THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink."

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1941

The Red Cross Carries On

One organization which is always on active service is the Red Cross Society. In wartime, however, its activities are greatly increased, as was shown in the stimulating reports submitted at Monday's annual meeting of the Provincial Red Cross, and in the address delivered by Mr. Norman Sommerville, chairman of the Central Council and executive committee.

The tribute paid by Mr. Sommerville to the work of the local organization will be appreciated by all our citizens, and especially by those who, under Hon. Dr. MacMillan's able leadership as president, have given of their time and energy to Red Cross activities. It was with legitimate pride that Dr. MacMillan was able to report the success of the appeal on behalf of the Society's war work last year. The canvass was such a thorough one, and the response so generous, that the $25,000 objective was exceeded by more than $3,000.

Excellent reports were also submitted on behalf of the Women's War Work Committee and the Junior Red Cross. The latter organization now extends to approximately 95 per cent. of the school classrooms of the Province. This fact in itself speaks volumes for the work that is being carried on.

The Society's need for support and co-operation will continue to grow with our expanding war effort. This is a fact which must be borne in mind, and which we believe is pretty well understood and appreciated by the general public. At no time has the organization commanded such widespread confidence, or demonstrated so effectively its value and importance, as in this period of grave Empire crisis.

Go-Getters Needed

Evidently all the use Prime Minister King has for this Province is as a place from which to get support. When it comes to providing us with work he does not know there is such a province. Big guns and other armament for the Royal Navy are being manufactured in six provinces under the program undertaken by Canada for the British Admiralty, involving capital outlay of $17,538,394. The Royal Canadian Navy will purchase some of the production from plant extensions now in progress. The combined annual output will run to "tens of millions of dollars," close to $100,000,000. Work is being done in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. There are to be four plants making gun barrels, two in Quebec, one in Alberta and one in British Columbia where the Dominion Bridge Company's plant in Burnaby, near Vancouver, is being reconditioned for the work at a cost of $5,000,000. Chief Quebec plant is at Sorel where some barrels have already been produced. The Ogden shops of the Canadian Pacific Railway in Calgary are being expanded to produce guns and mountings, and mountings will also be produced at one plant in Quebec. Nova Scotia will be equipped to produce gun mountings, gun forgings and naval shells. New Brunswick will have plant installed for Naval gun overhaul, naval projectiles. Ontario: Naval gun mountings (at three plants), fire control gear, torpedo equipment, and nautical instruments. But Prince Edward Island, with its much boosted engineering plant of Bruce Stewart & Co., is left severely out in the cold. Oh for worthwhile go-getters as representatives at Ottawa!

Aberhart's Reply

One of the so-called "sinners" at the Ottawa conference on the Sirois Report, Premier Aberhart, of Alberta, has broadcast a statement in his own defence. "Had we allowed the international financiers to have slipped the recommendations of the Sirois report into our hands," he declared, "each of the provices would have had a real live wildcat by the tail."

Like Mr. Hepburn, Mr. Aberhart is a shrewd strategist, and knows that the best defence is attack. So he quotes the following pungent remarks from a former Minister of Agriculture in the Mackenzie King Government, Hon. W. R. Motherwell: "It seems incredible, indeed quite mischievous, that an otherwise seemingly sane government after leading this country into a condition of harmonious co-operation among all provinces and peoples in the fullest possible prosecution of this ruthless and terrific war, that it would now propose to throw a high explosive political bomb into our midst by pressing for the acceptance of this Sirois Report, including its highly objectionable recommendations."

Arms Training Plan

Prime Minister King's announcement of a compulsory four-months' training period in place of the present thirty-day plan, and of the complete reorganization of the training program, is a striking endorsation of the constructive criticism made by the Conservative Party in the House of Commons during the November session. This fact was noted yesterday by Hon. R. B. Hanson, Conservative Leader, who recalled the objections which he had himself raised to the thirty-day plan, as being a hasty improvisation, based on two theories, neither of which was creditable to Canada. These assumptions were:—

1. That our limited supply of modern weapons made it impracticable to carry the individual training of the draftee beyond the basic stage and the limited syllabus; and

2. That the short period enabled a larger number of young people to obtain a proper conception of their national obligations within a given time.

