

# The Charlottetown Guardian

Morning Daily (founded 1891), \$3.50 per year, (Delivered in advance; \$2.50 per year (mailed) in advance, in Canada, and \$3.00 for U.S.A.

Head Office at Charlottetown, Branch Office at Summerside, Alberton, Souris and Montague.

Evening Daily (founded 1907) \$2.00 (delivered or by Mail in Canada, and \$2.50 for U.S.A.

SATURDAY MARCH 9th, 1918.

## STANDARDIZING THE RAILWAY

Many reasons have already been advanced as to why the Prince Edward Island Railway should be standardized and the Charlottetown Board of Trade in a resolution published in yesterday's Guardian, has again drawn attention to the subject. No doubt the government fully realizes the necessity of proceeding with this work at the earliest possible moment, but as is only too well known, the war has raised many unforeseen obstacles and these can only be grappled with and overcome as the most urgent necessity demands.

In previous references to this matter the Guardian has pointed out that the standardization of our railway and the establishing of a direct communication between Island points and the continental railway system would be not a matter of expenditure but of economy. With a standardized railway and the heavier engines that would be in use the clearing of our railway in winter would be a very much less expensive business than it is and the cost of transfer at Port Borden under present conditions, which is a very considerable item, would be eliminated. But much greater than these considerations is the matter of marketing our produce. It may as well be admitted at the outset that under present conditions the whole of the Island's exportable produce cannot be got to the market and this is a very serious matter at present when every pound of food produced is needed. At present there are over a million bushels of potatoes stored in the province besides very large quantities of oats and other grains. The potatoes are perishable and a large proportion of those now on hand will not be marketed, simply because they cannot be taken away with our present facilities for handling them. The transfer at Borden from Island to standard cars is not only an additional expense but a source of serious delay and danger from frost and this, in handling a million or more bushels in the short time at disposal, only means that the greater part of the million bushels will not be handled.

The government has been proceeding with the standardization of the road during the past year or more by doing preparatory work in the way of laying standard ties and widening the road-bed. This work is to be taken up in earnest during the coming summer with the intention of broadening the gauge when war pressure has been relieved. This is well, but, under the circumstances, it is not enough. The need of food stuffs is so urgent that the world cannot afford to lose a proportion, a large proportion, of the food raised in even so small a province as Prince Edward Island. Moreover with necessary transportation facilities the production of this province could easily be doubled. As it is, knowing that the products cannot be exported, knowing that serious loss may be incurred through want of shipping facilities our farmers cannot be expected to greatly increase their production.

It is hoped therefore that every effort will be made to place the situation fairly and squarely before the authorities at Ottawa and that our representatives, federal and local, will be backed up by every interest in the province in urging the necessity of going ahead as speedily as possible with this urgently needed war-time work. If it can be definitely announced before seeding time that the standardization of the road will be completed in time for next fall's shipments it is safe to assume that it will mean a greatly increased crop for the coming season and this is one of the world's great needs at present.

## PATRIOTIC ACT

As announced in yesterday morning's Guardian, ex-Mayor Brown intimated to the Great War Veteran's Association, through its secretary, Mrs. Woodman, that he and Mrs. Brown would continue in the future, as in the past, to entertain free of charge at their home, the Revere Hotel, any returning soldiers whose homes are outside the City. It is well known that Mr. Brown, during his term of office and in addition to his official duties as Mayor, not only interested himself in welcoming returned soldiers but has at considerable expense to himself entertained soldiers arriving here and helped them in every possible way, a consideration which was greatly appreciated by the soldiers themselves and by their friends. Now, with his Mayoralty duties over, he offers to continue these good offices and to place the hospitality of his home at the disposal of the soldiers. For this kindness, ex-Mayor Brown is entitled to the gratitude not only of the soldiers and their relatives but of all citizens as well. Few can appreciate the relief it affords to those nearing the end of a long and expensive journey, often with scanty means, to find a kind home placed at their disposal until they are able to reach their own. This the many soldiers who have already been entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Brown have greatly appreciated as will also those who are yet to come. Too much praise cannot be given for this kindly and patriotic act.

From the beginning of Confederation down to 1911 the largest popular majority given any Dominion Government was in 1904, when the Laurier administration received about 50,000 more ballots than the Borden Opposition. The Union Government majority on December 17th was more than six times greater than the victory of 1904, the Government securing 326,008 more votes than the official Opposition. And in addition to its being the greatest popular triumph in Canadian electioneering history, it also constitutes the largest parliamentary majority. Never, indeed, has any Government anywhere received a more unanimous or impressive mandate.

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## THE SKEPTICAL PATRIOT

Captain Read, M.P. for Prince County, has come to the assistance of the Patriot, while the Patriot itself has been driven in to quoting from the Book of Proverbs, to justify its abuse of the Guardian.

