

# The Charlottetown Guardian

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## THE SOLDIER'S VOTE

A mistake was made in the return of the soldiers' vote in yesterday's Guardian. It is Mr. Donald Nicholson who heads the military poll, the result being for France and America—

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| Nicholson | 604 |
| Martin    | 499 |
| Warburton | 113 |
| Sinclair  | 110 |

The combined civilian and soldiers vote so far recorded is as follows:

|           |       |
|-----------|-------|
| Sinclair  | 5,354 |
| Warburton | 5,253 |
| Nicholson | 5,039 |
| Martin    | 4,982 |

Should the military vote in England be recorded in the same proportion as in France and America, both Mr. Nicholson and Mr. Martin will be elected.

## THE POOR FARMER PROBLEM

A farmer concerned with the problem of increased production asks how the poor man who is unable to buy seed is going to help in the campaign. He makes a comparison between conditions here, where the poor man can get no assistance, with the west, where the banks carry the farmer through his seeding operations and wait for their pay until he has harvested and sold his crop. For the information of those who see western conditions in this light we want to say right here that the farmers in the west enjoy no privileges that are not open to farmers in Prince Edward Island and that the banks there extend no privileges that the banks in this province will not as willingly extend to the farmers here. Banks in the west and here will advance money on security, either the farmer's own or his jointly with a neighbour. By a recent amendment to the Dominion Bank Act, banks are allowed to advance money on cattle as security, that is, the bank takes a chattel mortgage on the cattle. This privilege is open to farmers here.

The farmer here who has not enough ready money to buy his seed or his fertilizer may borrow money from any one of the banks, either on his own personal note—if the bank considers that sufficient—or on his joint note with a neighbor. Any farmer who has faith enough in himself and in his farm and in whom his more fortunate neighbor has faith, can in this way tide over his temporary shortage of cash, provide himself with seed or fertilizer or breeding stock and set his farming machinery agoing in such a way as will enable him to pay his loan in the bank, have a good margin of profit for himself and add so much to the world's food supply. There is no reason why any honest farmer, either owner or occupant of a farm should want for either seed or fertilizer in this province. If his merchant knows him to be reliable he will, if he can afford it, give him time to pay up; if he cannot afford it a neighbour may generally be depended upon to help him out in a good cause.

There are, we know, very reasonable objections to mutual accommodation among farmers and the practice should not be encouraged. There is a better way and one which should be much more in evidence in this province than it is, namely, mutual help through organization. In practically every part of the province there is a farmers' institute or some other form of farmers' organization. These organizations know their members, know whom to trust, whom to help and who are deserving of help. The few farmers belonging to the organization who are in need of help could easily be carried by the organization jointly. The organization can buy the seed or the fertilizer or the stock and sell it at cost to such of its members as must be carried. In this way the poor farmer can be helped over his difficulty, the community can be benefited and the food situation greatly relieved. With organization of this kind and a spirit of mutual helpfulness encouraged, a farmer who could not buy his own seed and farm equipment should not be found in the whole province.

## THE SPEAKERSHIP

There is much speculation as to who shall be named Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons. Hon. E. N. Rhodes, now that he has been elected by the sol-

diert's vote, will be again Speaker. According to the law the Speaker and Deputy Speaker must be one English and the other French. This means the deputy will have to be French. Mr. J. H. Rainville, deputy in the last House, was defeated in Chambly-Vercheres. There is only one French-Canadian member on the Government side, Dr. J. L. Chabot, junior member for Ottawa, and it is stated he does not want the position. Mr. H. W. Mackie, the new Unionist member for East Edmonton, is claimed as a French-Canadian. His mother is French and he speaks French fluently. Whether he would qualify is doubtful.

There has been a boom for Mr. J. G. Turfitt for the position. He speaks French well and was born in Gaspé. However, the law as it stands would apparently definitely exclude him. The present outlook is that the Deputy Speaker will be chosen from Laurier's followers, and as two-thirds of his supporters are French-Canadian there will be plenty of choice.