Speaking in the House of Commons November 12, last, Mr. Hanson disputed the basis of these assumptions and offered the following concrete suggestions:—

1. That the length of time of training be increased to at least four months, and that Canada train three groups a year instead of ten; that the first eight weeks of this four-months' course should be designated "the basic recruits' course," and the second "the trained men's course," graduation being required from one course to the other;

2. That all men, when they have received the four-months' course, should be posted to the local non-permanent active militia units, not merely put on the reserve; the idea being that their training would be continuous wherever conditions rendered this possible.

The Government's new proposals in principle are an acceptance of the policies so advocated, although the *modus operandi* is different in some details.

"The Conservative Party," Mr. Hanson states, "will continue to spur the Government on to maximum effort. The pity is that Canada was inert and complacent for the first year of the war."

EDITORIAL NOTES

A quarter a day will keep Nazi away.

* * * *

The War Saving Certificate Campaign is reminiscent of the first victory bond campaign of last war, everybody seems interested and wanting to do their bit.

* * * *

Having now got the organization for more lengthened training, youths henceforth will have to serve four months with the colours instead of 30 days. The time is not very far distant when the period may be extended to one year, the least at which authorities say the training can be made really effective.

* * * *

Sir Robert Peel, British Statesman, born this date 1788. The first to organize London police on a modern basis, hence the sobriquets, "Bobby", and "Peeler" still popular for British police. Became Prime Minister in 1841, restored order in finances, and was the first to impose an income tax. Fathered the Free Trade Movement favouring the manufacturing interests but to the disadvantage of agriculturists. Killed by a fall from his horse in 1850.

* * * *

"I observe," said Viscount Samuel, speaking in the House of Lords, "that Mr. Kennedy, the American Ambassador in broadcasting in the United States a few days ago, said, 'This is a war not of men but of machines'—a profound error. Although machines are of great importance—the quality of machines matters much—the men who handle the machines matter far more for what avail would better machines be in the hands of inferior men?"

* * * *

Latest Mines and Resources Department reports from agents in Northern Territories say the prospects for the fur catch are good and the number of animals has been showing some increase. Other sources state the outlook for fur prices is bright despite war conditions and the loss of some continental markets. Removal by the war of competitors like Norway, and Exchange Conservation Regulations which discourage importation of cheaper furs from the United States, should aid the Canadian fur trade.

* * * *

Static interference with radio reception is almost intollerable in some parts of the city, and nothing is being done about it. There is no inspector here now, any complaint having to be forwarded to Halifax, to whom, nobody seems to know. Gradually, bit by bit, we are losing our identity as a Province, and our rights being filched from us. For censoring radio, copy must be transmitted to Saint John and now for eradicating static complaint must be sent to Halifax. What next? Will it be our R.M.C.P. who will be taken from us?

* * * *

Mr. J. A. Blanchette, M.P., for Compton has given notice of the following resolution for the House of Commons when Parliament resumes: "Whereas, the Canadian dairy farmers, engaged in the production of butter, have been producing at a loss for a number of years, and this especially since 1932,

"And whereas, all costs of living, production and labor are continually increasing.

"And whereas, the War Time Prices and Trade Board order No. 26 established a maximum price on butter as of December 12th, 1940,

"And whereas, the Honorable Minister of Agriculture stated, under date of January 12th, 1941, that the dairy supply board would set a minimum price on butter,

"Therefore, be it resolved, that, in the opinion of this House, the minimum wholesale price of first grade butter, in solids, should not be lower than 33 cents per pound, effective as of May 1st, 1941."

* * * *

Mr. J. A. Spender, Charter President of the Institute of Journalists, warned the Government of the dangers of unwise control of the Press and of excessive caution in the use of censorship. In an address to the Institute's annual meeting at Leicester the famous journalist said: "While we submit to any necessary control, we must keep the Government reminded that we play the part of eyes and ears for it, and that it may be deprived of the organs of sight and hearing if it exceeds a wise and tolerant use of its powers. Safety first, safety above all for those who are in the firing line—how can anyone object? Yet, if from an excess of caution the censor lets the enemy get a long start with false news, he may have done something which in the longer view will be of serious military disadvantage. We have to ask our military censors to realise that the Press is not a tiresome survival from peace which should be effaced in war, but a most potent military weapon, the right use of which is of equal concern to the soldier and the journalist. In the countries of the dictators the Press is the slave of the Government; in the free countries it must be in some sense its partner."

