

The Charlottetown Guardian

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FRIDAY FEBRUARY 15th, 1918.

BEHIND THE GIFT

The argument is often advanced that the soldiers are well fed, have plenty of clothing and are in every way well provided for and that, therefore, there is no need of sending them parcels of either food or comforts. It is true the soldiers are well provided for, true that when wounded or sick in hospital they are given even better care than they could get if they were in their own homes. Nevertheless the gratitude expressed in the soldiers' letters acknowledging these gifts, it will be noted, is not so much for the "eats" or the comforts but for what is behind these, the thoughtfulness of the home friends, the things from home. The word home, means much more to these boys than it did when home was the one present reality, and just taken for granted as part of the life. Home was never as dear to them as now when far away from it and with death stalking between it and them, and the little remembrances from home, the assurance that home and home friends are thinking about them, trying to help them in their difficulties is the one great inspiration "to keep on carrying on." What they need above everything else is courage to persevere, to "stick it out," and the best specific for this is the assurance that their home friends are watching them and helping them.

This is why the sending of little occasional comforts and treats should not be given up and we are glad to know there is no evidence of its being given up. It is the bond between the boys and home, between them and discouragement, between them and the evils by which they may be surrounded.

If war weariness is falling upon the nations at war, as doubtless it is, the lands untouched by war, as ours is, should not be the first to show it. We have little to weary about, except the long wait, and that can be shortened and made helpful by helping those who are bearing the burden and who are ready to die rather than admit weariness.

REDEEMING MONTREAL

As noted in our despatches yesterday, steps are being taken to redeem the city of Montreal from threatened bankruptcy. New taxation has been ordered which will produce over four million dollars extra revenue yearly. This taxation has been made quite general and includes a ten dollar tax on bachelors besides taxes and sur taxes which cover pretty nearly everything in sight.

It will be remembered that a short time ago Premier Gouin recommended drastic measures for the government of Montreal and his recommendation has been approved by the Quebec Legislature.

The measure roughly outlined by Premier Gouin has been changed somewhat in its final form. The commission of five, composed of three permanent officials and two to be appointed by the Provincial Government, will not sit on the aldermanic board, as originally proposed. But the commissioners will not be required to go to the council for approval, except in certain not very important cases. And their recommendations can be defeated only by a three fourths vote. If the council does not act within thirty days the commissioners' reports will be automatically adopted. The commission will send to the council only the annual budget, the supplementary budget, reports for the diversion of funds, appropriation of loans, taxes and license matters, bylaws, except those relating to municipal employes, and matters of annexations and franchises and privileges.

The commissioners are practically appointed for life. Two of the permanent heads are to be discharged only by a two-thirds vote of Council approved by the Provincial Government, and the third stays until dismissed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. The chairman is to receive \$10,000 salary, and the others \$7,500. If the present city attorney accepts the position of chairman he is to receive a salary of \$15,000. In case of a vacancy among the three permanent officials, the other commissioners may name a successor to be approved by a majority of council. If a vacancy is not filled within thirty days the Provincial Government may appoint a man. The commission is given power to create a technical commission of heads of departments or of others.

The Mayor's wings have been clipped even more than originally intended by the

Premier and it is not surprising therefore, that Mayor Martin should have flown into a rage when addressing, without any effect, the committee of the Legislature. The duties of the Mayor are defined to be those of a representative of the city. He has the power to make representations to the commission, to preside at the meetings of the City Council and vote in the City Council in case of a tie. He is to be ex-officio member of the council committees. If the Mayor refuses to sign documents, such as bylaws and bonds, etc., within the space of 48 hours, the president of the commission may sign such documents.

M. S. A. VINDICATED

A month has elapsed since the first of the Class A men were called out under the Military Service Act, giving us a chance to see how conscription is working. The tumult and the shouting preceding the election on December 17 has subsided. Most of the exemption appeals have been disposed of. The draftees called up have responded with scarcely any trouble. There have been comparatively few defaulters and fewer desertions.

