

JUNE 3, 1918

The Charlottetown Guardian

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MONDAY, JUNE 3rd, 1918

P. E. ISLAND HOSPITAL

The financial statement of the Prince Edward Island Hospital, published in the Guardian's report of the annual meeting, explains very fully and satisfactorily the financial position of the institution. Unfortunately the financial position is not as satisfactory as could be wished, but it is by no means a cause of discouragement. On the contrary it will, we feel assured, act as a spur to the liberality of our people, who have the fullest confidence in the administration, professional and financial, of the Hospital. There is an indebtedness, a small one in proportion to the number whose indebtedness it is, namely the people of Charlottetown and the province, particularly of Queens and Kings Counties, Prince County having its own hospital to maintain.

There was an adverse balance at the close of the last year of \$5,669.67. This amount must be made up and we have no doubt will be in response to the appeal being made. What caused the adverse balance is fully explained in the report and easily understood—higher cost of necessities, an exceptionally healthy year and reduced number of patients. It is not necessary to comment on these, suffice it to say that the indebtedness exists and that it is necessary in the interest—not of the hospital but of the province—that the indebtedness be wiped out at the earliest possible moment.

It is obvious to all that to secure the greatest effectiveness from the hospital it is necessary that it be freed from financial embarrassment, that the trustees and the staff be provided with everything that is necessary to maintain its splendid reputation and undoubted usefulness. The hundreds whose lives have been saved, the many whose sufferings have been alleviated by it bear testimony to the fact that the province would be indefinitely the poorer without the Prince Edward Island Hospital, bear testimony also to the solemn obligation that rests upon all to do their part in keeping it up to the highest possible degree of efficiency.

An appeal together with a financial statement has already been made and, as stated by the trustees in their report "a full report was published in our papers. The publicity thus gained had most beneficial effects. Such of our collections as have come in show large increases and we have many assurances that all the support we require will be forth coming." This is an indication of the effect of newspaper publicity but curiously enough the trustees accept it as a matter of course and do not even think it worth while to include the press in the special votes of thanks which they accorded to others who had given them their assistance. It will be noted by the financial report that Charlottetown has heretofore borne the heavy end of the upkeep of the Hospital. Of \$4,565.61 received in subscriptions for the past year Charlottetown contributed \$3,186.52, the country contributing only \$1,379.09. When it is remembered that a large proportion of the patients come from country districts this division does not appear equitable and we trust the appeal now being made will continue to meet with the support which the beginning of the present campaign has received.

The retirement of Mr. Percy Pope from the Chairmanship of trustees will be regretted. He is followed however by another "live wire," Mr. W. K. Rogers, whose financial experience and administrative capabilities are thoroughly well known.

EXTRAVAGANCE

Notwithstanding the fact that the wastage of war amounts to millions a day, that prices on everything necessary and unnecessary have advanced enormously, that the possibility even of food shortage and non-employment are constantly staring the world in the face it is safe to say that extravagance is more rife in the world today than ever before. And not only is purely selfish extravagance more in evidence but expenditures for worthy purposes are also more generous than ever before. There is a veritable riot of money spending both for selfish indulgences and for patriotic, benevolent and charitable purposes.

One reason, perhaps the main reason, for this is the fact that there is more money circulation than ever before. This is

because of the great amount of labour being performed in connection with the war, the higher wages paid and the higher prices received for produce. Abundance has created a new and more open hearted generosity, also, a new extravagance. The former is commendable. Never before has the heart of Canada responded as liberally to the appeals of patriotism, of charity, of benevolence, as during the past four eventful years and especially during the past year. In our own province where, heretofore, such appeals were neither numerous nor insistent, the liberality of the people has been very marked and it is probable that, in proportion to their ability, they have given as liberally as any province in Canada. In this province as elsewhere the liberality was perhaps not as pronounced among those who could best afford it, although many of these cases were characterized by most commendable generosity. The comparatively poor contributed very freely and it is very gratifying to know that in all the calls made for needed assistance the province as a whole acquitted itself worthily.

As to extravagance in selfish indulgence we have not been behind our neighbours. We have had a "good time"; we denied ourselves little if any; many of us lived up to the limit of our increased incomes, some possibly a little beyond it, mortgaging their future, which at times like these, is an uncertain proceeding.

