

The Charlottetown Guardian

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SATURDAY'S FIRE

Charlottetown has for many years enjoyed an almost exceptional immunity from fires, certainly an immunity from general conflagrations.

Saturday morning's fire was, from the view point of possible consequences, the most serious that has threatened the City in many years and the fact that it did not result in a general conflagration, involving perhaps the greatest part of the City, was due in a very large measure to the providence or the accident that it occurred on an exceptionally mild and fine morning as well as to the strenuous and creditable efforts of the firemen.

The Silsby engine, the principal fire fighting apparatus in the City was practically out of commission on the morning of the fire. There were no couplings by which it could be connected with the hydrants and it was only after losing considerable time in trying to attach it to a hydrant that this discovery was made.

Mayor Brown informs The Guardian that a set of couplings had recently been procured, but they had not been tested and it was only on the morning of the fire the discovery was made that they did not fit.

The want of watchfulness indicated by the fact that the flames were bursting through the roofs of the buildings involved and that the inmates of adjoining dwellings were able to get out of bed and dress and begin moving their furniture before the alarm was given, is a matter that should be looked into.

It was rumoured that there was not enough hose to take care of another fire, had one occurred elsewhere in the City. Mayor Brown informs The Guardian that this was not so, that there were several hundred feet of hose in reserve.

Another fact revealed by this fire was the necessity of tearing down fire traps instead of waiting for them to be burned down and threatening the City. There are many of them throughout the City and

the sooner action is taken towards cleaning them off the better. The history of all cities is that all such fire traps are burned sooner or later and in very many cases the destruction is not confined to themselves.

This, be it remembered, is not a criticism of the firemen or of their work. Charlottetown's fire fighters are as prompt, as daring and as efficient as any fire brigade on the continent and they have proved it on many occasions, but to enable them to save property and to save the City they must be given the fullest opportunity and the best apparatus that it is in the means of the City to give them.

AN HONEST LIBERAL

The Manitoba Free Press, the leading Liberal newspaper of the west, says editorially in its issue of the 6th inst:

"In order to prevent any possible misunderstanding the Free Press asserts that it will not take the responsibility of assisting in the election of any Liberal candidate, however high his position in the party, however emphatic his protestations as to war policy, if he seeks the suffrage of the people solely as a party candidate without the endorsement of a union convention.

PROPORTIONATELY

There are 6,000 "conscientious objectors" to military service in Great Britain, according to recent statistics. As to why they object it is not worth enquiring into. Some of them, like the Quakers, honestly and conscientiously object to killing a fellow being.

Six thousand seems a large number when taken by itself and, taking it by itself, we are amazed that our noble mother country, which has kept the peace and the safety of the world for many generations, should be cumbered with so many whom we call slackers.

We are amazed when the police court reveals the fact that some half a dozen children have been convicted of theft. Six child thieves before the police magistrate! Six drunks in one week before the police magistrate! We raise our hands in horror at the thought, forgetting that there are six thousand honest children, six thousand sober citizens in the City.

The proportion of delinquents, of criminals, of undesirables of any description is amazingly small notwithstanding the "fits we throw" and the self accusation we indulge in when one goes wrong. If the "ninety and nine who need no repentance" did their duty by the "one who has gone astray" instead of anathematizing the whole hundred because of the failure of the one, how much happier and better the world would be.

NOTES

"No suffrage for those who do not serve the country in peace and war," is the slogan of Col Roosevelt. Canada can find no better.

Brockton, Mass., housewives have just had two cents chopped off the price of milk and a twelve cents a quart price established by a boycott which induced the producers to say "perhaps they had made a mistake in raising the price to fourteen cents."

THE WAR NEEDS OF CANADA

THE NEED FOR GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF MUNITION PLANTS

By Benjamin Apthorp Gould

The fact that the contracts for Canadian-made munitions are not being largely renewed upon their completion may render it unnecessary to consider the question of government control at any great length. According to the best information I can get, it seems improbable that any very great quantities of munitions will be henceforward shipped from Canada and it is usually thought that the reason for this is that the British plants are now capable of turning out the necessary quantities at a cost certainly no greater than that of munitions produced in Canada.