NOTES BY THE WAY

Goebbels tells the German people that the less thinking they do the better for their mechanical ability. This is in keeping with the Nazi plan to have every citizen on an assembly line, where all that is required is accuracy of movement. Goebbels and his kind will do the thinking, such as it is. — Toronto Globe and Mail.

The adoption of reprisals means the adoption of a policy of unqualified hatred and revenge. For our part at least, we have no desire to see mankind committed in its dealings to any such pestilential principles. Force must, indeed, be met with force, but barbarism with chivalry. — Church Times, London.

British newspapers are cruelly recalling this extract from a speech made by Signor Mussolini about four months ago: "I solemnly declare that Italy does not intend to drag other people who are her neighbors by sea and by land into the conflict. Let Switzerland, Yugoslavia, Turkey, Egypt and Greece take note of these words of mine." — Calgary Herald.

H. G. Wells, the British author whose speeches in the United States of late have been criticized in some British quarters, said on leaving New York the other day: "I think Germany is nearly beaten, I am afraid of a soft peace that will give the aggressor a chance to start over again in five or six years." That is fully in line with prevailing sentiment in Great Britain. — Calgary Herald.

"The People's Convention held in London over the last week-end attracted 2,000 delegates from Communist and left wing labor and professional groups in England, Wales and Scotland. The primary purpose of the meeting was to initiate a "countrywide movement" to overthrow the present British government and replace it with a "people's government" that would bring peace by appealing to the German masses instead of by fighting their leaders. The idea, is born out of wonderful phantasy. We suspect that the German masses might run into a little trouble trying to overthrow Hitler even after they had heard the clear, shrill appeal of British Communists. The People's Convention also called for a restoration of civil liberties in Britain. How they could do so with a straight face is beyond understanding, since they were allowed to meet and plan the overthrow of the British government in time of war and without the slightest interference. There wasn't even a policeman in sight. Hitler must get apoplectic when the British government betrays such confidence. — New York Post.

Quebec's deputy minister of trade reports that Germans and Italians in Canadian internment camps are being supplied with eels, most of the supply of which used to go to Germany and Italy. Some 50,000 pounds of the season's catch of 60,000 pounds has already been absorbed. — Montreal Gazette.

The ordeal to which London mainly and other regions in some degrees have been exposed, with the random destruction of life and property, has had another result which may be added to the damage done to Hitler's cause beside the defeat which he has suffered. The news of Britain's stand, unbroken and fiercely counter-attacking from her own soil, has swept the world like a challenge, offering an example which the French may envy and which a people like the Greeks spring to share. Hitler's threat has failed, but the "splendor and the devastation," in Mr. Churchill's phrase, against which it has been broken has everywhere lighted a new torch for the friends of freedom. —Manchester Guardian.

Nobody seems to be surprised that Australians and New Zealanders are rounding up Italians in North Africa. For sheepmen, they put on a great rodeo. Apparently neither in this war nor the last one has the Australian politician found it worth while to declaim against "sending our boys to die on foreign soil," or called attention to those two great oceans, the Pacific and Indian, that protect Australians from invaders. The Austrians seems to take it as a matter of course that, if any fighting is to be done, it is better to do it in Africa, the Dardanelles, Egypt or France than in the suburbs of Sydney and Melbourne. He likes to fight, and the further away from home, the better he likes it.—Chicago Daily News.

The Douro correspondent of the Examiner writes to say: "There has been an exodus of young men from the farm to Peterborough factories. Some few will come back in the Spring, but many will not, and it is feared farm production will suffer severely." The reason why these young men are coming to the city is that they can at present secure employment, and they can make more money than if they remained on the farm. — Peterborough Examiner.

