

THE Charlottetown Guardian

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EARLY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

It is perhaps not too much to assume that with all the experience of the past years with their hasty shopping on the very eve of Christmas, almost at the last moment, many of our people will repeat the experience and be found rushing after their Christmas purchases this year again within the last two or three days of Christmas.

There are two ways in which this last hour's shopping does serious injury, one to the purchaser, who cannot give the matter the deliberation it should receive—by buying under any circumstances should be done cautiously—the other to the merchants and their employees, who are unduly pushed by the rush of the last few days.

In the interests of both parties, early Christmas shopping should be undertaken. At present when the roads are in poor condition and the attendance from the rural districts is not large, city purchasers will have a splendid opportunity to get through with their special buying. Later on the stores will as usual be filled with country customers and, both in the interests of these and of the city customers, the latter should get through with it now.

This year especially, owing to the great number of our people who are away, there will be more shopping of a special kind than formerly. Presents suitable for mailing must be purchased, and it is not always an easy matter to get suited. Our merchants have made special preparation this year for this class and our stores are well supplied with just such presents as our soldier boys will be delighted with, so that there should be little difficulty in making selections.

And here it may not be out of place to say that on the battlefields of Europe as well as in camp in England, there are many boys whose friends at home are few and who have little hope of being remembered at Christmas. As far as possible provision should be made for these when we are remembering our own. The boys are strangers in a strange land and while we have every assurance that they are being most kindly treated by the people among whom they are strangers, and that Canadians are special "pets" among the people of England, yet a reminder from the homeland will be more acceptable than any kindness received elsewhere.

The coming Christmas will differ very materially from any that this generation has experienced. Many of our boys are not only absent from home, but are in the midst of dangers. A kindly remembrance, even a postcard or a letter, a box of cats or smokes, a little gift of any kind will be more heartily appreciated than we who are at home can have any conception of. Let us try and so arrange it that when a box goes to the boy of our special care it shall contain something that will be shared by the less fortunate ones. And above all let us do it now before the rush of the last few days before Christmas comes. Do your Christmas buying now.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S ADDRESS

President Wilson's address to Congress is the first note he has sounded regarding the necessity for national preparedness in the interest of national defence. It is not too much to say that President Wilson has been a disappointment to many. He is, as we have said before, a man of lofty ideals but lacking the necessary initiative and application to endeavour to realise them. Discussing this peculiarity or failing on the part of the President, the current issue of Collier's has this to say:

"It must be a very superficial observer who has failed to notice that the popularity of President Wilson has receded from its high tide, as has the public approval of his acts. The causes of this are mixed. Stated in the broadest way, it will probably be fair to say that the feeling of the public toward the President is rather puzzled. He has not lived up to the picture of him which the public, with or without good reason, made for itself. The reasons are partly peculiarities of temperament and partly that the President did not supply aggressive leadership at a time when the country's mood would have been better satisfied by aggressive leadership. Anyone who will take the trouble to analyze President Wilson's career in the White House cannot fail to observe that his achievements have been chiefly an eloquent and attractive expression of high ideals. This is reflected in a phrase frequently seen nowadays in the public

press, namely, that the President deals wholly in ideas and lets ideas take the place of facts and things.

"The public feeling, which is disappointment in the case of the President, is somewhat more acute in the case of the Democratic party. The leadership of the Democratic party is stubbornly opposed to preparedness. Bryan and Kitchin and the others who are against preparedness are leaders of the party in a much more real sense than Wilson is. These leaders are violently opposed to preparedness. If they fail to express themselves in action, it is because they are willing to defer to Wilson for expediency's sake and with an eye to the election next year. It would be difficult to argue that a party and a President that after sixteen months of warning have added not one soldier nor one sailor to our means of defense represent the feeling of the public at the present time.

