

The Charlottetown Guardian

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TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 18th 1917

THE STATUS OF AGRICULTURE

At the last annual meeting of the Conservation Commission, Hon. Sydney Fisher in the course of an admirable address, stated that "in the last fifteen years or so agriculture has gone behind in its comparative development in Canada. I do not say it has gone behind actually . . . but, in comparison to the other developments of the country during the last fifteen years there is no doubt that agriculture has taken a lower and lower position in Canadian development and Canadian enterprise. This I believe to be the most serious feature of our economic situation."

There is no doubt that his statement was correct. Agriculture has not kept pace with development in other lines and, to quote again from Hon. Sydney Fisher, it is "the most serious feature of our economic situation." Agriculture is the basic calling in Canada and elsewhere. It is the calling which provides the world with its food, with much of its clothing, with much of its commerce; the calling which if held up for a single season would bring the world to actual starvation; the calling also which if organized and systematized as other callings are could dictate its terms and its prices and its conditions to the world. As it is, instead of dominating the other callings it is dominated by them; instead of setting its price upon its own products its prices are fixed by others. Commerce, transportation companies, cities, grow rich by the sweat of the farmers' brow and the farmer, with few exceptions, toils on in comparative poverty.

Many reasons are given for this condition, among them that the great industrial works in progress throughout the country are offering higher wages than the farm can afford to pay and as a result farm labour is not available. Capital is attracted into other lines of activity which offer larger returns than agriculture. The census returns of 1901 showed that the rural population of Canada was 62 per cent, as against 38 per cent. of urban population; in 1911 the rural population was 54 per cent, as against 46 per cent. and it is quite safe to say that today the rural population is less than half of the total population. The producers of food have become consumers, simply because the production of food is less remunerative than the selling of it, less remunerative than the production of clothing for which the farm provides the raw material, than the curing and canning of meats, fruits and vegetables which are grown on the farm, than the selling to the farmer himself of the machinery and the clothing which he uses.

These are anomalies that the near future must correct if the world is to be saved from disaster. We cannot much longer increase our consumption at the expense of production, increase the cost of distributing our products at the expense of the producer.

Are there other reasons than the comparative attractiveness of other callings? Does not much of the cause of this anomalous condition lie with the farmer himself? Are not the majority of our farmers too conservative in their adherence to time honoured methods, too reluctant to adopt new methods? The merchant, the manufacturer, the professional seizes the first opportunity to instal a new device which he is satisfied has succeeded elsewhere and he makes it pay; he has learned the great economic necessity of giving a full dollar's value in return for a dollar and of exacting the full dollar for a dollar's worth of goods or of skill and he succeeds. The farmer is shv of "new fangled" ideas, witness our fathers' protestations against the railway, against modern farm machinery, against innovations in our dairy and other farm systems, many of which had outgrown the evident usefulness of many years previous. In this respect agriculture is at a disadvantage as compared with other lines of industry. It is slowly but surely learning the lesson, however, as has been amply demonstrated in recent years in our own province

by the adoption of co-operative methods, as for instance, the Egg Circle movement, which has already revolutionized the poultry business and made the once despised hen one of the most profitable institutions on the farm; the raising of the standard of dairying, and other special lines which it is not necessary to mention. We have progressed along certain special lines of agriculture although even in these not to the same extent, comparatively, as in other callings.

What is the remedy? The first and fundamental remedy must be the securing of higher prices by the farmer for his products. That secured the rest will follow; capital will flow into the business; labour will offer itself as freely as to other callings. But how is this to be accomplished? Certainly not by raising the price to the consumer. If the farmer received for his produce even the larger share of the price the consumer pays both farmer and consumer would be satisfied. The corrective must be applied to the machinery between the producer and the ultimate consumer. The army of middlemen must be reduced, transportation must be simplified. How is it going to be done? The farmers are still in the majority. The problem is up to them.

DR. GODDWILL'S DEPARTURE

The Patriot returns with its usual unfairness to its previous attempt to make political capital out of the fact that Dr. Goodwill and the Trustees of Falconwood Asylum failed to come to an agreement on the matter of medical superintendence of that institution. The Patriot after a preliminary gush of crocodile tears over the "helpless inmates of Falconwood," proceeds at once to blame the government for Dr. Goodwill's departure from the institution. That this is not the case everyone knows who has read the correspondence between Dr. Goodwill and the Trustees published in The Guardian sometime ago. The Patriot while publishing Dr. Goodwill's letter failed to publish that of Premier Arsenault and judging from its article in yesterday's issue we can come to no other conclusion than that it did so purposely in order to grossly misrepresent the attitude of the trustees in the matter.