Many words of commendation have been heard concerning the editorial in the Halifax Chronicle on Saturday re Government ship building for Nova Scotia. Our people appreciate the outspoken efforts of the Chronicle to bring to this province a fair share of contracts. In order for our communities to receive justice they must not only receive orders but contracts must be based on the same wage scale as in larger centres. Otherwise there will always be the danger of our mechanics being lured away to centres that receive contracts at a price enabling them to pay top wages and so long as that danger exists it is quite obvious that employers should be timid in taking on contracts for fear of facing a labor shortage. All power to the Chronicle in its advocacy of our rights. It is up to every Nova Scotia member of parliament, every Town Council and every Board of Trade to raise their voices in an effort to bring justice this way. Nova Scotia has for too many years been contributing bright young men in large numbers for the upbuilding of other sections. Now is the time to get at the bottom of things and see what can be done to prevent further drain on our manhood. It is quite understandable that certain industries engaged in non war work in competition with other provincial concerns where wages are low, canot possibly pay 75 cents an hour and live. Some in fact have all they can do to land right side up at the end of the year on present wages. Even those engaged in Government work cannot be expected to pay the high rate so long as contracts are based as they are at present. — Shelburne Coast Guard.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

PURCHASE OF GRAIN

Sir:—Eighty thousand bushels of barley might be useful for P. E. I. agriculture. It amounts to 38 bushels a square mile or about 5 bushels for each farm. It is not much. It would cost our government 12 to 15 thousand dollars and maybe the farmers could buy it at 50 cents a bushel, cash on track if they bought their own bags and took delivery at divisional points. It is very unusual for P. E. I. farmers to buy grain except for seed. Many farmers sell it and buy concentrates such as Linseed meal. Soy Bean meal, shorts, mineral supplement, hog and poultry concentrates. These concentrates are mixed with barley and oats — about one ton to four tons of grain —and the ration is adequately balanced especially if clover hay, skim milk, whey, etc., are available. It is concentrates we have to buy, and not grain.

If western oats were brought here, more of our own oats would be released for shipment to Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Much of it would go as seed at a good price and would be sold by the "better class of farmers" referred to in the press. No more would be fed because of the importation of 80,000 bushels, or very little more.

If the government has money for feed it should be spent on concentrates. Already the government has spent in conferences about one cent a bushel for 80,000 bushels.

It seems to me it would be very easy to grow an extra 120 bushels in each school district, or 80,000 bushels for the province. But Mr. Hemming quotes the Experimental Farms as proving it costs $1.10 to produce a bushel of barley. Nonsense, as Mr. Hemming states it! If the Experimental Farms believed their own literature why don't they cease growing grain on their demonstration farms which are supposed to be perfect examples of efficient production? How about Mr Hemming for the job of Supervisor of Demonstration Farms?

Farmers would be pleased to grow oats for 40 cents and barley for 65, and would contract on that basis. But oats were bought at less than 25 cents in 1940 and is in storage at the present time. In fact oats of 1939 were sold at 45 cents delivered in June, 1940. And some was carried over into the next season, as it could not be sold at 40 cents.

Mr. Hemming states there are 10 animals per square mile on P. E. I. There are almost that many dogs. The figures are incorrect of course. We have around 120 animals per square mile, we do not need more if the quality were raised and they were fed better. Probably we have sold too many cattle already as prices were good lately.

There is a very evident remedy for agriculture if the powers that be would get down to business. The dairy industry could easily be rehabilitated and would put yearly two million dollars in the pockets of the farmers where they wouldn't stay long. This could be done without importing grain. What is being done about it? Oh, for a Dr. Jas W. Robertson! The present food crisis in cheese assures an excellent market for years to come. Some Ontario farmers will receive over $1.50 per cwt. for milk in 1941. This price is quite profitable here and permits the use of women as labourers. Milking to produce cheese is at least as patriotic as knitting socks or holding benefit bridge parties for the war effort.

Farm economics are different. Shovelling roads, feeding partridges and pheasants, taking deliveries of groceries and other goods increase the overhead. Mr. Hemming has a good will to help but lacks understanding of farm conditions.

I am, Sir, etc.,
J. WALTER JONES, M.L.A.