"NACH PARIS"

If the German Crown Prince's thrust to and across the river Aisne is to be regarded as the real thing in the great offensive, and not a mere masking diversion, it will become apparent that Hindenburg (or Ludendorff) has returned to the original German strategy, and is pushing for Paris, abandoning for the present the attempt to get to the Channel ports. The original drive in August and September of 1914 showed how the German heart was set on taking Paris, and that alone. In that drive, the German army was brought within easy reach of Calais and Boulogne, and might have been pushed on to those points, all effective resistance in that direction having been removed. But the Germans turned aside and swung toward Paris with all their strength only to be hurled back on the Marne; and before they could pull themselves together after that check, the British and the French had covered the gap that was open to the Channel. The Germans have been seeking to repair that error ever since. No sooner had they been defeated in the attempt to get to Paris than they were seized with an overpowering hunger for the Channel ports. This hunger was plainly evidenced in the Somme drive in March last, the immediate objective of which was Amiens, and the ultimate objective the driving of a wedge clear to the Channel, which would have separated the British army from the French. That glittering goal having been denied them do they now return to their original yearning, and gravely attempt a mass attack upon Paris via the nearest point and over the hardest road? It really would not appear likely; but the vigor and determination of the attack up to the present moment, and the evidence that the demonstration in the north is only a feint, indicate that it may be true that they have chosen the short cut to Paris. If the German strategy is so simple as this, the problem of General Foch is equally simple. It consists of the balancing of a high-power offensive with a scientific defence. That an offensive of that sort must make a considerable amount of progress, at heavy cost of life, is a foregone conclusion. That General Foch should have been surprised, or found unprepared, on this central portion of the rampart of France, is inconceivable. The Germans are trading on psychology as usual, if this is their chief drive—if they are indeed attempting to get to Paris. It is the psychology of the pugilist's instinctive fear of the solar plexus blow. It is the psychology, on Germany's side, of the supreme encouragement to the German people which the successful menace of the capital of civilization would afford.—Boston Transcript.

The danger of taking liberties with increased incomes is not always apparent while the incomes are on the upward grade and while things are "flush." It should not be forgotten that the times are abnormal, that the future is uncertain and that out of the present abundance provision should be made for the uncertainties of the future. The wastage of war and the interest on debts now accumulating must be made up and in the adjustments following the war times are not likely to be as prosperous as now. Economy in selfish concerns is the wise course while liberality in everything that can help to win the war is the truest economy.

FARM HELP

Sir: In a recent editorial you referred to a statement made by me during the late session of the House, of receiving over 30 applications in answer to an advertisement for a man to work on a farm. Although this statement is true as far as it goes (the actual number being 35) it was hardly fair to give it as proof that farm labor was plentiful at the present time or to quote it without stating the help I referred to was married men, and that I had also said that I knew those of military age were hard to get. In fact we were discussing the reason for the decline in dairying at that particular time, which had reference more particularly to pre-war times, and it was in reply to the reason given by a speaker that it was almost impossible to get help that these factories were being closed.

I am well aware that it is hard to get unmarried men at the present time, as I have tried to get an experienced farm hand for months, and am running one short, although I am trying to put in our largest acreage on record. But I always believed that in pre-war times this Province was abundantly supplied with farm help and labour of all kinds, in fact better off in this respect than any other in the Dominion. We have no manufacturing industries to give employment to our surplus population and while hundreds are compelled to leave our shores yearly to look for such how can we use this argument longer? As I stated on the floor of the House at the time, getting farm help was a matter altogether of paying wages as is also getting school teachers or any others to fill the different positions in any commercial line.