In a nutshell the position is this: Before leaving to go overseas Dr. Goodwill complained he had too much work to do and asked for an assistant. When he obtained leave of absence the government made provision for the discharge of his duties by appointing an acting medical superintendent and a manager for the farm. When the doctor returned at the request of the trustees he desired to resume the management of the farm as well as the medical superintendence of the hospital. The trustees explained it was their intention to continue the management of the farm in the hands of an agriculturist and leave him free to devote all his time and abilities to the care and attention of the institution. Dr. Goodwill declined to agree to this arrangement and resigned and would not even consent to give it a trial although it was pointed out to him that there would be no dual control and that he would have full charge of the inmates both within and without the institution. That is how the position stands. No one who has any practical experience of farming will claim for a moment that one man is capable of efficiently farming 370 acres and at the same time do justice to an institution like Falconwood with its three or four hundred patients.

The Patriot suggests that the Trustees have authorized the introduction of a milk separator in order that the patients may be supplied with skim milk. This is a gross libel. The patients at Falconwood are supplied with as much milk and cream as the housekeeper orders for her needs and she assured the Trustees and Dr. Goodwill that on no occasion was she not supplied with what she required. It is hard to understand what sort of conscience a man can have who would write as the editor of the Patriot has written with regard to this institution. Ever since the meeting of the Legislature when the Patriot gave publicity to the slanders of an irresponsible inmate that paper has missed no opportunity of raising doubts and fears in the minds of the people in the province with regard to the care and attention being bestowed on the poor unfortunates finding refuge there. It is a scandal that any reputable newspaper should use, or allow its columns to be used, for the purpose of creating panic or unnecessary anxiety with reference to an institution in which confidence in the administration is essential to its continued usefulness. All regret Dr. Goodwill's decision to sever his connection with Falconwood but in view of the facts as set forth in the correspondence, no unbiased person will attach any responsibility to the Trustees for Dr. Goodwill's decision.

WHY KORNILOFF REBELLED

The civil war in Russia is the long-expected meeting between the forces of construction and those of disintegration. It is a short-sighted view of this great event to centre it around General Korniloff, to speak as if he were an ambitious soldier attempting to impose military rule upon the country for his own purposes. In a certain true sense there is no such man as Korniloff. He is merely the representative of those forces which, long blamably quiescent, have at last consented to stop the rapid delinquency of Russia, to keep it a nation, to halt its dissolution, to save it, in a word.

Toward this event all the history of Russia for the last four or five months has been irresistibly tending. The curse of the country has been the placidity of the intelligent classes in the presence of a growing anarchy which visibly threatened utter disorganization and chaos. It was out of the question for Russia to remain as she was, merely helpless and floundering; anarchy does not remain stationary, but grows, and her visible doom was complete wreck, not merely as a State, but as a people. The intelligent classes were not wholly blame-worthy for their long inaction. Being intelligent, they realized and feared what was implied in civil war. The anarchists, if they realized it, did not fear it, and their ignorant dupes did not realize it. Therefore the anarchists have had the advantage of being perfectly reckless of consequences to the Russian edifice; they could throw stones without care, while the forces of law and order hesitated to throw stones for fear of breaking windows. With an archaic force knowing what it wanted and resolute on getting it without regard to consequences, and a conservative force afraid to strike for fear of those very consequences, of course the resolute anarchists have had all the advantage on their side, and this is why Russia has been descending to the pit with such horrifying celerity.

The fact that not merely bad government, but ruin to the nation, was the inevitable and approaching end, finally stirred the conservative forces to reluctant action, and for some months the signs of their coalescence have been growing. The issue came at the Moscow Conference, when the two forces stood face to face. Some correspondents short-sightedly telegraphed that the Moscow Conference was without result. Never was there a greater mistake. It will live in history as one of the world's crises. There order and anarchy met, the challenge was thrown down and accepted, and the two armies separated to prepare for battle. There, for the first time, order was able to count its ranks. The assurance the count gave was satisfactory. Order found that it had at its command the whole force of the Cossacks, not merely as a sentiment but as an actual organization, under the leadership of General Kale-

dines. This meant that a solid block of territory greater in size than Germany and Austria was not only united but ready to fight for the salvation of the nation. Order learned, too, that the peasant proprietors were enrolling themselves in organizations, that the Knights of St. George, who represented 80,000,000 acres, had formed a military association. Sure of the Cossacks and the peasants, there remained the army, and what order learned of the army was not made known; but it must have been satisfactory enough to warrant Korniloff's movement.