Captain Read's argument in a nutshell is that all the Liberal newspapers that abandoned Laurierism to support the Union Government were "influenced," that the former Liberal members who abandoned Laurier did so to save their political skins and that all the men and women in Canada and all the soldiers in America and Europe who voted for Union were deceived—that in short only the Laurier candidates had the political truth within them. While this is a pretty serious indictment against such newspapers as the Toronto Globe, the St. John Telegraph, the Halifax Chronicle and the other old and tried Liberal newspapers, while it is pretty hard on such former Liberal stalwarts as Fielding, Carvell, Pugsley, A. K. McLean and the score or so of others who threw aside former party affiliations and joined the Union Government, it will scarcely be accepted by the thinking people of Canada or of this province as a satisfactory explanation of what Captain Read and the Patriot regard as the political demoralization of Canada. The idea that the British Post Office was able to sort out the Liberal literature mailed from Canada and hold it up until after the election is another pill that the public will find it very difficult to swallow.

Captain Read refers to a letter received from Colonel Davison written four days after his arrival in England and already dealt with in the Guardian. He also mentions a letter "subsequently" written by Colonel Davison but does not say how long subsequently nor does he quote directly from it. The Captain gravely informs Patriot readers that he himself found in the United States that "the people have been misled by the press." The Captain's argument that all the world has been fooled with the exception of the Laurier candidates and those who voted for them will, we believe, not occasion much uneasiness and we can only regret that it should be advanced in a country like ours and by a gentleman who is shortly to represent a constituency of this province in the parliament of Canada.

With regard to the Patriot's challenge in the letter from Col. Davison, published in the Guardian, there is neither mystery nor secrecy about it. It was addressed to the editor of the Guardian and published as written. It is on file in the Guardian Office and has been seen by many, including prominent Liberals. It may be seen by the editor of the Patriot or any other and they will find as others have already found that the published version is identical with the original.

## NOTES

Labor men who protested for greater strength in the beer should remember that Canadian beer has more pep in it than the stuff they're selling in Germany just now.

## A SEED CAMPAIGN

R. E. GOSNELL

I have dwelt upon the importance of the potato in war and peace. It has greater possibilities than any other crop. It has great food value and in relation to cost, and amount of production it is the cheapest and most profitable of crops. It is regarded in Europe as a national crop of vital and daily consumption by rich and poor. The refuse of culled potatoes make splendid animal food.

A considerable business has been developed in Canada in dried potato products. There are three concerns—one in Belleville, Ont., and two in British Columbia, which manufacture evaporated potatoes. These three concerns have shipped to Great Britain and France 42,000,000 lbs. of dried potato products, and of dried sweet potato known as "Julien" which would represent six times that weight in raw material.

The United States has not gone in to this manufacture, but its experts have, so to speak, Germanized the brains of Canadian pioneers in this field and have produced a much superior article in clear, pure dried vegetables, which when soaked in water resume original form, quality and proportions and can be cooked as the green vegetables are. Great possibilities lie in this direction for war and after the war consumption.

To help speed up consumption and production a campaign has been put on for a potato day each week throughout the whole of the United States. What are referred to in Food Administration literature as "the baby troubles of last year's crops" being now about over, there are plenty of potatoes in most markets, with satisfactory supplies steadily coming in.

I now want to refer to the seed business—the possibilities of growing grasses, vegetables and flowers for seed purposes. Mr. Sweet, the Colorado potato king, to whom reference was made in a previous letter, believes that in our vast areas of new soils in the Great West, free from diseases, lies the seed bed for the rest of the world. Certain seeds are now selling at a tremendous price. The supply itself has in many cases been cut off by war, and so much of Belgium and France, two great seed-producing countries has been laid waste that the supply at its sources has been diminished. But while there has been much written and talked of seed-growing it is not an amateur game to play; and there are also certain limitations to its possibilities in Canada. There is a temporary demand which will not exist after the war. In certain seeds we shall never be able to compete with France, Holland and Belgium in normal times. One great factor in the seed and nursery business

## DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson

### "TEACH US TO PRAY"

By Lillian Lauferty

Teach us to pray; 'Tis dark o'er all the world, And over land and sea the mists close down. Out in the darkness hopelessly we stray, And search—and cannot find again our way. O God! teach us to pray. Teach us to pray, We are not worthy, Lord; For we have dwelt long years in sin and shame. We closed our eyes and would not see the way; And now 'tis vain—for hopelessly we stray. O God! Teach us to pray. Teach us to pray, For everywhere is gloom, And sudden terror seizes on our hearts. A bitter knowledge comes to us to-day: We are world-weary sinners far astray. O God! Teach us to pray. Teach us to pray, For this cannot be prayer Which comes but as the cry of hearts of fear. We are poor trembling mortals gone astray— If it be not too late to find Thy way. O God! Teach us to pray. Teach us to pray, We would but speak with Thee, Our hearts are full of what but Thou couldst understand And we are tired children far astray, We seek the light of Thine Eternal Way. Dear God, teach us to pray.

