

# The Charlottetown Guardian

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## LIBERAL PARTY DEGENERATE

The Liberals in South West Toronto have struck evil days. The stalwarts adopted Mr. Gordon Waldron as their candidate on a strong anti-prohibition issue. Mr. Waldron made no pretense about the matter; he does not believe in equivocation or evasion. He says he believes in the open bar and the present booze system, and has no use for prohibition or restrictive measures.

Such a straight-forward course was not to the liking of the Globe and a certain section of the Liberal party who prefer the course of hunting with the hound and running with the hare at the same time. So they adopted Mr. Dewar, K. C., as a compromise candidate. Mr. Dewar says he has no party to the Hearst-Rowell prohibition agreement, but as that is Mr. Rowell's policy for "today" he is bound by it. On the other hand he claims freedom to act as he thinks best in an "emergency," and to vote against prohibition were he to consider that in the best interests of his party.

This trimming of sales has disgusted Sir Allen Aylesworth, former Minister of Justice in the Laurier government, and one of the leaders of Toronto Liberalism. In a speech in support of Mr. Gordon Waldron the other night, Sir Allen did not mince matters at all. He denounced Mr. Rowell, and he denounced the Globe and all its works. His views are so characteristic of many Toronto Liberals that we may be pardoned reproducing them:—

"If the Liberal party is to be turned into a temperance society and no one is to be permitted to be a member of that party unless he is an ardent prohibitionist, then I and hundreds of lifelong Liberals in the Province of Ontario cannot be members," said Sir Allen Aylesworth. He declared prohibition was no cure for intemperance. He and other Liberals repudiated the Globe and all its entangling alliances. Prohibition was intolerant, and he revolted against it, as it was contrary to all principles of Liberalism, Sir Allen said he was as strong a temperance man as any man in the Dominion, and was still a loyal and devoted follower of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, but he could not follow the leadership of Mr. W. N. Rowell. He did not question the sincerity of the latter, and held him in very high regard. But Mr. Rowell made a very great mistake when he assumed the leadership of the Liberal party in the Legislature in making the temperance question the foremost in the party platform. That question had no place in politics.

THE POLICY OF TOTAL PROHIBITION MIGHT SUIT A GEORGE III TORY, OR A MAN WHO BELIEVED IN THE KAISERISM OF GERMANY, BUT IT WAS AGAINST ALL PRINCIPLES OF LIBERALISM.

He would never be a party to the passing of laws to make it a crime for a man to take a glass of beer, or to sell a cigarette, or to hold a horse race. Such things were not crimes, and it was scandalous that a person should have to risk being sent to jail because he indulged in them. They might just as well pass a law rendering it obligatory for a person to attend church on Sunday under a penalty of being sent to jail for non-attendance. Intemperance was undoubtedly a menace to the community, but it was a greater menace that it should be the subject of legislation. It was time to call a halt to such legislation.

Sir Allen said he could not support Mr. Hartley Dewar, BECAUSE HE WAS TRIFLING WITH THE PROHIBITION QUESTION. He assailed the Globe for having stated that it would rather support a prohibitionist Conservative than a Liberal who was in league with the liquor interests.

"Shades of George Brown! Is that the voice of the Liberal party?" he asked, and answered the question in the negative, and proceeded to bewail the fact that the Globe could no longer be regarded as the "Grit's Bible," or as a source of leadership to the once great Liberal party. He concluded by urging the electors of South-west Toronto to vote for Mr. Gordon Waldron and against prohibition.

## C RUITING IN CANADA

The appeal for recruits, to which such a magnificent response was given in every part of the Dominion during the early stages of the war, appears to have lost its original drawing power. Recruiting has slackened off perceptibly in all the provinces, our own not excepted. The Fifth Stege Battery is still short of strength, although there are many men of military age and who are physically fit, still walking our streets or doing work that women or men physically unfit for military duty could do equally well. The same is true of our sister provinces.

In looking for a reason for the slackening off it must not be forgotten that the first call for men came when danger threatened the flag, when men were horrified at the atrocities and infamies perpetrated in Belgium, and every man with red blood in his veins and who could drop his work or break home ties, even at a great sacrifice, rushed to the colors. Those who were at first reluctant to don the khaki came later until, apparently, the thoroughly reluctant and unwilling were reached. Or is it the indifference that comes of familiarity? Do we need a new stimulus to awaken those still holding back? The incentive for recruiting is just as great as ever, German infamy and cruelty

call as loudly as ever, if not for vengeance, at least for crushing as we would crush the deadly and treacherous serpent. The blood of our men is still flowing, our boys are still giving their lives, and every life call for help. But we have apparently become callous and are taking only a sort of academic interest in the struggle. An exchange expresses the opinion that a new stimulus to recruiting is needed and suggests that this can be found in the fact that those who enlist now will be in the game when the Allied forces are pounding on to their final victory. This surely should be an inspiration. It is more "on to Berlin" today than ever before in the history of the war.