## RUSSIA'S HOPE

What hope is there for Russia? War weary, betrayed by her leaders, handed over bound and helpless to her enemies, and the great mass of her many millions of people utterly incapable of knowing which way to turn, her position is about as hopeless as can possibly be imagined. Germany is now in a position to demand an indemnity. The figure is set at four billion dollars. Trotsky, who betrayed her and sold her says it will only be one and a half billions! Whether the one or the other makes little difference to Russia. She cannot pay either. Germany's security for the payment will be her power to seize Russian territory, and necessarily failing to collect in cash, she will seize the collateral. Russia's only way of escape lies through the resumption of her former relation with the Allies, a return to her place among the Powers fighting to destroy German despotism. It may be thought improbable that she will choose that way, but it is absolutely the only possible way for her to escape the peril that confronts her.

Her re-entry into the alliance against Germany would give her the moral right to aid and protection by her allies, and it is conceivable that important aid might be given by Japan. Her right to assistance would be undeniable, for she would render a service to the Allies of the west comparable to that she rendered at the beginning of the war, which was in the highest degree important. Forced to resume fighting on the eastern front, Germany would find her plans for the loudly trumpeted drive in the west much disarranged, to such a point even that she might be compelled to abandon them. Such a service, the mere threat of military operations which would necessitate the retention of a large German force in the east, would demand substantial recognition and repayment from the Allies, for its value would be very great.

The obstacle, a very serious one but perhaps not absolutely unsurmountable is the disorganization of the Russian army. For if a competent Government organization could be set up, the army, with millions of men still armed, might be remodeled and made formidable enough to demand the serious attention of Germany. The condition precedent is that the Russian people should realize that they have been betrayed by the Bolsheviks, that Lenin and Trotsky have delivered them helpless into the hands of their destroyer. Were the Russians less densely ignorant, had they not been so desperately deluded by their betrayers, who have preached international socialism to them until their brains are added, their return to reason and sanity might not long be deferred. It has been everywhere remarked that the Bolsheviks were willing to fight Russians, to fight the makers of the revolution, to fight everybody but Germany. The Russian people must know that as well as all the world knows it.

History shows no parallel for such a condition as Russia is in at present. The people have learned by cruel experience that they cannot trust their leaders. If there remain any honest leaders whom the people can trust, there is still a hope that she may yet see her way back to the Allied fold but this is a remote hope. She is now in Germany's power and Germany even when beaten is likely to be the only representative of Russia at the peace conference that will decide the terms of final settlement. Nothing in the history of the world thus far presents a spectacle of such utter hopelessness as the Russia of today.

## NOTES

The Germans want several billions in indemnity from Russia. Let them collect it from the Bolsheviks.

## DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson

### A HABIT WORTH FORMING.

There is a quality about all we do to please our Father that reddeem the lowest task from insignificance, put us in the most momentous duty, and dignifies the smallest annoyance. If we think of life as our opportunity in which to form the habit of doing everything to please Him, nothing is trivial. The arrangement of our clothes, books, papers, tools, keeping accounts, meeting engagements, politeness to strangers, kindness to servants, thoughtfulness for the aged, gentleness to children, our manners at home, abroad, in church, in society—all are opportunities of showing whose we are, and whom we serve. Whether we eat or drink, give or receive a cup of cold water, or whatever we do, we can strengthen the habit of pleasing God. This is the habit best worth cultivating, for it will outlive life, and keep pace with eternity.

Just to smile a little while.  
 And hold the handclasp lighter;  
 Just to think with every mile  
 The sky is growing brighter.  
 Just to feel the world is true.  
 And choke the sobs back faster;  
 Just to know that you—just you—  
 Are meant to serve the Master.  
 Just to hope and trust and love,  
 And help the man beside you;  
 Just to look for strength above,  
 Where Gods awaits to guide you.  
 —Exchange

### WILL IRWIN'S NEW GUESS

NEW YORK, February 26.—A German drive through Switzerland to obtain the electric power of that country much needed by the Germans is predicted as a possibility, but Will Irwin author and war correspondent, who has just returned to the United States from the western front, declared today. "There is an attractive series of possibilities before Von Hindenburg," declared Irwin. "My opinion is that he will strike to put France out of the war, although he may strike to obtain possession of the French ports. The drive may be made through Switzerland. The Germans need Switzerland and its electric power as much as they need Belgium's resources at the beginning of the war, and Switzerland will be unable to put up any such splendid fight as did Belgium."

