

THE Charlottetown Guardian

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KNOCKING FOXES

In another column we publish a letter from a Massachusetts correspondent and an extract from the Boston Herald. It will be seen from these: first, that there is a growing optimism in the States regarding the future of the fox industry, and, second, that there is a determined effort being made to knock the business and dissuade investors putting their money in it.

Now, it is very well known here that nine-tenths of the people of Prince Edward Island have every confidence in fox breeding as a highly profitable native industry. It has been proved to a demonstration that the ranch-bred pelts of this island cannot be equalled anywhere. It has also been proved that the average price ruling for ranch bred pelts before the war, and likely to rule after the war is ample to provide a dividend of from fifteen to eighty per cent. on a \$15,000 to \$5,000 capitalisation. It has also been proved that for breeding purposes Prince Edward Island pure bred silver foxes command a higher price for breeding purposes than those from any other part of the world.

Notwithstanding this the present American Consul has been circulating reports calculated to damage the interests of the industry in the United States. The editorial reproduced from the Boston Herald is a case in point. It is now time that action should be taken to present officially the truth of the matter. We therefore trust that the Council of the Board of Trade, which has had the matter under consideration, will present its report at an early date and also that the conference of fox breeders representing the whole of the Island will take the opportunity of formally expressing its views. We cannot allow an industry so intimately connected with the prosperity of the province to be injured by the antagonistic reports which the American Consul here persists in circulating throughout the United States.

THE ALLIANCE COMMITTEE

"We are much disappointed in the Guardian's reply this morning to our letter of the 23rd," writes the Alliance Committee in today's issue. Naturally we should have been surprised were it otherwise. The reply that would best suit certain members of the Alliance would be our acknowledgement that the Government was wrong, and the Alliance Committee right, in the course it has pursued. Only two points in the letter call for attention. The Premier, says the Committee, invited the Alliance to try the effect of the 1913 amendments, and to come back next year and ask for further legislation, if needed. We can find no record of such an invitation and promise, and neither the Rev. Mr. Marshall nor Mr. Schurman referred to them at last annual meeting of the Alliance. We have quoted the laudatory remarks of these two gentlemen and we should have thought if such an invitation and promise had been seriously made and taken, these gentlemen would have mentioned them in the course of their complimentary references.

But such a promise, if given, could not be interpreted as authority to prepare a new and drastic law which must be passed with or without the consideration and approval of the Government. The Legislature postponed consideration of the Bill until its terms had been considered and discussed, and the Alliance Committee forthwith construed this as an "unfriendly act," and immediately commenced hostilities against the Government.

The Committee asks what other section of the community is there other than that represented by the Alliance, and sarcastically suggests the rum-seller. We pass over the cheap sneer with the remark that it could not have had the approval of the gentlemen on the Committee who signed the previous letter, and reply that the other section consists of the whole of the community save and except those who have paid their present year's membership to the Alliance. Now that the point has been raised we ask the Committee what is the total financial membership of the Alliance? Who selects the members of the General Committees and Executive Committee? Is the election by nomination and vote of the members in good financial standing, or does it consist of a list submitted en bloc to the annual meeting and carried en bloc? In other words, does the tail wag the dog, or does the dog have an opportunity to control its extremity? We put these questions not without reason, for, according to last annual report, a member asked why he was not a member of Committee, only to be informed that he was.

We still make bold to say that were the Alliance prepared and willing to work with the Government, it would meet with a similar reception to the one the Rev. Mr. Marshall repeatedly referred to in his public utterances on the subject. The Rev. Mr. Marshall and his colleagues went to the Government without any prearranged programme of demands, and came away more than satisfied. Why should the Executive act differently now? It seems to us from the tone of the present letter that it has been dictated, not with a view to reach a satisfactory arrangement, but to find excuses for continuing a policy of opposition. We invite anyone to look for a single helpful suggestion in the letter. It dictates to the Government terms on which it will be prepared to work with the Government. What right has a self-elected body to stand up and dictate terms to the Government of Prince Edward Island? The Committee speaks of despotism; this is greater autocracy than is tolerated in Russia, for the Duma is an elective body, while the Alliance Executive owns allegiance to no electorate.