In figuring the cost of production the Imperial Munitions Board has, however, been compelled to take into consideration wages almost as high as those paid at the beginning. It is admittedly one of the most difficult things in economics to reduce wages which have been unduly high, especially at a time when there is a shortage of labor, and consequently the cost of munitions to the Imperial Government has been, and is now, much greater than would have been the case if wages had not originally been boosted to unheard of heights.

Much more serious, however, than the immediate cost of such wages has been the harm done to other industries by stripping them bare of workers who have sought the higher wages obtainable in munitions. The practical break-down of the railway system a year ago was in a great measure attributed to the fact that skilled mechanics necessary to keep the locomotives in proper running condition were not obtainable as they had in great part gone into munition work where the return for their labor was two or three times as great as it would have been in the railway round-houses.

Almost the same criticisms which have been made in reference to the production of munitions may also with justice be made in regard to other industries which have sprung up since 1914 to take care of other war requirements of the country. These industries are a result of the war, and a clear distinction should be made between them and those industries which were already in existence and which have merely continued or extended their previous operations.

Even should the amount of munitions to be produced in Canada be henceforth comparatively small, there is the prospect that the plants which have hitherto been producing them will be kept very busy in other war work. It is probable that every well equipped machine-shop will be able to obtain contracts for making parts for marine engines to the full extent of its capacity, and that the necessity for government control of prices payable both for the finished product and for wages will be as important as ever.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

PRAYING AND PREACHING

The dead line in the ministry, as in any other calling, is the line of laziness. The lawyer can not use last year's briefs. The physician can not depend on last week's diagnosis. The merchant can not assume that a customer of ten years standing will not be outlived elsewhere.

"Elias prayed... and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit."—James 5:18.

Those who yearn for revivals naturally lay much stress on preaching. But what is preaching without praying? Sermons are but pulpit performances, learned essays, rhetorical orations, popular lectures, or, it may be, political harangues until God gives in answer to earnest prayer the preparation of the heart, and the answer of the tongue. It is only he who prays that can truly preach. Many a sermon that has shown no intellectual genius and has violated all homiletic rules and standards has had dynamic spiritual force. Somehow it has moved men, melted them, moulded them. The man whose lips are touched by God's living coal from off the altar may even stammer, but his hearers soon find out that he is on fire with one consuming passion to save souls.

LAURIER PAST AND PRESENT

By "W. J. H." in Manitoba Free Press

When Sir Wilfrid Laurier visited France in 1897, after having taken part as Prime Minister of Canada, in the Jubilee of Queen Victoria, he was received by the French people with enthusiastic welcomes. In his first speech in Paris, he spoke of the German invasion of France in 1870:

"Separated though we have been from France, we have ever followed her career with passionate interest, taking our part in her glories and her triumphs in her rejoicings, and in her sorrows—in her sorrows—most of all. ALAS! we never knew perhaps how dear she was to us until the day of her misfortune! On that day, if you suffered, WE suffered NOT LESS than you!"

What would the people of France when they were cheering Sir Wilfrid in 1897, have said if the curtain which hides the future could then have been drawn aside, disclosing to their view the QUEBEC French-Canadians of 1917, and the LAURIER of 1917?

The foregoing words of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in Paris twenty years ago, which we have taken from a recent issue of the Canadian Gazette, of London, have led us to spend a couple of hours in looking through a book which we have prized greatly—"Wilfrid Laurier on the Platform, 1870-1890", compiled by Urie Barthe, with introduction by L. O. David and J. S. Willson (now Sir John). Our copy of the book was given to us by Mr. Barthe, in Ottawa in 1890, and the signature "Wilfrid Laurier" opposite the title page has made us value it as a souvenir of old days.

"I do not pretend to be indifferent to the possession of power. Under our system the possession of power and its accompanying advantages are the legitimate reward of the victor; but THE FIRST AND PRINCIPAL OBJECTS IS TO STRUGGLE FOR WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE JUST AND TRUE whatever may be the upshot of our efforts. The last charge made at Reichshoffen by McMahon's cuirassiers, riding to their death, is recalled with emotion, because it was a sacrifice to the fortunes of France—patriots in DEED as well as in NAME!"

