

THE Charlottetown Guardian

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1915.

PATRIOTISM AND PRODUCTION

We have been talking, lecturing, writing about the need of greater production on the farm and we are making it a patriotic as well as a commercial consideration.

We say "wasting their lives" advisedly. We have no desire to call back those who are making good elsewhere; many of the young people are doing credit to themselves and their native province in other cities and in other lands.

Many of our young men have left comfortable homes and farms in which they could have made an easy, independent and comfortable living—when they became heirs to the farm, as eventually most of them would—but they had their ambitions, their natural dreams of homes of their own, their natural desire to have their own money to spend, and, to realize these dreams, they drifted into the cities to work under others, often to slave for a small wage, and to waste their lives without any prospects of ever having more than their daily wages.

The Patriotism and Production movement will have failed in its highest aim if it does not result in repatriating some of these exiled ones. And probably no more opportune time than the present could ever offer as the West, where many of the young people are, has fewer attractions to offer today than in many years.

BLISSFUL IGNORANCE

We have before us the report of the laboratory of the Inland Revenue Department, bulletin 298, giving the result of the official inspection of "milk from towns and cities." Fortunately or unfortunately the towns and cities of Prince Edward Island are not included which may or may not suggest the old adage "where ignorance is bliss" &c. But the report given of the milk supplied to the towns and villages which come under the inspection of the Department arouses a natural curiosity as to how such an inspection would find us. Looking over the list, under the heading, "remarks and opinion of the Chief Analyst," we find such remarks and opinions as these: "Genuine," "Below standard in solids," "Below standard in solids and dirt," "genuine but not clean," &c., &c., and the "not clean," recurs with disgusting frequency.

In a foreword addressed to the Deputy Minister the following explanation is made: "Complaints have been received from time to time, to the effect that the smaller towns and villages of Canada, in which no local inspection is provided, are supplied with milk of inferior quality, and this department has been asked to look into the matter. Hence the present report.

The result of this inspection appears to justify complaints and may lead to further inspection in the future. It is, however, greatly to be desired, that towns and villages of any considerable size should undertake for themselves the inspection of their milk supplies. So much of the value of milk as a food depends upon the conditions of its production, the healthy character of the cows, the cleanliness of stables, utensils, etc., and the care taken in its delivery, that occasional inspection, such as can be given from Ottawa, can never compete in satisfactoriness or efficiency with the continuous and systematic inspection that is possible under local authority."

Of 59 samples submitted, 22 are reported "up to government standard"; 3 as "genuine milk but dirty"; 8 as "nearly meet the standard," and 26 "below standard." Of the whole 59 samples 22 are classed as either "dirty" or "not clean." The inspection covered the districts of Ottawa, Valleyfield, Three Rivers, West Quebec and East Quebec, and we presume we should be devoutly thankful to Providence that our Garden of the Gulf is not included.

IS GERMANY FORCING STARVATION

Whether the new food regulations in Germany will enable that country to stave off starvation or not, this much is certain, that they have effectually put a stop to any further food importations by that country. In the negotiations between the United States and Great Britain regarding neutral shipping, considerable discussion had taken place over the sending of foodstuffs to Germany. The United States had claimed the right to send grain to German ports, providing that such was sent to private merchants for general consumption and not to the army. Sir Edward Grey had conceded the contention, provided that satisfactory proof could be given of destination. Now, however, the German Government have seized all grain and flour supplies and prohibited, dealing by private citizens. Under conditions like these, not the

most sanguine American exporter could expect to get in to Germany, as it is frankly admitted at Washington and by the leading American papers.

Meanwhile it is much to be doubted whether the German Government's explanation that the steps taken will ensure a good supply till the next harvest is conformable with the facts. The New York Post, in analysing the situation, comes to the conclusion that a most serious situation in regard to food supplies already exists in Germany. It shows that in 1913, when the crops in Germany were large, that country was still obliged to import 233,000,000 worth of wheat, barley and corn. How huge an amount of food this represents may be gathered from the fact that last year's total crop of wheat in Canada was valued at \$196,000,000.