When the draft of about 500 men left London last Thursday night for an eastern point one could not help contrasting conditions with the days of volunteer recruiting. Take the case of the 241st Canadian Scottish Borderers, the last volunteer unit raised here. It was authorized in June of 1916 and did not leave until May of 1917. Nearly a year elapsed in trying to secure recruits. The battalion was maintained here longer than was necessary to complete the preliminary training, and then had to leave with depleted companies, the battalion being little more than half strength on the final roll call, following the last medical inspection.

Under the Military Service Act upwards of two thousand men were mobilized in London and within a month one draft of 500 or so was able to leave for a seaboard point. Here was a draft about the same size as the 241st kilties that required almost a year to raise.—The Windsor Record.

SOME TASK

The newly elected City Council will in all probability have an opportunity to experiment on street making before what constitutes the streets and footpaths of today mingles itself with the waters of the Northumberland Strait and other things intervening. There are large possibilities on the streets at present for trouble. If the snow, of which there is more than the ordinary quantity, undertakes to depart suddenly under pressure of a thaw there will be something doing in waders and, after the experiences of a month ago, there will be re-creations and wet feet. The sidewalks have many difficulties in store for City Councils and the Council that best solves these or some of them will receive the blessing of the community.

A CALL TO THE CITIES

In the labor force represented by people in cities, towns and villages is the principal hope of any large increase in the production of food in Canada in 1918. There must be readjustment between producers and non-producers if the present dangerous situation is to be relieved. The Canadian farmer today is doing his utmost. Even the inducement of higher prices would not result in much greater production because greater production is for him a physical impossibility under present conditions of labor scarcity. The dwellers in cities and towns must now do their part. The need of food is indeed grave and now is the time when plans must be made for the coming season.

Every back yard should be used for the cultivation of fruit and vegetables. Suburban areas should be utilized for food production. Much could be done by individual households if people only realize the desperate seriousness of the situation and the fact that every ounce of food is a necessary and important contribution in the fight against defeat. Hundreds of thousands of men and women, boys and girls, could spare a short time each day to cultivate a garden and thus to grow food which would release other food commodities for shipment overseas. The staffs of industrial establishments, both office and factory, could do much by organizing clubs to cultivate vacant lots elsewhere in the municipality. Girl Guides and Boy Scouts could also make a real contribution towards relief of the situation. In this way a large part of the requirements of cities and towns, in so far as vegetables are concerned, would be supplied by back yard and vacant lot cultivation, so that market gardeners could use their land in part for grain crops.

Children Love It!

A wholesome spread for a piece of Bread. "Crown" Syrup is a pure, delicious Table Syrup—much less expensive than Butter. Fine for homemade Candy.

All grocers sell it in 2, 5, 10 and 20 lb. tins and 3 lb. "Perfect Seal" Glass Jars.

Write for free Cook Book

THE CANADA STARCH CO. LIMITED, MONTREAL.

SEVERE CRITICISMS ON VERSAILLES COUNCIL

(Special to the Guardian.) LONDON, Feb. 14.—Commenting on the Versailles War Council, The Daily Telegraph says that President Wilson's address is a most admirable presentation of the world's case against the Central autocracies and in unanswerably clear and precise terms. The Morning Post describes the address as grave, deliberate and restrained. With regard to the President's reference to Count Czernin, it says that as long as Austria-Hungary is dominated by Prussia her ministers must submit to dictation and therefore it is impossible to deal with them. "President Wilson," it adds, "can but reiterate the ideals for which the United States entered the war and her determination to continue the war until victory is achieved. The obstacle is militarist Germany, and it must be removed or destroyed. There is no doubt of America's resolution or ability to defeat Germany, what is doubtful is the time required to accomplish it."

ITALIAN GENERAL'S IMPRESSION OF BRITAIN

All England Standing Against the Enemy, a Brotherhood in Arms.