is labor, and in that the European labor is cheaper and more plentiful. There are seeds which can be grown in greater abundance and more cheaply in parts of the United States than in Canada. There are other seeds, too, in which the intensive cultivation of certain fields completely cover the demand. Bulbs come within the field of limited possibilities and in flower seeds generally there is a greater surplus now than ever before the war. The Southern States is a better field than the north and the industry there is contracting instead of expanding.

A campaign is going on in the West and in other parts of Canada as well for seed-growing, and the advice of members of the United States Department of Agriculture and of Canada is to first get the benefit of expert views of the trained horticulturist before embarking in any particular line, which can be had by writing. Some seeds do remarkably well almost anywhere in Canada that would not pay commercially. The grass seeds which are in demand at high prices are alfalfa, red clover, sweet clover, small white clover, alsike clover, sweet peas. The vegetable seeds whose production should be pushed are potato, of course, beet, turnip, spinach, cabbage, mangolds, carrots and seeds of grain, corn and the legumes, such as peas and beans.

Last year in the United States there were a great many gardens planted for seed purposes which looked well at first, but which from limitations as to soil or neglect in cultivation or lack of the varieties suitable in which results were far from satisfactory. Amateurs by careful study of their subjects often succeed as well as experts, but the majority fail for the lack of skill and experience. As the seed time will now be on shortly all over Canada, those who are urged and wish to undertake seed production are advised to get wise and find out all they can as quickly as possible.

## SCION IN DISHONOR RAISED IN GLORY

Money lost, little lost; honor lost, much lost; pluck lost, all lost." is an old English saying, and it is no doubt partly due to the fact that the Anglo-Saxon race respects pluck almost above every other quality that Great Britain is what she is. No story finds such a swift response in our hearts as the story of a man refusing to lose his courage and battling with adverse fortune, finally win out. Such was the story of Lieut.-Col. Elkington, who lost his rank in the early days of the war, but re-enlisted as a private in the French Foreign Legion, distinguished himself and was eventually restored to his original rank in the British army. It is a story that thrilled England. Now there is another story very much like that of Lieut.-Col. Elkington, of a commanding officer cashiered for what was considered an error of judgment or a lack of courage, who re-enlisted as a private, fought for nearly three years, and so distinguished himself that he too has been given back his original rank with his previous seniority.

### Abandoned Ammunition

The name of this second hero is Lieut.-Col. Edward Parker England. He went overseas among the first of the British expeditionary forces, and the disgrace which befell him occurred in the course of the retreat from Mons. He was in command of an ammunition column, and for five days and five nights is said to have had but an hour of sleep. His column was plodding along one black night when a staff officer galloped past and said, "If you don't get a hustle on you will be surrounded." Thinking to save the column, Col. England ordered that some ammunition cases should be thrown away in order that better speed might be made. It is said that more ammunition was abandoned that he had intended. In any event the ammunition cases were found by some troops that were behind him, and the matter was reported. Although Col. England had got his column through safely, he was court-martialed, and it was decided that he had made such a grievous blunder that he could not be again entrusted with a British battalion. He was dropped from the army, and vanished from the ken of his friends.

### Enlists as Scout

The disgrace was a severe blow to Col. England, who had but lately recovered from a severe attack of illness, brought about by concussion of the brain, and he remained in hospital for some time. When he was able to leave he decided that a long sea voyage was what he needed, and so departed for South Africa. After arriving in the Fall of 1915, ex-Colonel England concluded that he could still do his bit, and so under his own name he enlisted as a scout in the South African Horse. He went through a twelve months' campaign in East Africa until the horses gave out, and the troopers were dismounted. After that he was

transferred to France and became attached to the Devons, with whom he saw some heavy fighting. He was in the "show" at Passchendaele, and got his "blightly touch" in a night raid, a severe wound in the chest, and an arm plentifully sprinkled with shrapnel. He was invalided home, and it was while he was lying in hospital at Nottingham that he learned that official cognizance had been taken of his conduct and that he had been restored to the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