COST OF WAR

People talk about the cost of the present war both in men and in money. The cost in both is so tremendous that figures convey but little idea. On the first of January 1866, shortly after the Civil War was over, the national debt of the United States, according to Mr. Blaine, in his "Twenty years of Congress" exceeded 2,700 millions of dollars. These figures are beyond conception. The war had lasted four years. The

average of the annual interest on the debt was over 6 1/2 per cent. The paper currency was at a heavy discount. Almost everything was taxed either by customs duties or internal revenue taxes. On the day the task of disbanding it was undertaken, there was over a million men on the roll of the Northern army, who had to find civil employment, although the labor market was in bad condition owing to the collapse of many industries which the war had created. The Southern States were practically beggared. They contained a white population of between five and six millions which had lost their all, whilst the colored people, just released from slavery, had never had anything save their freedom to lose. Jefferson Davis was blamed for maintaining the struggle long after the fates had obviously decided against him.

This was the prospect which faced the Americans nearly fifty years ago, but a blacker one already confronts Germany. Nietzsche made himself and a good many others believe that a "tremendous war such as the world never saw before" could not fail to bring about an united Europe with Germany on top. One of his favorite sayings was: "You say that a good cause will sanctify even war, but I tell you that a good war will sanctify any cause; we should love peace as a means of a new war and a short peace more than a long." An Amsterdam banker reports that the German business men whom he meets curse Nietzsche, Treitschke, Von Bernhardi, and the rest of the apostles of militarism for ruining the country, but still pretend to believe that the Kaiser was dragged into the war by the Crown Prince. As matters stand, the export trade of Germany has ceased to exist. At the end of the contest she will have two millions of men to provide with work. The price of food and raw materials is already excessive. If hostilities continue till May the total debt on their account will, it is estimated, exceed 5,000 million dollars in our money, or not far from double that of the United States; widows and orphans, the maimed and helpless will be there by tens of thousands, a huge war indemnity will probably have to be paid; there may be loss of territory over and above the transfer of Alsace and Lorraine to France, and all likelihood the constitution will have to be reorganized. This Amsterdam observer adds that even now militarism is doomed; no one imagines that Germany can win; many believe, however, that other wars will follow, and people are preparing to emigrate to Canada, the United States and South America in order to escape from them.

BULGARIA AND THE WAR

That Bulgaria has some sort of understanding with Turkey is made clear by the announcement of the withdrawal of the Turkish garrison of Adrianople for active service. Two years ago, Adrianople was the danger point for the Sultan's possessions. Bulgaria had determined to drive Turkey out forever. Now the security of the city must have been guaranteed.

The differences between Serbia and Bulgaria are still keen, and it may be that Ferdinand is willing to suspend his country's traditional hatred for Turkey to nourish the newer hatred of Serbia. One thing is reasonably sure, that every possible effort will be made by Germany and Austria to compel Bulgarian intervention on the Teuton side. Indeed, we are told that only news from German sources circulates in Sofia. It is said that counterfeited English papers, "made in Germany," have been used also to direct public opinion. At the same time, Ferdinand has not received his nickname without some justification. He is called, by the consensus of diplomatic opinion, the Old Fox. He has declared more than once that he proposes to maintain a strict neutrality. He is watching which way the balance turns, and is laying a small wager both ways.

Thirty years ago, Russia and Bulgaria were uneasy neighbors, and the Bulgarian people are not yet familiar with the New Russia which has arisen. Traditional relations with Germany, though strong, have not yet brought the Government to believe that Bulgaria's interests require a fighting alliance with that country, especially when that would mean an alliance with Turkey. If the King has guaranteed the security of Adrianople, it is unlikely that he will go farther, especially if Turkey's resistance is broken by Russia. If the Allies should be beaten, a most unlikely contingency, this action would be used by Bulgaria for its profit. If the Allies win interference with Bulgarian territory on the part of the victorious Powers would be unlikely. Still, Germany forced Turkey into the war, and, if possible, would force Bulgaria, too.