(Special to the Guardian.) ROME, Feb. 12.—The Minister of War, General Alfieri, has returned to Rome from a visit to England. "The impression I received," he said "may be summarized in the words earnestness and discipline which apply to the whole British Empire. My observations of the English people confirm the impression I received when I saw the British troops on my own front. The object of my journey was to place myself in contact with the directing organizations of the British. This was accomplished most satisfactorily. All England is standing together against the enemy in the just case. In the reciprocal help which must become even greater, and in the brotherhood in arms the traditional Anglo-Italian friendship becomes even closer, realizing today the ideals of great Italians in the past."

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson. THE MESSAGE OF THE FACE What kind of expression do you wear habitually? Is it sour, morose, repellent? Is it a mean, stingy, contemptible, uncharitable, intolerant expression? Do you wear the expression of a bullock, a grasping, greedy, hungry expression, which indicates an avaricious nature? Do you go about among the members of your family with a thunder-cloud expression, with a melancholy, despondent, hopeless look on your face? Do you wear the sunshine expression which radiates good cheer and hope, which indicates a feeling of good will and of helpfulness? These questions are asked by a keen student of nature writing in a recent publication. Do people smile and look happier when you approach them, or do they shrink from you and feel a chilly goose-flesh sensation come over them when you see you approach? It makes all the difference in the world to you and to those whom you influence, what kind of expression you wear.—The Continent.

A HARVESTER'S DIARY

(Continued)

SAN DIEGO, Jan. 12, 1918.—Yesterday I found my old neighbour and friend J. S. It was like going home to be so gladly received into his hospitable house. My friend has a nice place with oranges and lemons ripening in his garden, also lots of flowers in bloom. His income is such that he is not obliged to work, and he owns a fine air-cooled automobile. This forenoon I went with J. S. in his auto over some of the city and part of the 1400 acre park. In the afternoon we went to Old Town to see the place where Remona and Alisandra were married, according to the story, "Remona's marriage place" visitors are informed. The old Spanish home is now used as a museum of the large rooms was used as a chapel for public worship in the early days. The garden is gorgeous with flowers. A rock in the midst of a fountain near-by marks the place where General Fremont planted the American flag in the Mexican war.

Jan. 15.—My friend has kept his auto going much of the time since I came, showing me places of interest. We were at Sunset Cliffs, at Ocean Beach. The Great Pacific seems to be asleep in these tranquil latitudes. No severe windstorms arise to stir the giant to very much action. From what I have seen of it, I think the ocean was well named Pacific. Much has been done to assist nature in making the cliffs beautiful and interesting. Concrete steps have been made in many places and rustic bridges thrown across chasms. A cave runs far into the sandstone rock in which the boom of the waves sounds like the discharge of cannon. A tunnel has been dug from the surface down through the rock and opens on a shelf of rock in the cave. This shelf has an iron railing along its edge for safety. The tunnel or passage is quite a length and gradually slopes downward. Branches open on the cave in two other places. Lighted lanterns guide visitors through the darkness. There is daylight in the cave, at least that portion of it. Ocean Beach is quite a good sized town. San Diego has a very even temperature the year round. It is warm in winter, and cool in summer. There is little rainfall in any part of Southern California at any time, but the past summer and winter there has been much less than usual. Pastures among the hills are withered up. Alfalfa may be thirty dollars a ton. Today we crossed the ferry to Coronada taking the auto. Coronada is almost an island with the bay on the east side and the ocean on the west. It has a magnificent hotel and a Tent City to accommodate the hosts of summer sojourners.