There was no conspiracy. The forces of order were open enough. They wanted Kerensky with them, and showed him their hand. He had his choice to make, and when the test came he preferred to throw his lot in with socialism, with all its demonstrated inability to control the anarchists, rather than with those who want an ordered constitutional democracy like ours. When the conference adjourned, with his warning to the conservatives that he would permit no such movement as theirs, what was coming was plain to both sides, and both sides repaired to their tents to get their ammunition.

How foolish it is, then, to speak of Korniloff as an individual, or to think of him as a military usurper. He is merely the leader of the movement to carry out General Kaleldines' warning to the Socialist Government at the Moscow conference.

We Cossacks have been free men. We are not made drunk by new-found liberties and are unblinded by party or program. We tell you plainly and categorically, remove yourselves from the place which you have neither the ability nor the courage to fill and let better men than yourselves step in or take the consequences of your folly.

Korniloff, the representative of this movement to restore order, invited Kerensky to participate in it, but the answer was his removal from office; a mere gesture, an emphatic way of replying in the negative. The offer itself was only a punctilio. Having discharged his conscience by making it, Korniloff proceeded to the next step, and moved on Petrograd. Something of this same peculiarly Russian punctiliousness is seen in General Denikine, commander of the south-western armies, who telegraphs Kerensky the information that he intends to support Korniloff. Of course it is no news to Kerensky. Of course the forces of order have proceeded in broad daylight with the execution of their plan.

The centrifugal and centripetal forces in Russia have now met in battle for the mastery. The result will determine whether Russia is to remain a nation or become the football of Europe. It will decide whether the dance of death that has been going on for six months is to end in tragedy or in an ordered peace; whether the Carmagole is to give way to the steady march of a free democracy, or whether a country which is potentially one of the greatest nations the world has ever known shall reel in drunken frenzy over the precepts of socialism to the abyss of anarchy.

MONSIGNOR BURKE QUESTIONS IN COMMONS

In the House of Commons on Wednesday, the following questions and answers relating to the Rev. Monsignor Burke were put and given:

COLONEL THE REV. A. E. BURKE. By Mr. FORTIER: Referring to an item in the Ottawa Citizen of Monday, September 3, 1917, as follows: "Colonel the Rev. Father Burke has returned from Washington, accompanied by Lieutenant Charles Alvarez."

1. Was Rev. Colonel Burke at Washington on official business? 2. If so, has he made a report and will such report be brought down to the House? 3. Has Lieutenant Charles Alvarez a commission to, or from, the Canadian Government?

4. If not, what is his business in Canada? 5. What Governments did he and Rev. Colonel Burke represent at Washington? 6. Is the Government to pay the expenses of either, or both, gentlemen going to and returning from Washington?

7. Is so, what is the amount of the bills that have been paid or are to be paid? Mr. MEIGHEN: 1. No.

2. Answered by No. 1. 3. Is a lieutenant in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. 4. Answered by No. 3. 5, 6, and 7. Answered by No. 1.

Mr. FORTIER: Has the following item in the New York Tribune of August 31, 1917, been brought to the attention of the Government: "Lieutenant-Colonel the Right Rev. Monsigneur A. E. Burke, of the Canadian army, returning to the Dominion from a special mission in Cuba, expressed the admiration of the other Allies at the appearance of the parading Guardsmen. He said he had witnessed American troops in training in France and was sure that the men he saw yesterday would be a valuable addition to their number."

2. On what special mission, if any, was Rev. Colonel Burke despatched to Cuba? 3. Has he made a report to the Government? 4. If not, will he make a report and when?

5. If Rev. Colonel Burke has made a report, will it be brought down in the House? 6. Is the Government to defray the travelling expenses of Rev. Colonel Burke to and from Cuba? 7. If so, what would the amount be?

8. Is Rev. Colonel Burke still on the pay list? If so, at what rate is he paid? Mr. MEIGHEN: 1. No.

2. None. 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. Answered by No. 2. 8. Colonel Burke is drawing the pay of his rank. He is at present on leave. By Mr. FORTIER: 1. Was the attention of the Government directed to the following paragraph in an editorial of the Ottawa Evening Journal of August 29, 1917: "If the Government is faced with difficulties in the selection of returning officers or presiding officers to take the soldiers' vote, and the Opposition remains suspicious of any appointments made, why not utilize the brigade of chaplains overseas to work out the election machinery?"