"To take advantage of the situation, the Republicans lack only leadership. Those who dominate the Conservative side of the Republican party were fully prepared to launch a Root boom early in November. Since then there has been no agreement among Republicans, and the situation is crystallizing into a contest between the Progressive and Conservative wings of the party, a contest which will probably come to a head and have some public expression at the meeting of the Republican National Committee in Washington this month. If the Conservatives name a candidate next year, it will probably be Burton—not that they love Burton particularly, but he is a sane and safe man with a record inoffensive to progressives. On the other hand, if the Progressives in the Republican party have full control of the situation, they will undoubtedly name Roosevelt. If they have only partial control of the situation, they will probably name Borah or Cummins. The most obvious phenomenon in this connection at the present moment is the growing potentiality of Roosevelt. The point of view of many Conservative Republicans who have in the recent past viewed Roosevelt with decided disapproval could probably be expressed now, in view of their political dilemma, in the words: 'Theodore, with all thy faults—' To be sure, it won't be any sudden conversion to idealism that will cause the Conservative leaders to accept Roosevelt. It will be because they want to win. And it will be because the little local leaders in the benches, who have been out of power and office, want to win."

A NEUTRAL OPINION

In these times of stress and, doubtless, of prejudice it is interesting to watch the opinions of our neutral neighbours. On the Grecian middle the Brooklyn Eagle says:

"The appeal of King Constantine of Greece to American public sentiment, through the Associated Press, is unprecedented, personal, temperamental and inere from the pleader's point of view. He does not want to get into the war. He holds that his people do not desire to enter hostilities. He is himself a soldier, has been through three wars, and knows what horrors are. He says to Americans:

"Just suppose the Germans were in a position to demand that your country concede the use of Boston or Seattle as the base for an attack on Canada, what would you say? And if all your military experience and the advice of your general staff told you that such a landing was doomed to failure because made with an inadequate force, and you realized that the British troops in Canada would pursue the retreating Germans across New England, destroying as they went, would you accept the prospect without a struggle?"

"The King denies hostility to the Allies. He denies ingratitude. But he does not analyze or answer the charge that Greece broke her word to Serbia. He would use all his military forces to protect retreating armies of the Allies entering Greek territory, if a pledge were given that these armies would be reimbursed, and that the Balkan campaign would be given up. He complains that the Entente treats him 'as if I were King of a Central African tribe.'

"King Constantine is at his weakest when he attempts to explain his dissolution of Parliament. He insists that Greek voters backed Venizelos because they liked him, because of his personal popularity, and never indorsed the Venizelos policy. He claims that he has only done as a King what the constitution permits him to do. Neither Englishmen who know what a parliamentary form of government is, nor any other intelligent students of government, can admit his. He is ruling to-day as an autocrat. And he could continue to rule as an autocrat all his life by doing the same thing over again—dissolving any parliament in which he had not a majority. He has called what Americans would term a 'fake' election. Venizelos has advised his friends not to vote. The issue is drawn, sharp and unmistakable. Greece is a free government, or an autocracy. We think the majority of her voters want to make good treaty pledges to Serbia. The royal effort to save them from themselves may have the best of motives, but it can only be made through measures tolerable in Central Africa but abhorrent to the sentiment of a people in whom the traditions of liberty are deeply, very deeply, rooted."

NOTES

The action of the Government in taking a small amount of the grain grown in Canada and ready for market is not a very drastic step. The Government has taken 16,000,000 bushels, which is a very small percentage of the grain grown this year. It is not farmers' grain, but rather grain held by speculators or dealers, now at the head of the lakes. . . . If the imperial Government should go into the market in the regular way and secure such a large quantity of grain, it would have the result of expanding the price in a remarkable way at once. Without doubt, the extra price would be of much greater value to the speculator than to the producer.—From the Calgary Albertan.

DR. FULLERTON & THE PATRIOT

The following letter appeared in last evening's Patriot:

Sir,—In common with the intelligent people of this city I am more than amazed at your mischievous statements in your issue of last evening. It will certainly demand a great deal of reasoning to convince the public of the good of the Empire and not simply for gratification of some personal feeling. Let us call a spade a spade. Your references to the work of the Prince Edward Island Patriotic Society, which is carrying out an active propaganda for the purpose of recruiting, are absolutely false.

In re the notices of recruiting meetings; such notices to my certain knowledge have never been sent to any paper in this city, and any notices that have appeared in the press have been obtained by the representative of the paper containing them showing sufficient interest to be present at the meetings of the committee, and saying that the said notices were of enough importance to justify their publication "without money and without price."