### Taking His Medicine

Lieut.-Col. England has been soldiering for 32 years, according to Hayden Church, who interviewed the hero in England, and tells the story in the Detroit Free Press. He is a Lancashire man and got his commission as a lieutenant in the artillery in 1886. Ten years later he received his captaincy, his majority in 1901, and two years later was advanced to the rank he held at the time war broke out. He had been serving in India, but in August, 1914, happened to be home in England on sick leave. One can well imagine that a man in his physical condition was not fit for the terrific task that the "Old Contemptibles" had to undertake, and with this fact in mind, a civilian jury would probably not have inflicted such severe punishment upon

him, for what was, at worst, an error of judgment, made in most trying circumstances. Nevertheless, Col. England does not claim that he was unfairly treated. He was a good soldier and took his medicine

### Would Rather Be Private

He did not enter the ranks as a private, giving his age as forty, when he was ten years older, in order to prove that the court-martial that disciplined him had made a mistake. He fought, not for his own reputation, but because he was an Englishman and a soldier. Lieut.-Col. England says that if he were to resume his fighting days he would never be an officer. "As a private," he says, "I had an excellent time, lots of fun and no worries. And the boys with me—my chums in arms—were all of the best. The lads of Devon have suffered tremendous losses in this war, but they fight like demons." When asked what he intended to do when he left the service, Lieut. Col. England replied that he hoped to get a little hunting if his arm healed. While he was away serving as a trooper in South East Africa and later as a private in the Devons, his wife was working in a Devonport military hospital. She is a soldier's daughter as well as a soldier's wife, her father being Gen. Boyce Combe, C. B. As the song almost says, "There's something in the English after all."

## HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

King George has many almost priceless treasures in his Buckingham Palace, but none of them can compare in romantic interest with the small armory of swords and daggers presented to his father by a hundred of the princes and nobles of India, as tokens of their devotion to his throne.

H.R.H. Princess Patricia has recovered from her recent indisposition, for she is again giving her gracious patronage to various good works. Last week was helping one of our allies for she was to attend the Harvard tea for the Central Loan Bureau Fund for Educated Women at the American Women's Club, London which has long been a valuable and important London centre for the women from the United States.

Lady Aberdeen was one of the guests of honor at Mardi Gras ball held at the Ritz-Carlton, New York, the proceeds of which are to be devoted to the relief of the families of Southern mountaineers who are at the front.

Her Excellency, the Duchess of Devonshire, who has been Patroness of the Canadian branch of Queen Mary's Needle Guild since her arrival in Canada, has graciously consented to become Hon. President as well as Patroness.

The past week, like every other week, these days, has been a busy one for everyone with the usual social activities of an informal nature, patriotic sewings, concerts, teas, etc. There were several two-table Bridge affairs, hostesses finding it a most agreeable manner of entertaining their friends.

The new Spring millinery is making its appearance, in one shop window at least, and eager eyes are to be seen daily taking in the points of style. One thing to be said about those on view this week is, that unless there is a radical change in other shapes coming later on, the woman who possesses a well preserved left over last year hat, will be able to contemplate with equanimity, the prospect of having to appear in it again this summer.

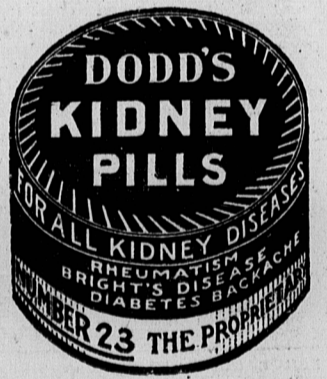
As for gowns, the so called "lingeries" frocks this year are made of net georgette and softest crepe de chine. These dainty creations made in peg top style, can be manufactured at home during these sombre days of lent so that when madame and her charming daughters tie themselves to the country later on they will be fully equipped to meet all social emergencies as far as dress is concerned. Summer sunshine is too precious to waste unnecessarily on indoor sewing.

The military draft on their final parade were the recipients of dainty packed lunches which they later enjoyed to the fullest extent.

The outstanding event of the week, and one in which every Presbyterian in P. E. Island was interested was the public reception given on Tuesday

evening to Rev. T. F. Fullerton, D. D., on the 25th anniversary of his induction to the Presidency of P. E. I. Rev. Mr. Greenleaf made the presentation on behalf of the Presbytery in his own inimitable style, reading the illuminated address and the letters of congratulation from eastern and western Canada from former associates all expressing the honor of the occasion and regrets at not being present. A beautiful silver flower bowl with twenty-five American Beauty roses for Dr. Fullerton and a handsome jewel case for Mrs. Fullerton were the gifts of the Presbytery, while the Doctor's congregation through Colonel Stewart presented to him and Mrs. Fullerton, a beautifully worded address and a purse of \$250 indicative of their appreciation, love and esteem. After a lengthy programme and speeches from the vicar, a dainty tea table at the end of the Hall being gracefully presided over by Mrs. Goodwill, Mrs. Pomeroy and Miss P. Brown, assisted in waiting by the ladies of the congr-

(Continued on page eight)



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