North Island is quite near. It is low and flat and is used as a U. S. Army training station. Numbers of machines were on the wing and looked like great birds in the air. We drove along the ocean front past the hotel tent city and along the five mile narrow strip of land to the mainland with the bay on one side and the ocean on the other. Then home through Palm City, Chulavita, National City, passing great lemon groves and lots of flowers on the way. While at Ocean Beach we were not far from Point Loma where there is a fort, but could not go there because it is war time. As our boat entered the harbour of San Diego a search light from the fort played on us in a very inquisitive manner. In the afternoon C. McK. came with us to the Exposition buildings and Ostrich Farm. These buildings are situated in the large city park. Some of them are now used as quarters by U. S. Sailors while training. San Diego was fortunate in having a suitable place for the Exposition buildings where they could be left as a permanent part of the City. A great concrete bridge was built across a big canyon near the buildings. The fair was going on for two years, ending in the spring of 1917. I have heard more than one person say that The Canadian Exhibit was the best thing there. The Botanical building had at the present time a great display of plant life, many specimens being tropical. The tropical plants, are in a glass house which is artificially heated. We saw many ostriches at the farm. They live sometimes seventy years but the feathers are not good after thirty five. Mature males are black. We were invited to C. McK.'s to dinner today and had a very pleasant time. I am going to Imperial Valley to-morrow morning by auto stage, over the mountains, 123 miles.

HARVESTER

IN HADES

"I believe this is the warmest day we ever had." "No! We had half a day warmer than this." "How about the rest of the day?" "There wasn't any, it burnt up." Cartoons Magazine.

GET THE FACTS

Sir,—I see in this morning's Guardian an editorial "Get the Facts" re amount of potatoes grown by amateurs in and around the City last year, which is commendable, but why not go a little further, and get at the facts of how many bushels of potatoes are in the farmer's and dealer's hands throughout the province available for export. It has been stated through the foreign and island press there are from 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 bushels of potatoes on the island available for export, which is to my mind very misleading as I do not believe there is anything like that quantity and I think it would be a move in the right direction to find out as near as possible the correct quantities we have for export and the same published without delay. Trusting this will be done either through the Government and Farmer's Institutes or any other way the true facts can be arrived at. I am, Sir, etc. JOHN AGNEW. City, Feb. 15, 1918.

HANGS HIMSELF IN TORONTO JAIL

TORONTO, Feb. 14.—Edward Jas. Pottingham, aged thirty-seven, a prisoner on remand at the jail hanged himself Monday night some time after supper. He was charged on seven o'clock by one of the jailers suspended with a belt around his neck from the top of the cell door. The body was cut down and an examination showed that life was extinct. He was in a cell by himself at the time. He had shown no despondent symptoms and his actions were not at all suspected. He was arrested by Detective Maurer, on a charge of fraud and false pretences. One charge is that of trying to pass a marked check on R. N. Melville, steamship agent, for \$10 and also that of obtaining board and lodging in several places. He appeared in court and was remanded in order that the police might get further particulars about his movements. According to the military police, he claimed to be attached to the British foreign office, and engaged upon war trade, more particularly in a contract deal between Serbia and Canada. He stated that his immediate chief was Mr. Osborne, third secretary, British embassy, and also said he was a captain in the Duke of Lancaster's regiment. He said he had held the rank on active service in France and had taken part in the retreat from Mons, having charge of a section of the lines of communication. He mentioned a brother, a naval officer, lost on the H.M.S. Hampshire, and gave his address as Killinhal, near Leeds, England, and said his father was a director of the Elder-Dempster Line. He claimed intimate friendship with such people as Lord Reading, Lord Robert Cecil, Sir John Hendrie, Lieut-Governor of Ontario and family, Sir Robert Borden and other well known people of Canada. He claimed privileges at York, Toronto and National Clubs, such privileges being extended on account of his being a British foreign office official. He also professed to have been to and fro between Canada and Europe for some years before the war as special correspondent for Northcliffe papers. A man of similar name to that mentioned in the foregoing despatch was active in St. John military circles previous to the beginning of the war. While here and in Halifax he was involved in minor difficulties.

CARD OF THANKS

Ladies and Gentlemen, Electors of Charlottetown: Words would fail to express my appreciation of your efforts in rolling up for me one of the largest majorities ever recorded in a Civic Election. I thank you most heartily and will endeavour to prove worthy of your confidence. Respectfully yours, G. D. WRIGHT.

Rubbers Rubbers Rubbers Ladies Mahogany and Black Rubbers to fit the new shape last now in stock large range to fit any other styles of Boot. Received today Ladies Holeproof Silk Hosiery, 3 months wear guaranteed. GOFF BROS.

