

# The Charlottetown Guardian

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Thursday, May 24th, being Victoria Day and a Statutory holiday, the Morning Guardian will not be issued on Friday. The Evening Guardian will not be issued on Thursday, but will be published as usual on Friday. Advertisers please note these changes.

THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1917.

### SELECTIVE CONSCRIPTION

Sir Robert L. Borden returned with one outstanding message from the front, one that could not be ignored even by those who may have had scruples hitherto on the question of compulsory national service. "I BRING BACK TO THE PEOPLE OF CANADA," he said, "FROM THESE MEN A MESSAGE THAT THEY NEED OUR HELP, THAT THEY NEED TO BE SUPPORTED, THAT REINFORCEMENTS MUST BE SENT THEM." Coming direct from the scene of the conflict, fully informed of the conditions, and imbued with the seriousness of the situation, he tells the country with a full sense of the responsibility that—"I HAVE PROMISED IN SO FAR AS I AM CONCERNED THAT THIS HELP WILL BE GIVEN. I SHOULD FEEL UNWORTHY," he added, "OF THE RESPONSIBILITY DEVOLVING UPON ME IF I DID NOT FULFILL THAT PLEDGE." As voluntary enlistment has reached about its limit, the only alternative is to resort to a system of selective conscription such as has been adopted in the Mother Country and more recently by the United States. This has been a contingency long foreseen by those taking an intelligent interest in the progress of the war and the great and glorious part our country has played in it. In a little less than three years we have raised voluntarily over 400,000 men most of whom have gone to the front. When first we entered the conflict few of us realized the gravity of the situation, and even when the late Lord Kitchener warned us that the war would last at least three years we were inclined to look upon his prediction as too pessimistic, or at least to be taken with a grain of salt. Time, however, has justified the prophecy, today we are within measurable distance of the third anniversary of the out-break of the war, and seem still a long way from reaching our objective—a victorious entry into Berlin. Many brave boys have bled and suffered in the cause we hold dear, and unless their heroic sacrifice is to go for naught, men and more men must be got to make good the wastage and strengthen the army which is defending our hearths and homes in the blood-stained fields of France and Flanders.

Prominent leaders of thought and publicists of all parties have come to the conclusion that the time has now come to nationalize our man-power to put it to the best possible purpose for the remainder of the war. In following the example of the Mother Country and the United States in this respect we are doing only what is our patriotic and, indeed, our bounden duty. We have to husband our resources as well as maintain at full strength our army at the front, and the only sane and practical method of so doing is to place the whole of our available man-power at the disposal of the State. In the ultimate analyses of what constitutes citizenship this is the prime duty that every man owes to the State—to place himself unreservedly at its disposal for whatever purpose the State considers he is best fitted in a time of national crisis. Selective conscription means that the State shall decide in what capacity each man of military age and fitness shall serve the State. If his services be of more value in production than in the army or navy he will be exempted from joining up. If his occupation be necessary for "carrying on" the affairs of State during its belligerency, in this case he also will be exempted. But it will be for a properly constituted tribunal to decide who shall, and who shall not, be called to the colours. We are entering upon a new phase of our new-found status as a world-power and it is for each of us to realize the responsibility devolving upon us and act accordingly, ever keeping in view the glorious example of those who, without counting the cost, have already voluntarily assumed the ultimate duty of citizenship, and have made the great sacrifice that we and those who come after us may be free.

### STIRING ORATORY

Seldom has any assembly been stirred as was the House of Commons by the visit of the French representative, M. Viviani. His oratory, his unfeigned appreciation of what Canada has done in the war, his earnestness, and his pleadings not to weary in well-doing until our task has been accomplished, sent a thrill through the most phlegmatic of the members who could scarce forbear to shout with their more impressionable colleagues. One of the most inspiring passages in the address of M. Viviani was that in which he touched upon the achievements of the Canadians. It is as follows:

"Yes, you Canadians, mingled with English and French troops without distinction of race or distinction of country under different standards,

have shown the same bravery. And let us not forget that in the month of April, 1915, at Ypres, in the north of France, quite close to Belgium, in that region desolated by floods, after the terrible assault delivered by the German soldiers by means of asphyxiating gas—that Germany which has derided science, and which instead of bringing all its blessings to humanity caused to be cast on it all its evils and its crimes—it was the Canadian soldiers who in that terrible crisis rose up and saved the day. And in many a combat and in numerous and recent victories they have stood firm. We see yet your younger men, alert, agile, courageous, under their colors the first to scale the Vimy Ridge, which had been reputed impregnable. Honor to all these soldiers; let us piously incline our thoughts before those who fight, before those who suffer, before those who have died. They knew well what they did and why they left your land. They knew well that they did not bear their arms merely for Great Britain, or merely for France, invaded and attacked, but with a clear vision fixed upon the sky, beholding a higher ideal, they knew that it was for the holy cause of humanity, of democracy and of justice. And it is under the aegis of those glorious and recent deeds that we have come to visit you."

It is to uphold the honour thus won and immortalized that the State is to be called upon to do its duty and to regulate and apportion the service which each man must render for the remainder of the war.

### MATTER OF KEEN REGRET

There are two main reasons, amongst others, says the Ottawa Journal, why Canada has arrived at compulsory service. They are both good and sufficient.

It is manifestly unfair that the Canadians now at the front should be weakened and humiliated by the failure of their countrymen at home to come forward fast enough to support them.

The second reason arises from the entrance into the war of the United States and that country's prompt adoption of compulsory service. Unless Canada follows suit, the dregs of the neighboring country will find a way to trickle into Canada. From her proud position as an effective belligerent, admired and respected throughout the world, Canada will fall to the status of Greece under King Constantine or Spain, a prey to German propaganda, and reach it of her own volition.

There are Canadians now at the front who have been there since the first army corps reached the trenches, with but a few days of leave to rest and recuperate. The voluntary system is by far more undemocratic than compulsory service in that it permits such manifest injustice, granting to those least willing to serve the special privilege of remaining in comfort at home at the expense of their more conscientious fellow-countrymen and forcing the latter to endure a totally disproportionate amount of what under democracy must always be considered a common duty.

It must be a matter of keen regret that, in Parliament on Friday, Sir Wilfrid Laurier failed to give the full weight of the influence he still enjoys to the leadership Sir Robert Borden gave the people of the country. His support would have united the press and assisted materially in solidifying public opinion back of this most desirable measure. Only time and events can prove that Sir Wilfrid did not choose to follow certain elements in Canada rather than to lead. It was an occasion, now lost forever which called for leadership, and the force of a united Parliament would have been great.

The machinery of compulsory service must be established and operated with no trace of partisanship or favoritism. Upon its demonstrated ability and willingness to do this the right of the Government to introduce compulsory service rests.

### AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP SHOWN

The following extract from a letter written by a British officer, and published in a recent issue of "Canada," is well worth reproducing, showing as it does the real friendship of the American people during the trying period that preceded their entry into the war: "I was sent out to the Pacific on duty. When there I got a telegram from my general ordering me back on a certain date to sail for England. According to the train people on the coast I could just do it. I left the coast on Saturday, 6.10 p.m.; arrived in Chicago on Tuesday evening, and asked N.Y.C. Railway Company would I be in New York on the following Wednesday at 10 p.m. They said "Yes; on the fast train." Next morning the conductor, who knew I had to catch the boat in New York, came to my berth and said: "We are two hours late, and will miss the connection, but I will do all I can to make up time and get the express to wait." He failed. On arrival at Cleveland, I went to the superintendent of the line and told my story, and asked what I should do. He said nothing. After asking some questions to verify I was a British officer on duty, he said: "Be on the platform in ten minutes." It is now 8.50 a.m. A special will start at 9 a.m. and get you to Buffalo in time for the Empire Express." The special was there and left to the minute at 9 a.m. We arrived outside Buffalo at 11.30—186 miles—and for the last mile, on account of street traffic, we took some time, but we caught the Empire Express and arrived in New York on time. I could have eaten several lunches on board that-train at the expense of Americans who saw the special come in and heard why. They were all delighted that anything was done for us. The company never charged or asked one cent for the train. Would an English company have done the same? Thank God, America is in on our side before the war is over! Great Britain will see what the U.S.A. can do when she puts her back into it."