Major Leigh and the Secretary inform me that you have been requested to assist in the present not only at the committee meetings held in this city but also to see that your paper was represented at all the recruiting meetings which are being conducted in this province. I myself as president of the society have repeatedly requested your attendance at all these meetings but so far you have refrained from so doing. In addition let me tell you now that the only meetings which are known to me as having been reported directly to the press from those taking part were given exclusively to your own paper. I hold no brief for any newspaper, but flatly justify my feeling that you have said that your morning contemporary has always sent a representative to secure a report from someone at the meetings on the few occasions on which it was not directly represented.

Your deliberate attempt to drag politics into a society which is working for the good of the Empire and for the credit of the province in a most disinterested and self-sacrificing way I leave to the judgment of the sane people of this province. I may just remark that while I appreciate your galaxy of speakers our chief desire has been to eliminate politicians from our program and that the only active politician who has taken any part worthy of consideration has been Mr. A. B. Warburton who has spoken more than twice, and who has on each occasion rendered effective service by his eloquent appeal.

I have not one word to say against the estimated value of your work in behalf of patriotism at this time of critical stress and strain to our beloved Empire, but I feel that unless you change your tactics you will undo all the good work you have done. The society under whose auspices the St. John's Battery was recruited for thirty days and over four hundred men were recruited for the one hundred and fifth since the sixth day of October, knows neither Tory nor Grit, meets once per week and deliberates on an average for two hours in the evening, and is composed of such men as Canon Simpson, the Rev. Mr. Fulton, Mr. Hughes, of the Post Office, and many others of equal standing. These men give their time and ability to this great work and have no right to be treated in this manner by any self-respecting paper. I am, etc., NELSON RAMSAY, Conway, Dec. 3, 1915.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson

WHAT A BOY COSTS

So you are twenty-one. And you stand clear-eyed, clear-minded, to look all the world squarely in the face. You are a man. Did you ever think, son, how much it costs to make a man of you? Some one has figured up the cost in money of rearing a child. He says to bring up a young man to legal age, care for him, educate him, costs \$25,000, which is a lot of money to put into flesh and blood. But that isn't all. You have cost your father many hard knocks and short dinners and gray streaks in his hair; and your mother, boy, you will never know! You have cost her many nights of anxiety and wrinkles in her dear face, and headaches and sacrifices. It has been expensive to grow you; but— If you are what we think you are, you are worth all your cost—and much more.

Be sure of this: While father does not say much but "Hello, son", way down deep in his tough, staunch heart he thinks you are finest ever; and as for the little mother, she simply cannot keep her love and pride for you out of her eyes. You are a man now. And some time you must step into your father's shoes. He wouldn't like you to call him old, but just the same he isn't as young as he used to be. You see, young man, he has been working pretty hard for more than twenty years to help bring you up! and already your mother is beginning to lean on you.

Doesn't that sober you, twenty-one? Your father has done pretty well? but you can do better. You may not think so, but he does. He has given you a better chance than he had. In many ways you can begin where he left off. He expects a good deal from you, and that is why he has tried to make a man of you. Don't flinch, boy! The world will try you out. It will put to test every fibre in you; but you are made of good stuff. Once the load is fairly strapped on your young shoulders, you may carry it and scarcely feel it—it only throbs the willing and cheerful mind. All hail to you on the threshold! It's high time you are beginning to pay the freight and your back debts to your father and mother. You will pay them up won't you boy? How shall you pay them? By being always and everywhere a man!—Selected.

should have been prompted by ordinary common sense to secure the righting of your supposed grievances at our regular weekly meetings. I am one of those who feel that Col. Allan, Col. Beer and Major Goodwill have been hardly treated in these recent days, but I also feel much astonishment that the press censor of Canada has not seen fit to condemn much that has appeared in our local press which is calculated to sow the seeds of strife and division at a time when solidarity should be one of our strongest factors. I trust, Sir, that from this time onward you will cease this uncalculated strain in your editorial columns and give to us the valuable assistance of your papers in the propagation of the magnificent work that is being carried on, in my judgment, in a magnificent way, by a band of men whose enthusiastic devotion to the Empire is manifested in such splendid sacrifices as are made by those whose aims I have mentioned in connection with this society. T. F. FULLERTON, The Manse, Charlottetown, Dec. 9th, 1915.