Farmers in all other Provinces must compete with the manufacturers, and in Ontario where many thousands are employed this way they have a hard time to hold good men, and I wish some of our people could see what they are compelled to get along with. On a 300 acre farm which I visited, a farm that had won the trophy for the best in all Ontario, the help was four Barnardo boys, from the Old Country without any experience, the lady of the house told me that was the only help they could get for years and they were making the best of it. One of them, the good lady had trained to be a pretty efficient helper in the kitchen and she in turn in the husband's absence kept an eye on the matters outside. Others who had native help paid about double what ours received at that time. In Nova Scotia conditions are about the same and also in the West, but in our province we can secure splendid men if we provide a cottage for them and give them what every man is entitled to, enough to live on, in conditions under which they feel they are prospering. I don't understand a man saying he cannot afford to live on a 150 acre farm who could make a good living for himself and family on 75 acres. If the other 75 were farmed as well he should be able to do so with more profit as the same stables, and machinery would do for the 2nd 75 and his expenses would be lessened in every way in fact. All the investigation conducted by the U. S. Government in learning which sized farms were paying the best have gone to show that the large farms paid more and that the small farms paid less and were greatly undermanned. There is a good living for a family on every 50 acres of clear P. E. Island soil and a man who is attempting to farm one to two hundred acres single handed or with half grown boys, may be doing all right from his point of view, but is not getting near the production possible out of the acres he occupies and it is a great pity, at the present time particularly that we have not more help on the land. Every thousand, or I should say million extra value that our Island soil can be made to produce not only enriches the owner to some extent but the Province and the Dominion. Produce of the soil and fisheries at any time mean wealth for every individual directly or indirectly in our Province but at the present time is doubly valuable. Wealth produced this way is prosperity for the entire country. It does not matter what the creator of it does with it as far as I can see so long as he produces it. Some one has the use of it if he banks it, loans it, or pays an indebtedness it can eventually be made use of by the Government and every million extra now produced in Canada will figure out to the advantage of our trade balance.

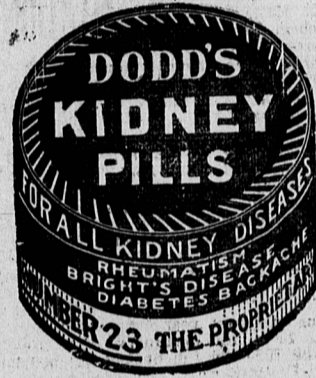
DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson

"CHARGE IT"

"Just chalk it down," the poor man said, when he had brought some boneless bread, and many costly things, his wife and brood of bairns of feed—the most of which they didn't need as much as you need wings. He buys the richest things in town, and always says, "Just chalk it down, I'll pay you soon, you bet;" and payday evening finds him broke, his hard earned plunks gone up in smoke, and still he is in debt. The man who doesn't buy for cash lays in all kinds of costly trash, that he could do without; he spends his coin before it's earned, and roars about it when it's burned—is that your way, old scout? When comes the day of evil luck the war bag doesn't hold a buck to keep the wolf away; the "charge it" plan will work no more at any market, shop, or store—no goods unless you pay. The poor man for his money sweats, and he should pay for what he gets, just when he gets the same; then, when he goes his prunes to buy, and sees how fast the nickles fly, he'll dodge the spend-thrift game. If you begin to save your stamps, some day, with teardrops in your lamps, this writer you will thank when man in grief and sickness, groans there's naught like having fifteen bones in some good savings bank. —WALT MASON

and reduction in our national debt. Those are some perhaps of the lesser reasons why we should produce to the limit at the present time, the great big one is that starving Europe needs it, and while we will have to make the best of the farm help problem during the war, I still maintain that we could very profitably employ many thousands more men on our land than we did in the pre-war times, but to hold them a cottage must be provided, and in this way the amount of remuneration can be arranged between employer and employee more satisfactory to both than boarding help in the farmers' homes. Then the farmer can better compete with the city employer in paying wages as rent and taxes of a home in town will cost proportionately more than one in the country can be provided for, and if free hoes, fuel, vegetables, milk and fruit are provided the amount of actual money may be considerably less, there is no middle man in the arrangement I have had such a system in operation for over ten years and find it most satisfactory. There are plenty of strong smart fellows in this Province who marry young and would rather remain in the land of their birth than emigrate. Any farmer who has a respectable house to offer them can generally get all the help he wants if he will pay the golden rule. He must not expect to get as good a man as he thinks he is himself and better make up his mind to put up with some things he does not like and can be sure his man is thinking he is doing the same. On account of the necessity of getting work done in a rush on account of weather conditions, it is necessary to work long hours at certain times of the year but this should not be made an excuse for doing so all the time. The returns for farming until recent years were so meagre that the wages many of them knew their help should be receiving. I always thought it an injustice that the man who used the farm machinery in the production of food for the world should not receive as good pay as the man who made these machines in the factory, and when we found it was impossible to do so knew that some one was getting an advantage over us. This condition is slowly fighting itself and when farmers are receiving the present prices they can afford to pay proportionately better wages. Those who do so and find a home will I think they will have no difficulty in getting help. I am sir, W. M. LEA.



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