Germany did not pile up an extensive "war reserve." On the contrary, a review of the food supply in June drew the conclusion that there was then barely enough grain in the country to meet the home consumption for the next two months, and the war reserve was being urged, though Germany was so sure of a swift victory that this was not done. But now comes another factor. The 1914 crop proved to be a very poor one in Germany—not less than 140,000,000 million bushels less than in the previous year. Added to this was a disastrously poor harvest in Hungary which changed Austria-Hungary from a grain-exporting to a grain-importing status. All this would seem to indicate that the German Government's latest move is more significant than they care to own. It may mean that if the war is prolonged Germany will be facing absolute starvation long before the next harvest.

CANADIAN FISHERIES

The annual report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries for 1913-14 has just been issued.

The total marketed value of all kinds of fish, fish products and marine animals taken during the year by Canadian fishermen was \$33,207,748, a decrease of \$181,716 when compared with the previous year. The reason for this comparatively light falling off was the smaller-than-usual run of sockeye salmon in British Columbia and the decrease in the value of halibut. Of the total the deep sea fisheries contributed \$29,472,811, and the inland fisheries \$3,734,937. The former show an increase in value of \$167,039 over the previous year, and the inland fisheries a decrease of \$338,755. The men who gathered this great harvest of food fish numbered 71,776, and operated 1,992 vessels, tugs and carrying-smacks and 37,686 boats. On shore 26,893 persons were engaged in canneries, freezers, fish houses, etc. Gasoline boats are increasing in favor, there now being 8,700 in use, an increase of 2,732 over the preceding year.

The relative values of the chief commercial fishes are shown in the following table:—

Table with 2 columns: Fish Name and Value. Includes Salmon, Lobsters, Cod, Herring, Halibut, Mackerel, Whitefish, Haddock, Smelts, Trout, Sardines, Hake and cusk, Pickerel, Pike, Clams and quahaugs, Pollock, Oysters.

In the following table is shown the value produced from the fisheries by provinces:—

Table with 2 columns: Province and Value. Includes British Columbia, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Quebec, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon.

The Government's expenditure for the year amounted to \$1,070,857, divided as follows: Salaries and disbursements of fishery officers, \$229,547; fish breeding, \$34,675; miscellaneous expenditure, \$486,635; fishing bounty \$158,661. The total is considerable, but the money is being spent in aid of a great industry.

HIGH COST OF KILLING

A statistician has figured out the cost of killing a man in war, basing his calculations on the number of men killed and the total cost of the war.

In the French and English war in 1793 there were 1,900,000 men killed and the total cost of the war was \$6,250,000, making the cost of killing each man \$3,290. In the Crimean War the cost, on the same basis, was \$2,786 per man; in the United States Civil War, \$10,100; in the Boer-British War \$12,089. The most costly war in the table given is that between the United States and Spain in 1898 when the deaths totalled 20,000 and the cost per man \$58,250. The most economical killing was that during the Balkan War when 145,000 were killed at the comparatively low rate of \$1,374 per man. The value of modern machinery as an economic factor will be shown when the results of the present war are made known.

NOTES

Commenting upon the action of the Wilson Administration in apparently putting material considerations first in its relations with the belligerents, The Wall Street Journal likens the consequent attitude of the United States to that of the American woman who called upon the American Ambassador in Paris last August. "Now, look here," she said, "this war must stop before the first of September, because Mary Ann has simply got to go to school."

We have now, says the London Times, reached a stage of the war when, according to the calculations of Berlin the triumphant Prussians were to rest upon their arms and contemplate a prostrate and affrighted world. It is instructive to compare these glowing dreams with the actual facts. While the Allies are maintaining their positions, the Germans have made no useful progress during a period of nearly four months. In effect they and the armies subordinate to them are held at the points and at some places they have even lost ground. The Allies have suffered because they were unprepared for war, but the Germans have long ceased to gain fresh advantages from their forty years of preparation. They are held at all points, and it now remains to strike the blows which shall carry the war into their own country.