INDIANS' HELP

Extra figures have never been given by the British press as to the number of Indian soldiers in the battlefield. The Viceroy of India, however, in a recent speech, perhaps forgetful of the British censorship made the statement that 200,000 men had been sent to Europe.

Besides this army, a large Indian force, estimated at 30,000 men, has landed at the head of the Persian Gulf, and for some weeks has been fighting its way up and beyond the junction of the Tigris and Euphrates. These soldiers have beaten the Arab and Turkish forces sent against them in the number of sharp fights, and have conquered the ancient Chaldea. Another Indian force, estimated at 10,000 men, is now operating in East Africa, and still another of equal strength has been sent to Egypt. All the Indian peoples are represented in these expeditionary armies, and all creeds, Brahman, Buddhist, Musselman and Sikh. The Gurkhas and Sikhs are of course fighters of the toughest grain, and when well led, a match for any soldiers who ever shouldered arms. The test of Indian loyalty does not depend alone upon the number of volunteers going to the front, but also upon the behavior of the natives while the country is denuded of its soldiers. By this latter test their loyalty is the most substantial kind, for the vast population is as law-abiding and as orderly as the people of England.

NOTES

Governor Carlson of Colorado, says the Boston Globe, has officially appointed his wife "Assistant Governor," and she will serve during his entire administration, putting in as many hours each day as does the Governor, her chief duties being to look after the legislation relating to women and children. Some other Governors have the same kind of help, unofficially, but Governor Walsh is not among them.

In the course of a speech delivered at a recruiting meeting in England recently Mr. Bonar Law related the following incident, which had been told by one who had been at the front:—"A battalion full strength had gone into the trenches. They stayed there day after day without relief, resisting, and resisting successfully, overwhelming forces which were trying to drive them out. At last the time for relief came. They came out of the trenches, but only a fourth of those who had gone into them, and they came out under the command of one who had become their senior officer, a boy of 19. When they came out he formed up his men. He gave them the order to march, and then he burst into tears, and fell fainting to the ground. While duty required it he had done all that was wanted of him, but when it was over the strain was too much, and he broke down. That is the kind of thing that is being done by our soldiers everywhere, and we are proud of this."

KNOCKING FOXES

Sir—I herewith enclose an editorial, clipped from the Boston Herald of January 21st, which to my mind is an exaggerated and a misleading statement regarding the fox industry in Prince Edward Island. The sage editor goes on to show the enormous authorized capitalization of the various companies and companies with the hypothetical low prices at which the pelts are selling on the London market, leaving the intending investor to figure out any possible profits.

The people of Boston are becoming interested in the fox industry and are anxious to learn more about its stability, but when such earnest criticisms as these are waged against the industry it is high time, that something were done to counteract the injury I would therefore suggest that a strong publicity campaign be organized and advertised in the fox industry movement, through some reliable advertising agency.

Times are getting better in Boston, money is loosening up and much of it could be had for investment in the fox industry—if only the investor could be educated to the methods employed by the various companies. It would also be well to prove to him that the business is on a safe and sound basis, protected by the Fox Breeders Association and by the Prince Edward Island Government. Until some move in this direction is made and the industry properly advertised, the public mind will be suspicious, especially when they are disheartened by a few knockers such as Consul Mays and others. Trusting that my suggestion will be of some value to the fox industry.

I am, Sir, etc., LEMUEL G. GALLANT, Roxbury, Mass., Jan. 22, 1915.

THE SILVER FOXES.

The United States Consul at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, has a suspicion that silver fox financiers may come to mean much, which wild finance has long stood for. Millions of capital from the United States has gone into the coffers of the companies that breed silver foxes on that island, and Consul Mays shows that the business has been the subject of great interest to the United States. In London, the great fur market of the world, silver fox skins were selling last June at an average of \$118 each.