And in his speech in the House at Ottawa on the Jesuits' Estates bill on the 28th of March, 1889, which we listened to from the press gallery, he said:

"We have seen France and England arrayed together against a common foe; and to US British subjects who have learned to love England well and who appreciate her benevolent rule, who would not go back to the allegiance of France, but who still ever cherish in our hearts the love of that glorious land of our ancestors. NO SPECTACLES COULD BE MORE CONSOLING THAN TO SEE THE BANNERS OF FRANCE AND ENGLAND WAVING TOGETHER, as they did on the banks of the Alma, on the heights of Inkerman, and amid the ashes of Sebastopol!"

The banners of France and England are waving together AGAIN in the most desperate fight that has ever had to be made for Freedom

and the future of humanity. And WHERE STANDS QUEBEC?

"The wound left by that cruel war in the hearts of the children of Old France is not in any respect more painful than the wound left by it in the hearts of the children of New France. When WE had to resign ourselves to the conviction that Alsace and Lorraine were to be torn from France, I appeal to your recollections that if WE were to be deprived of a member of our own bodies, WAS IT NOT THE TRUTH that WE could not have suffered more cruelly? Since that time WE have waited with as deep a conviction and as firm a hope, as those we persist in calling our brethren over the sea. FOR THE DAY OF REVENGE. The age is no longer, one from which populations may be violently torn from their native country and annexed against their will to a government which is not the government of their choice."

The time has passed when Might can permanently overbear Right. Descendants of the French race as we are, and LONG ACCUSTOMED AS WE HAVE BEEN TO THE AMPLEST LIBERTY AS BRITISH SUBJECTS, WE LOUDLY AND PROUDLY PROCLAIM, UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE BRITISH FLAG, OUR FRENCH ORIGIN. We see France so calm and so patient and WE HOPE, may believe, that the day will come when that old device will be realized in Europe.

Je suis un chien qui rouge l'os En le rougeant, je prends mon repos; Un jour viendra, qui n'est pas veau, Quand je mordrai qui m'aura mordu.

WHAT AN ARRANGMENT the foregoing words are TODAY against the man who uttered them in the city of Quebec on the 17th of November, 1880—WHAT AN UNANSWERABLE INDICTMENT they are NOW, when on the blood-soaked soil of France, with a savage ruthlessness of outrage unprecedented in all history, Might is doing its utmost to overbear Right!

Many another eloquent utterance in regard to France, in the same high strain as these printed in the foregoing paragraphs, was spoken by Laurier WHO WAS—the gallant champion of true liberalism, in the wide, not the partisan, sense of that word, the fearless fighter against reactionary ecclesiasticism in Quebec, the true patriot and unflinching friend of Freedom, whom so many Canadians loved and were proud to follow as their leader. Well, Sir Wilfrid knows, none better what the greatest of the kings of France, Henry of Navarre, said of the faithless friend who failed him in the hour of battle.

W. J. H.

THE WINDWARD WON IN GOOD RACE.

HALIFAX, September 6.—The first of a series of three friendly races were held off the harbor yesterday afternoon by the Windward, of Halifax, the Mist, of Chester, the Gem of Halifax, and the Linnet, of Chester. The boats finished in the order named, corrected time. The Windward led by about eight minutes, corrected time, given her a lead of one minute. In the clear air and brilliant sunlight the race made a picture much admired by those fortunate enough to be within sight of the scudding craft. There was a good sailing breeze but a rather heavy swell for comfort. It is expected that the second race will be held this afternoon, the weather proving favorable, and the third ever had to be made for Freedom

TAKING CHANCES

Think of the plight of your family if you were killed or seriously injured. Now your wages provide them with the comforts they deserve. Your wife is free from worry. Your children are obtaining a good education. Your love shields and protects them and they are happy. But what would happen if you met with a serious accident? Deprived of your support and protection, your wife would be compelled to take up the burden as a breadwinner. And, lacking your skill and training, she would be forced to take whatever work she could get—poorly paid drudger that would break her health while bringing in hard enough to avert starvation. Your children might be forced to leave school to enter a mill or factory. Make the future of your family secure by taking out Life and Accident Insurance to-day, while in good health. Hyndman & Co. Ltd. Ch'Town The Oldest Insurance Agency in P. E. I.

STRONG BOOTS We have some very nice lines, suitable for fall and winter wear. Solid leather boots ingrain, kip, etc. for men, women and children. These boots are of the best leather and are noted for their wearing qualities. GOFF BROS