CONSUL MAYS AND FOXES

Sir.—Since the article published on your editorial page this morning has in it no faults but incorrect figures and impoliteness, I will take notice of it for the sake of those who might be deceived by it.

Those interested are requested to get a full report of the London furs sales, June 1914, and see for themselves that not one solitary pelt from Prince Edward Island brought anywhere near \$950 at that sale, although the article claims they averaged that price.

Prince Edward Island pelts brought better prices at March 1914 London sales, but at the 1914 sales all taken together they pelts taken from many different Prince Edward Island black silver fox ranches brought at Lampson's London sales an average of thirty dollars less than the average for wild skins. These skins were, some of them from best foxes and in good condition, some were from inferior lines and in bad condition, the latter kind being the larger portion. These same conditions were true of the wild pelts sold at the same time, hence the comparison is valuable in determining the comparative value.

When the fox business gets to a pelt basis, ranchers can take advantage of these facts and take all pelts when in their best condition. A discouraging fact for my friends the fox men, is that the overwhelming majority of the Prince Edward Island pelts mentioned above were taken from the foxes in December and January.

When a private report of London sales shows that a red fox pelt brought 370 (query, 70s?) the other statements on the same sheet of paper should be considered in the light of that fact.

The statement of the number of foxes in P. E. I. being 4,587 applies to all foxes, including the large number of ordinary red foxes. My figures, as I plainly state, refer to silver black foxes.

The statement that a fence for a fox ranch costs \$5,000 is five times the cost of the average fox ranch in P. E. I. (sic)

The three-fourths of the capital said to be invested in the fox business by P. E. I. business men includes usually more than one-third of the total capital used here to pay for "organization expenses" so called. These expenses are in fact practically nil, excepting the enormous blocks of stock owned by those who manage the companies for their service in organizing them, the same men generally getting salaries in addition. Hence, taking the quoted figures three-fourths—one-third, five-twelfths, or less than one-half of the capital is P. E. I. capital, the remaining one-third of the stock owned here comes from other sources. My estimate is that fox stock owned by the average official of P. E. I. companies cost them about one-fourth of par value, but the stock owned by widows, spinsters, working girls, honest laborers, etc., cost them 100 cents on the dollar.

The remark about the Consul making himself popular is correct. The present American Consul will endeavor to do his duty first and look for popularity second.

In regard to all my quotations and figures mentioned in this or any other article or letter I respectfully refer all to the authorities which I quoted and ask those interested to draw their conclusions.

THE FOX BUSINESS WILL NOT BE ON A SOUND BASIS UNTIL THE FULL REPORTS OF ALL PRICES RECEIVED FOR P. E. I. AND ELSEWHERE ARE REPORTED FULLY PUBLISHED IN CHARLOTTETOWN. IF THE BUSINESS IS GOOD WHY KEEP THE FACTS FROM THE PUBLIC?

I am a true friend of the fox business when based on facts.

I am, Sir, etc.

LIVINGSTON T. MAYS, American Consular Agency, Feb 2, 1915.

(The facts are not being kept from the public of this Province; would that the same could be said of the United States!)

Mr. Consul Mays must bear in mind that, with three exceptions, (and those are the aged, foxes), only the skins of culls and damaged skins were placed on the market in 1914 from Prince Edward Island ranches. It was in March, not June that the prices fetched by three Island pelts averaged \$950, the numbers of lots and prices being respectively:—No. 6895, \$190 (roughly); No. 6897, \$220 (roughly); No. 6898, \$190 (roughly, \$950).

Admitting that the average prices of Island pelts offered for the whole of 1914 were \$30 below the average of those obtained for wild fox pelts, this proves merely that the off-culls and damaged skins were almost on a par with the average wild fox from the rest of the world.

Mr. Consul is probably best answered otherwise by the following extracts from the evidence submitted before the Royal Commission on Trade in the Dominions, sitting in Charlottetown on August 17 last.