With the coming of the war the bottom has dropped out of the business for the present, but even at that time before the war in sight something was due to happen soon to the much boomed Prince Edward Island industry. There are now 2,600 foxes, young and old, in captivity on the island. The authorized capitalization of the various companies is no less than \$31,000,000, of which about \$26,000,000 has been paid in. This makes the capitalization at the rate of \$26,000 per pair, counting pups and grown foxes. Figure out the profits in sight. Consul Mays disposes of the theory that the island foxes are of great value to the fur trade elsewhere, by showing that 1,920 foxes were imported in 1912 and 1913 and even more in 1914. In only a few cases has there been any guarding against intermixture. Moreover, the best furs agree that the vast strip 1,500 miles wide that extends from the coast South of the Arctic circle produces foxes as valuable as those raised under the advantageous conditions of climate and soil that the island affords.

All this, and much more that Consul Mays has to say, may be a bit disheartening to trusting investors, but the fact remains that the silver fox ranchers of Prince Edward Island have made a valuable contribution to human progress by introducing the domestication of fur-bearing animals, and when their business gets down to a profit, the fur trade will be all air and the water excluded, it will face a more cheerful future.

THE ALLIANCE COMMITTEE

Sir,—In your editorial this morning in reply to our request to know in what way the Alliance has been "attempting to usurp the place of the Administration," you answer in effect: (1) By asking for prohibition legislation;

(2) By criticising the manner in which the present prohibitory Act has been enforced. Surely your long drawn out answer as published can only be intended to mislead the general public.

Does the Guardian mean to suggest that the people of this Province have no right whatever to ask for legislation, nor to criticise the manner in which the law is administered, and that when they do either they are "attempting to usurp the place of the Administration"? No advocate of the most despotic Government could exceed this.

Has the Guardian forgotten that the Premier himself, who, we may suppose had authority to speak for the Government, invited the Alliance, when asking for certain amendments to the Prohibition Act in 1913, to try the effect of these amendments for a year, and to come back next year and ask for further legislation if needed?

We notice you claim the Alliance represents "but one section of the community." What other section does the Guardian refer to? Is it the rum-seller? Has not the Province almost unanimously declared for prohibition, and does not this mean effective prohibition?

We are much disappointed in the Guardian's reply this morning to our letter of the 23rd.

On Saturday you say you "make bold to say the Alliance would meet with a similar reception to-day were it willing to work with the Government," by which it might readily be understood that the Government would be prepared to remove any obstacles to an effective and impartial enforcement of the Act. This morning, however, in reply to our inquiry on this point, you state you "have no authority to pledge the Government in any respect whatever." Comment is needless.

We are, Sir, etc., ALLIANCE COMMITTEE, Jan. 25, 1915.

ICE PREVENTS SHIPS ENTERING ST. JOHN'S. ST. JOHN'S, Nfld., Jan. 25.—There are now three vessels outside the ice off Cape Race unable to make port. They are probably the Clueta, Atila and Waterwitch, which are now due here.

SUMMERSIDE BOARD OF TRADE

(Continued from page one)

assured me that the latter would receive the attention of the House at the next meeting.

The Board learned that a new steamer was to be placed on the Halifax, P. E. I. and Newfoundland route and it was intimated that she would not call at this port. The matter was taken up with our representatives at Ottawa who assured the Board that no subsidy would be paid unless Summerside would be a port of call.

These are a few of the many things we took up during the year just closed. The Maritime Board of Trade was to have met here last August, but owing to the disastrous war it was thought best to postpone the meeting. In Dec. last, Capt. Joseph Reid and R. H. McDonald jointly represented us at the Maritime Forward Movement meeting held in Amherst. This was a move in the right direction and should receive our undivided and hearty support. I have no doubt that Summerside and the Province will reap the benefits that will result from such a movement and the east will receive that impetus in trade to which it is entitled.