LIBERAL PATRIOTS

Sir,—I have noticed by several papers that some of the Liberals are blamed for being pro-German and unpatriotic. Now I want to say, I believe the Liberals are just as loyal as the Conservatives. When this great war was proclaimed I like a good many other Liberals and Conservatives, I was opposed to sending our soldiers to fight in Europe because I thought there was nothing but destruction and death to the best of our Manhood. I changed my mind when Germany broke the international laws, when she pulled up the stakes and removed ancient land marks which the fathers had set. When with murderous destruction they invaded France and Poland. I knew then that Germany should conquer France and Russia they would conquer the world. We would have been compelled to pay tribute to an alien nation. Our trade and our liberty would have been at stake and although this war has been costly to Canada I believe she is doing right to stand by the Old Mother when she is in a life or death struggle with her great enemy. Let us be true to the Old Motherland remembering that before the war she gave us self-government, free institutions and equal rights which every person can enjoy his own religious liberty. For years and years she watched our shores with her man-of-wars and kept the enemy at bay and asked us nothing for it. Let us honour the Old Flag whenever it is unfurled to the breeze. Let us pay the war debts without a murmur. Let us trust in God that the war will soon end and that we shall have victory and lasting peace, for in the end we will be glad we fought for Liberty and for the Right. We will be glad also that we still form a part of the world's Greatest Empire over whose domains the Flag ever floats and the sun never sets, for it makes no difference whether we sing: "God save our gracious King"—or "God save our Native Land Free may she ever stand Fair Canada. Long may we ever be Sons of the brave and free Faithful to God and thee Fair Canada. I am, etc., NELSON RAMSAY, Conway, Dec. 3, 1915.

FORMATION OF NEW CABINET IN SPAIN

MADRID, Dec. 8.—Uncertainty still prevails as to the formation of the new cabinet. The dominant impression is that a non-partisan ministry will be organized following yesterday's resignation of the Dato Cabinet, although the Liberal press considers it possible that Count Romanones, former Premier, may be recalled to power. The Republican journals allude to Spain as surrounded by dangers in the presence of unknown perils. "ODO-RO-NO—this is what you need when dancing to prevent perspiration with its disagreeable and annoying odor. This preparation keeps your hands, feet, armpits and body dry, cool and comfortable during excessive exertion. Try it. Sold by The Two Macs, 149 Great George Street. Mfr.

Extension Tables Surface oak from 7.00 to 12.50. Solid Oak from 9.75 to 15.00. Qt. Cut Oak, square and round \$13.75 to 35.00, all 6, 8 and 10 feet long. Dining Room Sets Comprising Dining Table, Buffet, China Cabinet, Serving Table and 6 Dining Chairs at all prices and different woods. Clearance of Bedroom Furniture Dressers and Chiffoniers Dressers \$6.75 with 3 Drawers, Surface Finish. Dressers \$8.00 with 3 Drawers, Surface Finish Bevelled glass up to \$47.50. Gents Chiffoniers from \$8.50 to 32.00 any finish. Dining Room Furniture of Unusual Merit Furniture of more than ordinary design and construction, finish faultless. Buffets at \$10.00, 12.00, 15.00, 18.00, 21.00 to 45.00. Each in Surface Oak, Qt. Dut Oak Framed Oak, and early English finish with and without mirrors. PATONS

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"The Haberdashery" Gift Ties If you wish to give him ties that he will appreciate. Ties that the discriminating dresser will like and wear. Not the sort that he will tuck away in his bureau drawer and want to forget. You want to see our immense Christmas stock. All prices to suit all purses and all carefully selected. Come in we can delight you with our showing. 35c, 50c, 60c, 75 and up. Henderson & Cudmore The Tie Shop. 1731.

A Good Xmas Present For That GIRL or BOY A good pair of skates is a satisfactory, pleasing and practical gift for any girl or boy. It is the present they all expert and want. Cheap too, for the service and enjoyment they bring. Here you will find an excellent line of good skates for boys and girls—young ones and grown ups as well. The display is complete—nothing lacking but your presence. Call today. Fennell & Chandler Victoria Row

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