Sir Alfred Bateman, K. C. M. G., (Chairman) examining witnesses. Q.—Is there anything special in the climate of Prince Edward Island that will retain for it the monopoly its enterprise has up to the present given it?

Mr. W. E. Cameron: I think Mr. Dalton can answer that, as he has had twenty-five years of experience in breeding foxes and shipping skins to the London market.

Mr. Dalton: I think there are some features that are peculiar to this province. Anyone who has lived here any length of time will observe that the climatic changes are slow. We do not have either extreme heat or extreme cold; at any rate not enough cold to affect the furs. The changes come more gradually than in any of the other provinces. At the same time there is considerable moisture in our air and our sunlight is not excessive. Nature adapts the fur of the animal to the conditions of climate. The furs I shipped from Prince Edward Island always obtained a better average price than those from other parts of Canada.

Q.—So far as you know, has any single specimen, reared in the surrounding provinces, gone into the English market? I am speaking of the high-class skin which you produce here.

A.—None that I know of, except from foxes exported from the Island for breeding purposes, and in one instance there were taken in the State of Maine foxes that I introduced there. The best one shipped

from there brought \$410. The change did not seem to affect the fur very much for the conditions there are almost the same as here. Of course, you must understand the original Island foxes have been greatly improved during the last twenty-five years. Following the methods of good stock breeding, the best animals have been selected and kept in the breeding pens. It is my experience that inferior animals taken from other provinces may be graded up by crossing with our standard stock and that the fur of their offspring may be thus improved a hundred per cent. by a couple of crosses.

Q.—You think Prince Edward Island will retain the prestige that it has got?

A.—I certainly do. Sir J. Langeman: Will you tell me what relation the working capital bears to the capital of the companies? What relation does the capital subscribed bear to the actual capital of the company?

Mr. Dalton: Do you mean the expense of carrying on the company? Q.—Suppose you float a company for twenty thousand dollars, how much represents cash and how much foxes? Mr. Cameron: Ten thousand dollars of equipment would look after one million dollars' worth of stock. That is why it is so different from industrial enterprises; and the present tightness of money won't injure us as it will the industrial world.

Q.—I think that from my point of view it appears to be a risk? A.—But you would not buy one fox. Statistics show a certain mortality, and if we take twenty pairs we feel perfectly safe with our money in this.

Q.—What is the mortality? A.—Exceptionally low—about 1 in 100. I think that was what it was last year. There is no great mortality among young foxes.

Q.—What is the percentage among the young? A.—About 5 per cent. It brings the increase to one and a half anyway.

Q.—Do you sell any pelts at all? Mr. Dalton: We exported one last year. That fox died in a combat between himself and his mate. It was in April, a month later than that in which the fur is prime. The skin sold for £80, which was the fifth highest price on the market then.

Had Mr. Consul availed himself of the opportunity of being present at that public sitting he would have obtained much valuable first-hand knowledge concerning the various industries of the Island. Ample evidence was submitted and keenly scrutinized by some of the greatest commercial experts in the Empire.—Ed. G.]

THE FOX INDUSTRY

Sir.—Consul Mays has chosen to present to his Government and to the investing American public hostile and damaging reports in regard to both our Lobster and Fox Industries. His reports, as we all know, are made up of half-truths and misrepresentations of fact. Let that go. "To his own master he standeth or falleth." Let us treat him with such courtesy as we can, repaying good for evil.

He contends that the Island silver fox is no better and the pelt no more valuable than the average silver fox or pelt taken from the wilds. The answer is known and read of all men here as to foxes and pelts. Our foxes have sold for years past at three times the price of silver foxes from or in any other country. Of pelts we have sold only our culls since 1910. The proof of this is found in the fact that with living foxes commanding from \$4,000 to \$20,000 per pair any healthy young foxes for their pelts.

Then we have the further proof. In sales made last year, that our culls sold, in one instance at least, for about five times the average price of silver fox pelts taken from other parts of the world. That is, three pelts brought £600, or say, \$1,000 each. Any man who says that these were "selected" pelts does not know what he is talking about.

