply of the Premier was in response to a large deputation of hotel men which waited on the Government this morning. It was given out after the Provincial Cabinet had met for two hours to discuss the case as presented to them.

SEPARATION ALLOWANCES.

OTTAWA, Dec. 9.—A scheme of separation allowances to be paid to the wives and families of all naval ratings, marines and reservists in the Canadian navy has been drawn up. These will be paid to all with the exception of all commissioned officers of the Royal Navy, Royal Canadian Navy and Royal Navy Reserve and all officers, warrant officers and men, in receipt of any form of lodging allowance or allowance in lieu of provisions.

All officers, warrant officers and men who have entered the Canadian Navy for the period of the war only, of the Royal Canadian Volunteer Reserve, called up for service and borne on the books of a seagoing ship will be paid as follows: Petty officer, second class and equivalent ratings, \$20 per month; petty officer, first class and chief officer and equivalent ratings, \$25; warrant officers, \$30; lieutenants and upwards, \$40. Any amount received in payment of the whole or part of the salary received by the husband, father or son at the time of his enlistment may, however, be deducted from this amount.

To the families of married men and widowers (not officers) who have entered the Canadian Navy for the period of the war or who have been called for service from the Royal Canadian Volunteer Reserve there will be paid 45 cents per day on the same terms as the payments to officers. Payment will commence as from August 4th last.

Found Pacific Too Hot for Him and Tried to Join the Karlsruhe.

LONDON, Dec. 10.—The Daily Chronicle's naval expert commenting on the British victory in the South Atlantic, says: "The Navy and the Admiralty are to be heartily congratulated on our important victory whereby the Chilean defeat has been wiped off the score. The officer commanding the British squadron was Vice-Admiral Sturdee, but the Admiralty exercised wise reticence as to the names and number of ships in command. As our casualties are reported to be few we may conclude that this time it was we, not the Germans, whose strategy succeeded in bringing a superior force to bear.

"The site of the battle suggests that Admiral Von Spee had found the Pacific too hot for him and had rounded Cape Horn in order to enter the Atlantic, possibly with the view of linking up with the Karlsruhe, but that the British lookout vessels in the neighborhood of Cape Horn observed his movements and wirelessly to the British patrolling squadron in time to intercept him.

"The Dresden, Nürnberg and Karlsruhe are now possibly the only German cruisers on the high seas. They are all small swift vessels which need to be rounded up in the interests of commerce. Possibly the Bremen should be added to their number, but there is some doubt about her locality. There are also, at least, two German armed liners to be accounted for, one of them, the Kron Prinz Wilhelm, possessing high speed.

"The crushing victory justifies our hoping that the methods now employed by the Admiralty, on the basis of their war experience and under the masterly direction of Lord Fisher, will before long lay these remaining raiders by the heels. Their temporary immunity has depended upon certain resources, especially the abuse of the wireless telegraph and violation of the neutrality of the coastal states which must, as time goes on, be restricted within their narrowing limits.

British Prestige Restored. The Daily News, in an editorial, says: "There will be the deepest satisfaction throughout the country at the news of the destruction of these ships, quite apart from the possible destruction of their three companions now being pursued. It balances with some things to the credit, both as to men and ships, with the loss of the Good Hope and Monmouth. There is more in it than grim satisfaction at the wiping out of a debt. The Pacific defeat rankled in the minds of Englishmen, much more than they cared to express, and what was not less serious, it shook British naval prestige with the neutral nations much heavier than we cared to confess. That is over and done with. The moral effect of this victory in the South Atlantic will carry the distribution of our standing or most skeptical mind the conviction that the British sea power is as sure as ever and maintained by men as skilful and valorous as those who created it.

Lord Fisher's Genius. "Whatever mistakes have been made earlier in the distribution of naval forces have been corrected. Superior strategy prepared the victory and that strategy bears everywhere the imprint of Lord Fisher's genius. The big gun coupled with speed has once again vindicated itself. It has done so in every engagement of this war. It represents Lord Fisher's contribution, persistently criticised by many within and without the navy."

RHODES SCHOLARS THERE.

ROTTERDAM, via London, Dec. 10.—The Rhodes scholars from Oxford University who were sent to the Continent to assist in the work of the American Relief Committee in Belgium, left Rotterdam Tuesday for the various districts, to which they have been assigned.

SIR ADAM BECK REMOVED COMMISSIONER.

TORONTO, Dec. 9.—Sir Adam Beck has been appointed Chief Remount Commissioner for Eastern Canada. The appointment is made by the Dominion Government on recommendation of the British War Office. Sir Adam is also created a full colonel, and attached to the headquarters staff, relinquishing his hitherto honorary unattached military title.

Sir Adam Beck will be in charge of all purchases for the Canadian forces in the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and is entering on his new duties at once. Sir Adam will appoint, within the next few days, some fifteen expert purchasing agents, and an equal number of veterinary surgeons, for the purpose of covering the large territory in quest of horses for the army. He expects to purchase between 8,000 and 10,000 horses during the next couple of months.

"The daintiest toilet waters manufactured are here in many delightful odors. You must see and use them to appreciate their beauty and satisfaction. Price 60c. to \$1.50. The MacKinnon Drug Co., corner Great George and Kent Streets.

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Nothing could make a more acceptable Christmas remembrance than a pair of pretty comfortable slippers. For men we have comfortable House Slippers, in Felt and Leather romers or pomps. For women we've House Slippers of Felt or Leather, cozy, neat and comfortable. Also dainty party slippers and pomp effects. We have slippers for boys and girls and pretty little creations for the Baby.

Another gift always appreciated by your lady friends—is a box of our silk hosiery, enclosed in a pretty Christmas Package.

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Important Poultry Notice
We will commence buying poultry for our Xmas orders next
TUESDAY, DEC. 15th,
and will continue buying until our orders are all filled, but any poultry offering after Saturday Dec. 19th, will be too late for Xmas Shipments. We will require a limited quantity of Turkeys, Geese, Ducks and Chickens.
Fowl will not be wanted at any price. We can pay reasonably good prices for
Crate Fattened Chickens
but cannot handle inferior stock.
As our orders are more limited this season. We advise all parties having poultry to sell to see us early before our requirements are completed—Call, write or phone.

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