2. If so, is it the intention of the Government to act on the suggestions of the Evening Journal? 3. Will Rev. Colonel Dr. A. E. Burke be appointed to take charge of the said returning officers or presiding officers?

4. If not placed in charge, will Rev. Dr. Burke be appointed as one of the said returning officers or presiding officers? Mr. MEIGHEN: 1. No information. 2, 3, and 4. Answered by No. 1.

Mr. FORTIER: 1. Is the Government aware that Rev. A. E. Burke has returned to Canada? 2. Has the said Rev. A. E. Burke been provided with an office in the Parliament buildings? 3. If so, has he been entrusted by the Government with any special work, and what is the nature of such work?

4. Does such work, if any, require his consultation with senators and members of Parliament? Mr. MEIGHEN: 1. Yes. 2. No. 3. No. 4. Answered by No. 3.

LET'S TRY IT.

Errands of love are easy to run; Saying sweet words is the dearest fun. Saying sweet words is the dearest How many kind things we can do and say.

STRIKE DELAYS WORK IN SHIPBUILDING PLANTS.

SEATTLE, Sept. 14.—Approximately 1500 shipwrights, joiners and laborers went on strike today tying up a number of wooden shipbuilding plants. A thousand men in various yards were idle because of the inability of the operators to obtain timber. The strike was called in an effort by organized labor to enforce the eight-hour day in lumber and shingle mills.

WAR MENUS

How to Save Wheat, Beef and Bacon for the men at the front. Issued from the Office of the Food Controller for Canada.

MENU FOR WEDNESDAY.

Breakfast. Fresh Fruit (Berries in Season) Oatmeal Porridge Milk Sugar Omelet Toast Coffee of Tea

Dinner. Roast Beef Potatoes Creamed Onions Brown Bread Cottage Pudding with Sauce

Supper (or Luncheon). Potato Soup Crackers Stewed Fruit Cornmeal Muffins Cookies Milk Sugar

The recipes for Potato Soup and Cornmeal Muffins, mentioned above, are as follows:—

Potato Soup— 1 quart milk Salt, pepper and grated onion to taste.

1 1/2 cups mashed potatoes. Add the potato to the heated milk and seasonings, reheat and serve very hot.

If skim milk is used the soup is improved by the addition of a little butter.

Cornmeal Muffins.— 1 egg. 2 tablespoons dripping. 6 tablespoons brown sugar. 1/2 cup of cornmeal. 1/2 cup milk. 1 cup of flour. 2 tablespoons of Baking Powder. 1/4 teaspoon of salt.

(Wheat and meat saving recipes by Domestic Science Experts of the Canadian Food Controller's Office.)

FOX COMPANY REPORTS

Sir.—Many Montrealers have placed considerable money in the R. J. McNeill Silver Black Fox Company, and were advised of the Annual Meeting to take place on Aug. 7.

To date not a word has been heard regarding what was done. Surely a report of the meeting is due shareholders! You can hardly expect share holder to visit Tyne Valley from all parts of Canada and personally investigate for themselves.

Copies were read here of your valued publication containing reports of pellets sold by the Association in a well written report. I doubt if any Ranch resorted to more publicity than the McNeill Ranch and I feel certain that you will agree that common everyday business courtesy is due the shareholders who subscribed to this Prince Edward Island corporation.

It is to such actions that the Fox Industry is looked upon with astance by the scrupulous investor and cannot fail to lend a stigma to the Island from a business standpoint. Anticipating your publication of this communication as a dictate towards business methods.

I am, Sir, etc., MONTREAL SHAREHOLDER, Sept. 10th, 1917.

TRIBUTE TO MISS CAVELL.

NEW ORK, Sept. 15.—A tribute to Edith Cavell, "one of the most cultured women, who died like a heroine," when executed by the German military authorities for a spy, for aiding wounded soldiers, was paid her today by Gaston De Laval, the Belgian lawyer, who defended her, at a luncheon by the Rotary Club, at which he was the guest.

"Some of the reports of her execution stated that she had fainted before the firing of the fatal volley," said Mr. De Laval, but this was untrue. A few minutes before leaving the death cell, she made a notation on a page of her Bible, that she was to be executed at once. In admitting she had assisted the wounded British soldiers to defy the German authorities, she said, she had done what any other good woman would do.

Silverware For The Bride

The enduring gift, the useful gift, the one that pleases most. We have sterling silver and bes silverplate that make exquisite wedding gifts in a variety of forms. G. H. TAYLOR Jeweler Optician Engraver

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