IMPORTATION OF WESTERN FEED GRAINS

Sir,—Every Islander who takes an interest in the welfare of his native Province will agree that there is an urgent need for a large increase in the number of animals to be kept upon the farms of Prince Edward Island. In my last letter, I gave facts and figures with the object of proving that, even for the present diminished livestock population, it is not only advisable, but necessary that large quantities of feed grain should be imported from the Western Provinces. This contention has, to all intents and purposes, been endorsed by the Federal Minister of Agriculture in his proposal that the Governments of the five Eastern Provinces shall import a large quantity of wheat, oats and barley, the freight upon same from Fort William eastward to be shared between the Ottawa and Provincial Governments, and possibly by the two railway companies. Judging from the news coming from Montreal, the railways have not as yet consented to make any reduction in their freight rates. So far as Ontario and Quebec are concerned, this attitude may be reasonable, but for the Maritimes it is manifestly unfair. The freight rate from Fort William to Charlottetown is 42 cents per 100 pounds which, on a bushel of oats of say 36 pounds, would amount to over 15 cents per bushel, whereas for years the railways have been carrying grain from Fort William to St. John, N. B., for export to Britain and Europe, at 27 1-2 cents per 100 pounds, or 11 cents per bushel. By this means, the railway companies have given Canada's chief competitors, viz: Denmark, Holland and Belgium, a decided preference, thus discriminating against our farmers in seeking trade for bacon and dairy sales in Great Britain. It is to be hoped that the Canadian National Railways, at any rate, will take a more enlightened view of this matter particularly when it is remembered that the chief object of bringing grain from the West is to assist the Mother Country in the purchase of food. In any event one would suppose that it would be in the interest of the railway company, where local traffic is so largely depended upon the short haul carrying farm products, to give to this Island at least the lowest possible rate upon incoming grain.

Whatever may be the outcome of the present negotiations between the Dominion and Provincial Governments and the railway companies regarding the immediate supply of grain to the farmers, there is a much more important a part of this whole matter, in so far as Prince Edward Island is concerned, and one that calls for the keenest consideration of our Government, our Boards of Trade, our farmers, and of the leading business men of the Province. I refer to the question of the most efficient and economic means by which grain and mixed feeds can be brought from the West to this Island.

Although this matter is one that is no doubt fully understood by the business men of Charlottetown and Summerside, there has not of late, so far as I am aware, been any attempt on the part of the Boards of Trade in the e two centers to impress upon the Dominion Government the urgent need for the installation of up-to-date facilities for the docking and unloading of large grain vessels.

To most Islanders it will, I believe, be a matter of surprise to be told that the Island is devoid of any docking and unloading facilities for large grain boats such as those that ply between the Great Lakes and all the Eastern Provinces of Canada, and further, that there are no warehouses suitable for the storage of the different kinds and qualities of grain.

The wharves at the foot of Queen Street in Charlottetown are neither strong enough to bear the required truck loads, nor are they wide enough to permit of a series of trucks following closely upon one another and leaving the wharf without causing a loss of time. The latter is an important feature, for the demurrage upon these vessels, after a minimum time allowed for unloading, is in the neighbourhood of $400. per day. The Government wharf could no doubt be used, but it is kept exclusively for Government purposes. The Fertilizer Company's wharf would also be suitable, but could rarely be spared for the purpose. The railway wharf would have filled the bill in all respects, including the important feature of having a railway spur, had the Dominion Government permitted the contract to be completed last Spring. In fact, it is more than likely that some large loads of grain would have been brought to the Island last October, had this work been allowed to be continued.

Apart from a suitable wharf, special facilities for the unloading of grain result in large savings, and it is therefore important that there should be a more general understanding of this matter on the part of the people of this Island.

As space will not permit of even a partial consideration of the several details, I shall, with your permission, take them up in a separate letter.

I am, Sir, etc.,
H. K. S. HEMMING.

THE FARMERS' PLIGHT

Sir,—Although it appears to be fighting for an already lost cause, I cannot but join the host who are attempting, by presenting the plight of the farmers of Canada and of this province in particular, to have the powers-that-be do something about saving this, our greatest industry.

Many delegations have gone to Ottawa; hundreds of letters have appeared in the press; numerous editorials have appeared in the columns of the different newspapers; resolution after resolution has been passed; not alone by farmers' organizations, but by other patriotic bodies as well. The theme of all being, "Move quickly and with a set purpose to the aid of the farmers."

But to date nothing has been accomplished. One would almost be inclined to include our Government leaders in making this subject to become a joke.

Is it possible, sir, that we have really drifted into this unhappy state, or have we been piloted there by those who would not see? There is the adage "None so blind as those who will not see!"

Long has this Island been referred to as "The Million Acre Farm," and again as the "Denmark of Canada," well merited titles, won by the fine farmers of this province, men who invested of their means and gave of their talents and labor to bring this whole island to become "The Garden of the Gulf."