## AUSTRIAN BREAK-UP

In 1913 the countries of Austria were flooded with an appeal to the "Austrian peoples," in which the different nationalities were urged to unite in the cause of liberty, to suspend all local dissensions and factional strife so as to present a solid front to the Central Government and thus bring about the dismemberment of the Danubian monarchy on the basis of the principle of nationalities. "A gunshot on the Danube is enough to set Europe in flames," they said then. "Nationalities of Austria, arise to the greatness of Nations!" A year had not passed when the shot was fired which was the direct cause of the universal conflagration. The internal composition of Austria-Hungary has ever been the birthplace of all European troubles and will ever remain so if, under some form or other, the monarchy continues to subsist.

### Why Monarchy Must Go

The entire construction of Germany, says a writer in the New York Times, as a national State does not include elements which tend to make its democratization impossible, while in Austria, the dissolution of the political structure into its varied ethnic units, should be considered as a preambule to the democratization of the countries of Austria. A few illustrations will suffice to elucidate this idea. Let us suppose that the Austrian part of the Hapsburg Empire should decide on a policy of national autonomy; the immediate consequence would be that the Croats of Hungary would attempt to effect a reunion with the Austrian brothers in order that they might enjoy the same rights. Suppose, after a bitter struggle, that this were realized, who would then be able to prevent the Serbo-Croats from forming a union with Serbia, whose constitution is certainly more in keeping with the character of their people than the measures of compromise which Austria would be constrained to employ without giving entire satisfaction to anyone? It is the same with the Italian territories whose autonomous tendencies come into collision with people of another language who inhabit the same provinces.

### Empire Must be Shattered

It would, therefore, become necessary, in the course of the bitter struggles which would arise and amid the perpetual disquietude of Europe, to evolve the same unsatisfactory adjustment which has hitherto obtained

in the Ottoman Empire and which has made the Balkans the most troublesome corner of Europe. Had a solution of the problem been possible in this way we should already have seen traces of it since 1848 and observed its development since 1870. On the contrary, we have seen just the opposite. The most recent events have, moreover, shown us that the amnesty obtained by the Austrian nationalities was not possible in Hungary. In order to keep the chariot of State going they ceaselessly turned to Article 14 because internal discussions rendered impossible all reciprocal constitutional work. The Emperor climbed the steps of the throne without taking an oath to the Constitution of this sort of State is uniquely and exclusively established on a dynastic and militarist basis. All democratic reforms merely serve to disturb the ethnic ensemble and hasten the fatal dissolution of Austria is the only means by which its democratization may be rendered possible.

### Where Progress is Impossible

This Austria is the only country in Europe whose very nature retards all movement of progress by insuperable obstacles. It is for this reason that it has become a land where all the poisonous fungus growths of all Europe can propagate at their ease. There the chauvinism of the various nationalities develop without restrictions. There we can observe the most singular paradox—we see the oppressed nationalities, in order not to succumb completely, forced to oppose, in the most violent fashion, the rights of other united nationalities. From this paradox emanates the peculiar relationship of Austria-Hungary with neighboring States. The fact that the various ethnic units of Austria-Hungary feel themselves attracted through the frontier States to the nationality to which they belong, produces an ever-changing state of alliance or hostility between these States and the monarchy—an alliance with the aim of augmenting their sphere of influence by a slow penetration through the means of the unliberated brothers of the same race (like Germany) or hostility with the aim of liberating these brothers and obtaining new national frontiers, (like Italy and Serbia.)

### Problem Must be Solved.

The Austrian policy had become at the time of the war, thanks to this method of alliance or hostility, a regular wasp's nest, which no foreigner dared to disturb. It was an effectual plug to the bung-hole of Imperialistic tendencies of every neighboring State. But this situation in European politics signified nothing but an eternal adjournment of the perilous problem. This is why it is evident that

## Combing Out Class 1 Exemptions

TORONTO, Feb. 26.—Class One under the Military Service Act is to be thoroughly combed before any more classes are called out. This will be done under the supervision of the public representatives for the various military districts. He will do this in three ways; by a perusal of all documents concerning every man, by a series of questionnaires, addressed to each exempted man and his acquaintances and by information supplied by the public.

Some men work an empty honor for all there is in it.

Human nature is often mistaken for kind heartedness.

# Beer & Weeks

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