The fox industry is all right. Prices for living foxes have declined, precisely as everybody expected they would as we approach the pelt basis. Our ranchers are pursuing a sound policy in adding new high-class breeders to their ranches, thus reducing the capitalisation per pair and increasing their producing capacity. This has been done in our fox industry to a far greater extent than in any other industry in Canada or the world during the past year. Taking the cash dividends paid in 1914, and the additions made to breeding stock, the earnings of the industry last year were phenomenal and far surpass any other enterprise in Canada.

A poor breed anyway, always ready to bite the hand that feeds them! It is true that in half the official valuation of our fox crop of 1914, we still have earnings of \$3,250,000. That is equal to bank deposit interest on 108 million dollars, or to 10 per cent. on the authorised capital of all our fox companies, or about 15 per cent. on the actual capital invested. What is the matter with a business such as that? I am, sir, etc.

FOX MAN, Charlottetown, Feb. 2, 1915.

IMPORTANT TO POTATO SHIPPERS

The following letter has been received by the Charlottetown Board of Trade from Mr. H. T. Eason, Dominion Botanist:—

E. H. Beer, secretary of Board of Trade, Charlottetown, P. E. I. Dear Sir:—In view of the approaching potato shipping season in P. E. I.,

that there may be no delay and disappointment when the shipping season commences.

Yours very truly, H. T. GUSSOW, Dominion Botanist.

Shippers should at once communicate with Mr. Gussow or the secretary of the Board of Trade will forward any news on request.

"Get a Gem complete set Safety Razor and enjoy the comfort and convenience of shaving at home, it costs very little but gives perfect satisfaction. Price \$1.00. Mackinnon Drug Co., Cor. Great George and Kent Streets. Mif.

The Joy of Good Health Is Now Experienced

Nervousness, Dizzy Spells and Sleeplessness Are Now a Thing of the Past.

This is a cheerful letter from Mrs. Peacock, and it should bring joy to the heart of many a reader of this paper. Dizzy spells and sleeplessness are symptoms of exhausted nerves, and are the bug-bear of many women, who do not know just what treatment to use.

You can read Mrs. Peacock's letter and take courage, for she has proven that Dr. Chase's Nerve Food is a complete cure for these troubles. So pleased was she with the results obtained that she wants other women to know about this food cure.

Mrs. Peacock writes:—"Dr. Chase's Nerve Food has done me a world of good, and I would be pleased to tell everybody so."

In nearly every issue of this paper you will find letters about Dr. Chase's medicines. If this one does not describe your case watch for others or write to us. Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, 50c a box, 6 for \$2.50, all dealers, or Edmondson, Bates & Co. Limited, Toronto.

I am very anxious to have all potato shippers apply for registration forms to me, in order that from their registration I shall be able to arrange inspection centres, so that when the time of shipping commences the whole matter will have been satisfactorily arranged. I may say that inspection is taking place now in New Brunswick, and is working extremely well. We have not yet had one single complaint from any of the shippers or their customers. Up to the present I think some 111,600 bushels have already been certified. We find that the regulations are working very satisfactorily, which it is hoped will also be the case in P. E. I.

May I trouble you to kindly furnish me with a list of the potato shippers of P. E. I., and would you undertake to advise them in time that they should register as soon as possible, so

that there may be no delay and disappointment when the shipping season commences.

Yours very truly, H. T. GUSSOW, Dominion Botanist.

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The Guardian Toronto Saturday Night

The Guardian has made arrangements with the Publishers of "Saturday Night" whereby it is able to make the following offer to new subscribers:— One year's subscription "The Daily Guardian" \$2 50 "Saturday Night" 3 00

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The cheapest kind of enamelware is easily confused with the best from appearance, but after once used the inferior kind will have few charms for you. Get your enamelware here, and you will get the very best at the lowest possible prices.

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Lumbermans Rubbers—a complete line of the famous Tufford Brand—with red sole and heel, snag proof. Also several lines with black soles from \$1.50 up.

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