The hour of victory is approaching. The German war machine, weakened by its own terrific efforts and undermined by the grim, bull-dog tenacity of the Allies, is crumbling slowly to impotence. The very fury of its attacks proves that. It is like a mad dog that knows it is cornered, and dashes wildly from side to side in a vain effort to escape. There is no escape. The soul of civilization has been stirred to its depths by the appalling cynicism with which this war was started by the Germans and the brutality with which they have waged it. The Allies are pressing forward to their inevitable triumph with greater and yet greater stubbornness. They have guns enough to pack their lines from Switzerland to the sea. They have men enough to hold those lines and to complete the tremendous battering of the artillery.

What greater incentive could be looked for than the prospect of being there at the finish? Surely nothing could more strongly appeal to the red-blooded than to see and participate in the final wind-up of that series of crimes that has shocked the soul of civilization! We still need at least 150,000 Canadians to fulfil our promise of half a million.

To be there "at the finish" is a privilege that should appeal irresistibly to all young men. We trust the next few weeks will see a rush for this privilege that will fill up all our incomplete battalions, and more than promise of half a million.

## THE MAN WHO DOES THINGS

"Canada," published in London and Toronto, thus comments on General Sir Sam Hughes and his recent visit to England:

The Canadian Minister of Militia, Major-General Sir Sam Hughes, arrived in England on Saturday. The London Press gave him a welcome as cordial and hearty as has greeted any Minister from the British Dominions. The Daily Mail reminded its readers how General Hughes "in a few months transformed a feeble Militia into one of the great fighting forces of the world," and referred to Canada's Minister of Militia as "the man who gets things done."

In a general interview given to the representatives of the British Press, Sir Sam referred to the half million men which is the contribution to the great cause that Canada is enlisting, and already, he told them, 400,000 men have offered themselves, and over 835,000 have been accepted. "The men are still coming in, and as long as the war lasts there will be a constant stream of Canadians across the Atlantic to take part in it and back up the cause of Liberty."

The forceful personality and dynamic energy of Sir Sam Hughes have won him many admirers in the Mother Country as well as in Canada. In "getting things done," he has trodden on some toes and made enemies. The cause of his sudden and unexpected departure when he was in England in April was to face charges of corruption brought by political opponents against the Department of Militia in connection with the Allison contracts. The Commission which was appointed to investigate the charges completely exonerated the General from any personal knowledge of or complicity in the Allison contracts—a foregone conclusion to everyone unbiassed by party prejudice.

The sincere and noteworthy tribute to the personality of Sir Sam Hughes in the London Press is a well-deserved recognition of the great outstanding part which Canada has played from the first moment that the ominous mutterings of war reached Ottawa in the latter days of July, 1914. As the Princess Royal of the Dominions—to use the graceful epithet of Sir Charles Lucas—Canada has done more in her sacrifices and contributions to the Empire in arms than anyone could have asked, or than anyone not intimately acquainted with the virility and steadfastness of her people would have anticipated.

## NOTES

Five thousand men have left Camp Hughes, in Manitoba, for the harvest fields and it is expected that within a few days ten thousand more will have done likewise. The soldiers in question are serving their country well in the matter. Next in importance to the work in the war fields is the gathering in of the crops. The Camp Hughes men are aiding in both enterprises.

We are told by some military authorities that the British and French are not yet able to exert their full strength, that there are still two million or more men in training and that the "big drive" will not likely begin before next Spring. This may or may not be so. It would appear to be part at least of the Allies plan of campaign to allow the Germans to exhaust their strength on the now impregnable trenches in the West and in hurried movements of troops and munitions from one point to another. In any case if the great offensive is on it is not being hurried. There is no need to hurry. There are some millions of men yet behind them who are being made ready, thousands of tons of munitions to draw from and the enemy is breaking his strength against impregnable barriers. The whole process is moving on towards a triumphant end and both we and the enemy know it.

# PATRIOTISM AND BENEVOLENCE

## The Duty of Today Not Tomorrow

The Patriot having reiterated in five spasms all the unwarranted criticism advanced by the Leader of the Opposition and his three lieutenants of the Government's patriotic policy, we may now reproduce Premier Mathieson's cogent reply which effectively disposed of the petty, carping opposition advanced in the Legislature.