At this time when every other industry is booming, when there is more money in circulation than at any time during the past several years, we find that the products of our farms in some cases are practically valueless, or at least being priced much less than the actual cost of production. Naturally one asks, why does this condition exist? And the answer in so far as potatoes are concerned, would appear to be the huge surplus of millions of bushels in the U.S.A. that owing to a one-sided tariff are allowed into this country, duty free.

In 1939, our farmers received 50 cents for their potatoes; in 1940, with much about the same production in Canada, and a very much larger consumption, the farmer gets 25c. Is it not the huge surplus of our neighbors coming into our market, duty free, that is the cause? If it is to be Free Trade, why not have it both ways?

We have much for which to thank this friendly neighboring nation. But in our zeal to pour out this thanks, should we not give some consideration to the basic industry of our own glorious country?

We are told that a considerable quantity of seed potatoes can be placed throughout Western Canada during the months of March and April. Who is entitled to that market, the Maritime farmers or the U.S.A. farmers, with their duty-free potatoes?

Then there is the bacon industry, just barely surviving, and perhaps not even doing that well, were a careful check-up taken. It has been suggested that some attempt be made to get cheap grain feeds from the West, and we believe that the Government has come forth with some sort of a fifty-fifty plan on freight costs, to be worked out with provincial governments, all of which we believe is not worth a hill of beans. Cheap feed in Western Canada is not cheap feed here, when all costs of handling are figured up. Mill feeds might be welcome, but not grain; too many weed seeds. And, anyway, the average small farmer has plenty of barley and oats for his small stock. What he wants is 2c per lb. for his pork, to pay for the worth of his feed and labor.

Britain is paying what she is asked, for her bacon. But if Canada wishes to quote a price below the cost of production, then Ottawa should step in and pay the difference, and let the people as a whole pay, and not the farmer only.

The big hog producer with his 50 or 100 hogs will reap any benefit there will be in the deal for cheap feed. In addition to the low prices the farmer is compelled to take, he pays more for everything that he has to buy. One instance will tell how fairly he is treated: Take a self-binder, which 20 years ago could be bought for $140. The same style binder today costs $280 to $300, with very little improvements over the one of 20 years ago; and this binder and all farm machinery are necessities. Twenty years ago a Ford car cost $800, today with very great improvements the cost is raised to only $900, and that car is a luxury. Why is this? The material in each is the same.

One could go on and on, as delegations after delegations have gone on to Ottawa; most of them sincere men, knowing and realizing the necessity of quick and definite action. But to date all have been unsuccessful.

Might I suggest, sir, that as a last and final effort, a delegation of real honest-to-goodness Maritime farmers be sent to Ottawa; men who know their business; men who see and realize that their very existence is threatened; men who have cellars full of the best potatoes; men who are producing hogs and who want an equal show-down with other classes; men whose hopes are based, whose sole incomes are derived from their livestock and the products of their well-tilled acres, and also men who can tell a true story of farms being abandoned, and those to be vacated this Spring, for the simple reason that they cannot make ends meet, and are discouraged, and are willing to try anything else, even to working in the Maine, or N. B. woods.

Then, perhaps, when Ottawa hears this true story from those men whose incomes are from the farms, they may wake up and realize and say: Here, indeed, is a case that needs immediate attention, and is not merely another murmuring in the Maritimes.

I am, sir, etc.,
FARMERS' FRIEND.

MOSCOW.—(CP) —Stalinist constitution has become "best seller" of the Soviet Union with 37,800,000 copies of the document issued.

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142 A

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MAIL ORDERS GIVEN PROMPT ATTENTION
See the picture, "A Little Bit of Heaven" at the Prince Edward Theatre February 13th, 14th and 15th, in aid of the C. W. League.

BERLIN.—(CP) — Bulgaria, cut off from American markets as a result of the war, has sold Germany approximately 26,000,000 pounds of tobacco.

The Poets' Corner

ROOKS

There, where the rusty iron lies,
The rooks are cawing all the day,
Perhaps no man, until he dies,
Will understand them, what they say.

The evening makes the sky like clay,
The slow wind waits for night to rise.
The world is half content. But they
Still trouble all the trees with cries
That know, and cannot put away,
The yearning to the soul that flies
From day to night, from night to day.

—Charles Hamilton Sorley

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