## LETTER FROM LORD GREY ON ORIGIN OF WAR

Extract From British Statesman's Communication Places the Responsibility for the Conflict.

The following extract is from a private letter written by Lord Grey of Fallodon, and dated from Falldon, Leisbury, Northumberland, March 5, 1917. It is of such remarkable and historical interest, as containing the deliberate opinion of a man, intimately familiar with every phase of world policy, during the last quarter of a century, as to the origin of the war, that permission has been obtained from the writer, for its publication in these columns.

"We know that the origin of our entente first with France and then with Russia was a desire to avoid war and to put an end to our quarrels with those Powers and to the embittered feeling on their side and ours that had so often brought us or sent us to the brink of war. This was our motive, and a policy of encircling Germany was not in our thoughts.

"Latterly the restlessness and concealed ill will and enormous strength of Germany on sea and land made us feel that isolation was dangerous. But we made no binding alliance with France or Russia before the war; we kept our hands free as regards participation in war, and France and Russia knew that aggression upon Germany or even an aggressive policy would get no support from us. With this they were content and I never found an aggressive spirit in French or Russian policy.

"We wished to keep our friends, but also to keep the peace of Europe, and in the European conference in London over the Balkan War we gave proof of this and came through that without reproach and indeed with the credit of having worked for peace.

"One of the tragedies of the situation is that this conference showed clearly that there was in London machinery and personnel that could have settled honorably and fairly every dispute such as that of 1914 if it had been permitted to try and been trusted again. That this was so was due to the personalities of the Ambassadors in London of the five great

European Powers, including of course Lichnovsky and Mensdorff, the German and Austrian Ambassadors. I would have trusted every one of them to work for peace again in 1914 as they had done in 1912-13 and I believe they would all have trusted me—to play fair and not to try for anything but a fair settlement.

"But in 1914 Germany thought the time had come to take advantage of the situation and to force the pace, and I suppose the Prussian Military men had decided that the time to strike successfully had come.

"As far as I can see the Germans believe that if England had promised Germany to remain neutral in a European war; in other words if we had given France and Russia to understand that under no circumstances should we help them and had thus parted all company with them, France and Russia would have given in to Germany without fighting. England would have been isolated and discredited and German domination would have been secured without war.

"And the Germans hold us to blame for the war because we did not act according to their ideas.

"This view can only be justified in the assumption that Germany is morally and intellectually so superior to all other nations that it was wrong not to desire her will to be imposed on Europe and a crime to put any obstacle in her way. This, it seems to me, is the belief and the ground on which consciously or unconsciously the Germans do justify it to themselves. Just after the outbreak of the war there were some outbursts from some German professors (I think) that said this quite definitely, and the conclusion of the matter is, and here is no greater danger to the world than a nation which believes that itself is superior to all law, and that others have no rights as against it.

"Yours sincerely,"

"GREY OF FALLODON."

### ADDRESS TO MR. COLEMAN

Following is the address which was read to Mr. Thomas J. Coleman at the farewell banquet in his honor given by the Knights of Pythias in their hall on Tuesday night, May 22nd, 1917.

T. J. Coleman Esq., Deputy Grand Chancellor, Empire Lodge Knights of Pythias, Dear Mr. Coleman:

Your presence with us tonight marks another milestone in Pythian Journey of Life—and we would have the occasion to record some lasting impressions that may cheer you and your fellow pilgrims through coming years, for as we look back upon the past four years of association (the consciousness of mutual help and inspiration is present in every thought).

Your coming to the city has been looked upon in business, in Church, and Social life as a distinct gain. Your stay amongst us have proven equal to our anticipations—and your going cannot fail to cause regret, while we extend our heartiest Good Wishes that in the new field to which you go you may find success and prosperity—with warm friends and pleasant associations.