As a physician I always take the pulse of my patient, so it is today when thinking over this address I decided to take the commercial pulse of our town and I visited our merchants, bankers, railway and custom and post officials, and here I must thank them for the information they so readily gave me. The merchants said with one accord that the year just closed was the best in their history; and this apart from the fact that since August they had been buying in a rising market. They also noticed that the people were not buying so much of the luxuries of life as in former years. This is a healthy sign and shows that our people realize the necessity of practicing economy at the present time. It was the same story with the banks, all having a record year. Their collections were exact and they hold less collateral securities at present than in former years. The receipts at our custom house have been steadily increasing as great as in 1909. At the post office I found the same pleasing story. The post office department at Ottawa was the only department that showed an increase in revenue during the last nine months; of the increase during that period our post office contributed \$1,300,000. This is certainly a creditable showing for our up-to-date and energetic town. I found the same story at the railway—every large increase in both freight and passengers. Now what does all these pleasing facts mean? They spell the fact that Summerside is situated in the midst of the richest and most progressive agricultural district in Canada.

Our farmers are alert business men, educated and scientific in their calling in this life that demands a wide scope of knowledge and intelligence as that of farming. When the farmers are prosperous we are all prosperous, and our past and present success, realizing this fact are assisting by the various courses in all branches of agriculture. A joint delegation from the Farmers' Institute and our Board of which I had the honor to be chairman, waited on the Government with a view of inducing them to purchase a suitable building for our Provincial Seed Fair, which we had made such a national success, with the result that our Government bought the town building, which in future will be a permanent educational agricultural centre for the western end of the Province. A government official who will be always in this building, where farmers will be welcome and receive every available assistance.

I do not think my remarks would be complete without a reference to the fox industry. When \$23,000,000 is invested in our midst it should receive our attention. A large percentage of this is invested, without any return, yet a very considerable amount comes from outside investors. Let me say at the outset that like all other industries the world over it has received a set back due to the universal war trade depression, but I can say with confidence from inquiries I have made that it has withstood the shock and while the future profits will not be so marvellous as in the past it is as firm financially as it ever was. I know of no company that is in danger of liquidation, and the many people of the province who are heavily interested want to make this a permanent and financially sound industry, they have it all in their own hands. The first thing to guard against is too high capitalization. The next thing is to place men of the highest character and business capabilities on the Board of Directors of all the companies; those men should be above suspicion and should guard well the interests of the shareholders, many of whom live without the Province. Once this confidence is gained by the investing public the success of the industry is assured. The public is pleased to note that our Government is taking an active interest in it and that a Provincial Fox Association is being formed which will be governed by an Act of our Legislature and which will eliminate any possible approach to fraud in the buying or selling of foxes. The oyster industry is another branch I feel will greatly benefit our Province. Our oyster was becoming

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MRS. MASSEY.

fered with what three doctors called psooriasis. They could not help me, and one of them told me if anyone offered to guarantee a cure for \$50.00 to keep my money, as I could not be cured. The disease spread all over me, even on my face and head, and the itching and burning was hard to bear. I used eight boxes of Dr. Chase's Ointment, and I am glad to say I am entirely cured, not a sign of the itching and burning was left to be seen. I can hardly praise this ointment enough."

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as extinct as the buffalo on the Western prairie. They were constantly being fished without any effort being made to conserve them. Twenty-five years ago I saw men land five bbls. in part of a day's fishing; today if he catches a half barrel the fisherman does well. As yet the industry is almost in the experimental stage, but this much I think has been learned, that it does not pay to import the grown American oyster and transplant them here. A percentage of them die while those that live do not take on the flavor of our native oyster. We have an oyster whose flavor and firmness has no equal in the world, and this is the oyster that our companies should plant and propagate. The market for an oyster like ours is simply unbounded. I therefore see a great future for this industry.

Now, my prognosis of the cases is favorable. The awful conflict that is now being fought out will clear the commercial atmosphere. The toll that will be paid in human sacrifice and suffering will be appalling, but much good will result. Great Britain and her colonies will be knitted more firmly together than never before, a real adjustment of international trade will tend to promote the best interests of all parts of the Empire of which we are proud to form a part and a lasting peace for generations will bless the earth.

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The Guardian Charlottetown

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