Premier Mathieson said:— We met here for a purpose that was clearly designated. We met here for the purpose of commemorating the second anniversary of the opening of the great war. We were assembled in special session to take into consideration some conditions that were entirely novel; and the development of so large a number of cases of tuberculosis among the soldiers, and the policy adopted by the Hospitals Commission whereby the Dalton Sanatorium became one of the hospitals placed on the list for the use of returned soldiers, introduced a new element. The further enrolment of volunteers within the province gave rise to further calls that could have been estimated precisely when the session was last held, and above all, was the desire that the members of this Legislature, meeting together, should put in form as concrete as possible their views as to what would be the best course to pursue in regard to all the matters pertaining to the war. In order that we might take joint action, to the credit of the Legislature and of the province, I invited the leader of the Opposition to meet me, which he did on Tuesday last, and then I put in his hands not only the proposed legislation but the whole program, and I discussed every feature of the case with him in full. The leader of the Opposition said he was not prepared to give final answers to certain things but would call a council of his followers and would advise me later of what was intended. HE DID NOT KEEP HIS WORD; he never advised me of the result of that conference. He never said whether they had agreed to put the Government programme through without opposition, or whether they proposed to oppose it; AND I WANT EVERY HONORABLE MEMBER WHO SITS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HOUSE TO TAKE THE FULL RESPONSIBILITY OF THAT LINE OF CONDUCT. If ever there was an occasion in the history of the Island when unity of action among parties was called for, surely it was at this session. Surely this is an occasion of which,—for the honor of the province—it might afterwards be said that, when matters involving our standing and our duty in the Empire were concerned, we were all prepared to put aside party politics and stand shoulder to shoulder. I had hoped that would be the case. I took every step to bring about such a result, conferred with the leader of the Opposition, and, notwithstanding his promise to inform me of his intention after he had consulted his followers he now introduces this resolution.

Mr. BELL: Allow me to make an explanation. THE PREMIER: Was there a promise on your part to give me an answer? Mr. BELL: No.

THE PREMIER: The hon. member says he left my office with the Government resolution in his hands and full information from me as to what our intention was, with the whole programme before him, and yet he gave me no promise of an answer! Mr. BELL: What we did agree to was this: My hon. friend did invite me. He wrote me a letter, which I have here, inviting me to a conference, and I replied in substance to say I would be very glad to get any communications he had to make, and that I would call my friends together and submit these matters to their consideration. In addition to that I came down and met him personally and the suggestion was that he and I should put our heads together and agree on a certain line of procedure. I made no promise of making a report of what the result of any conference with my friends was. The suggestion on my part was simply to submit what he had to say to the Liberal Party so that when the session met business might be expedited.

THE PREMIER: We will take him at his word, that he came into a conference, having for its avowed object an agreement upon a programme at this special session. That was the object. What he says is that he came to the conference, that I gave him all the information and put all the cards on the table before him, and that he walked away with that information and was under no obligation to refer again to the matter! I gave him all the information as to what we proposed to do, gave him our whole case, and it was open to him to sit down and frame up a resolution in opposition to our policy and never return with an answer! ANY PERSON WHO CAN ACCEPT THAT STATEMENT FROM THE HON. MEMBER AND REGARD THAT AS THE COURSE A MAN OF HONOR COULD FOLLOW IS WELCOME TO SUCH A LEADER—entering into a conference for the purpose of trying to arrange joint action on a national and patriotic question, taking all the information that was afforded him, going away and preparing ammunition to fire at us in the House when the session opened and not being under any obligation whatever! NO PARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE WILL PROPERLY APPLY TO A COURSE OF ACTION SUCH AS THAT, and then he comes with this resolution, typewritten and prepared. I DO NOT WONDER THAT THE HON. MEMBER HESITATED BEFORE HE WOULD READ SUCH A THING TO THE HOUSE, CONCEIVED AS IT WAS IN A BREACH OF HONOR, FRAMED AS IT IS TO AVOID RESPONSIBILITY AND SHIRK A PRESSING DUTY. I HAVE NEVER SEEN INTRODUCED INTO THIS HOUSE ANY RESOLUTION THAT STRUCK SO LOW A LEVEL AS THIS DOES, DEALING WITH A QUESTION THAT CALLS FOR THE HIGHEST AND NOBLEST QUALITIES IN MAN.

RE-VALUATION OF LANDS. The resolution is first of all a statement with regard to the re-valuation of lands now going on. I may inform the hon. gentleman that the re-valuation which is now in progress in this province is by

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DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS. Furnished by W. S. Louson. IF WE ONLY KNEW. There are gems of wondrous bright ness Ottimes lying at our feet. And we pass them, walking thoughtless Down the busy, crowded street. If we knew, our pace would slacken— We would stop more oft with care, Lest our careless feet be treading To the earth some jewel rare. If we knew what friends around us Feel a want they never tell— That some word that we have spoken Pained or wounded where it fell; We would speak in accents tender To each friend we chance to meet. We would give to each one freely Smiles of sympathy so sweet.

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