Be assured that we will long remember you and trust that you may be enabled frequently to visit us as you may return from time to time.

To Mrs. Coleman, we would also express our heartiest feelings of Good-will, and to Elizabeth and Tommy who in the hearts and affections of the people here have found so popular and esteemed a place we extend our fraternal tribute. Wishing you all the choicest blessings and trusting that you may continue in Pythian work to prove yourself "a rainbow to the Storms of Life." We bid you now a fond Farewell in F. C. and B.

Very Sincerely yours,  
 W. A. PIERCE, Chamberlain, Commander  
 J. L. GODKIN, Keeper of Records and Seal.

### DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by  
 W. S. LOUSON,

### SOLITUDE

Happy the man, whose wish and care  
 A few paternal acres bound,  
 Content to breathe his native air  
 In his own ground.

Whose herds with milk, whose fields  
 With bread,  
 Whose flocks supply him with attire;  
 Whose trees in summer yield him shade,  
 In winter fire.

Best, who can unconcernedly find  
 Hours, days, and years, slide soft  
 Away.

In health of body, peace of mind,  
 Quiet by day.

Sound sleep by night; study and ease  
 Together mix; sweet recreation,  
 And innocence, which most does  
 please with meditation.

Thus let us live, unseen, unknown;  
 Thus unlamented let us die;  
 Steal from the world, and not a stone  
 Tell where I lie.

—Alexander Pope

### RED LETTER BIBLE

Sir,—I have received your "Red Letter Edition" of the Word of God for which you will please accept my hearty thanks. The type is remarkably good, the compendium of Bible Acts is quite an addition to its value, and many other features which might be noticed. It is certainly a cheap Bible considering its quality and it is to be hoped that very many will not only secure it but "Search the Scriptures."

I am Sir etc.  
 (Rev.) D. MacLEAN

### Two Brothers Fight Safely Side by Side

The following letters have been received by Mrs. James Graham, Clinton from her sons now serving their country in France. These boys originally belonged to the 105th but were transferred to the 14th Canadian Battalion:

France,  
 April 27th, 1917.

Dear Mother,—Just a line to let you know that we are well, hoping to find you are all the same.

Well mother we were in one of the biggest scraps of the season. Lew and I stood it together all through the charge. We stayed by each other and had a great time. We had the Germans on the run, they did not stop to fight as our big shells were too much for them. The ground was torn up something terrible, some holes ten feet deep. We drove them back a mile, and when we were relieved they were still on the double. We took some prisoners. I think we took the over soon.

Love to all, write soon.  
 From your loving son,  
 JIM.

P.S.—This is German paper off a dead Fritz. It was in his pocket.

France,  
 April 28th, 1917.

Dear Mother,—Just a few lines in answer to your welcome letter which I received a short while ago. We are both well and feeling fine; came through the big scrap all right, though a few of the boys did not get along so well; but it was to be expected, a few must fall you know. The weather is all that could be wished for now; and it has put a different look on the trenches and country. It is quite warm. Well I have some fine souvenirs now that I wish I could send home. I have a piece of Fritz's aeroplane which came down while I was watching it, so I got a piece of his propeller. We are having a bit of a rest now; and are enjoying ourselves. It is nice country in summer.

Well I must close. Jim wrote a short time ago. Tell me all the news when you write. Is dad home yet? Give him our love.

Good bye hoping to hear from you soon.  
 Your loving son,  
 LEW.

(Pat. please copy.)

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WHAT CAN MY NAME AND BUSINESS BE? WATCH ME EACH WEEK AND YOU WILL SEE

EACH WEEK IF YOU WILL WATCH THIS SPACE YOU'LL ALWAYS SEE MY SMILING FACE; AND I WILL TELL YOU SOMETHING NEW; IT WILL BE OF INTEREST TO YOU.  
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## HAY HAY HAY

We have a number of Cars of Carlton County

N. B. Hay expected this week, and are booking orders for delivery on arrival.

We also expect in a few days

**100 Bags Red Fife and Marquis Wheat**

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