

The Charlottetown Guardian

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THURSDAY JANUARY 3rd, 1918

A CRITICAL STAGE

That our province is now passing through the most critical stage in its history will be admitted even by the unthinking. The withdrawal of three thousand men, probably one fifth of its adult male population, is a shock before which any country would stagger; to this province, whose manhood had previously been depleted at the rate of nearly a thousand a year, this last depletion is a tragedy. But our tragedy lies not so much in the fact that three thousand men have left us as in the possibilities that remain to us. What have we left upon whom to lay foundations for the future? On whom are our institutions, our churches, our government, our schools, our industries, our commerce, our social life to depend?

There is no gainsaying the fact that the men who left us were, for the most part, the "salt of the earth" among those ranging in age from eighteen to forty-five. Very many of them were educated, college-bred; many of them the mainstay of the farms and of the homes that they left. No doubt some of them were moved by the spirit of adventure but of the great majority of them it can truly be said that in response to the call to duty, "God helping them they could do no other," than sacrifice personal interests and obey the call of the higher duty. To call this a deplorable loss would not be the whole truth; it is a loss, a terrible loss, but it should also be a gain as all sacrifice is a gain.

We all remember the wave of patriotic fervor that swept over our province when the call was first sounded; how we cheered those who responded; how fathers, mothers, wives, sisters, sweethearts gloried in the sacrifice they made in letting their loved ones go; how jubilantly our churches, schools and fraternal societies unveiled the honour rolls that gave the names of their worthy sons and brethren. We had almost believed, so enthusiastic were we, that there was not a slacker among us, that, if there were, he would hide his diminished head, that he would not appear in public.

Now, let us make no mistake. All our best young men have not left us. There are hundreds of men of military age in this province who would have given their services as cheerfully as those who volunteered, but were prevented, by legitimate reasons from doing so. Yet the fact remains that we have with us very many young men to whom the appeal to duty meant nothing; very many who sheltered themselves behind excuses, who chose the ignoble, not the noble part. Our province is not alone in this. The claims for exemption all over Canada tell this story only too plainly.

With what is left of our young manhood, we are now to face the future. It remains for our leading men and women to set the pace; for the pulpit, the press, the platform to give an upward impulse to public opinion; for all to lay aside every weight and every sectional and partisan sin that besets. We are a patriotic people; many of our sons have laid down their lives and many more of them are ready to do so, in proof of the general loyalty of our people. But there are exceptions, there are those who are unconsciously disloyal because they fail to see beyond self-interest.

Selfishness is the great sin of the age. It precipitated the colossal war that is now staggering humanity; it lies at the bottom of many of the claims for exemption from military service; it accounts largely for the false position in which our province was placed on the 17th of December; it degrades political, social and commercial problems to a level unworthy of serious things. While selfishness cannot be entirely eradicated it can at least be curbed, can at least be partially starved out. This can best be done by not recognizing it as a factor in our public life, by not appealing to it as is so often done in our political life, by fostering and encouraging and appealing to the altruistic spirit that still lives, although perhaps latent, in every life.

We are beginning a new year, a new year in a new era, a new year in a group of years, each one of which will be forever memorable in the history of the world. Let us begin it and live through it in a manner that shall be worthy of the time and of ourselves.

WHY BOYS LEAVE THE FARM

A correspondent sends us the following as one of the many reasons "why boys leave the farm."

WHY BOYS LEAVE THE FARM

"Why did you leave the farm, my lad? Why did you bolt and quit your dad? Why did you beat it off to town, and turn your poor old father down? Thinkers of platform, pulpit, press, are wallowing in deep distress; they seek to know the hidden cause why farmer boys desert their pas. Some say they long to get a taste of faster life and social waste; some say the silly little chumps mistake the suit-cards for the trumps, in waging fresh and germless air against the smoky thoroughfare. We're all agreed the farm's the place; so free your mind and state your case!"

"Well, stranger, since you've been so frank, I'll roll aside the lazy bank, the misty cloud of theories, and show you where the trouble lies. I left my dad, his farm, his plow, because my gal became his cow. I left my dad—twas wrong, of course—because my colt became his horse. I left my dad to sow and reap, because my lamb became his sheep. I dropped my hoe and stuck my fork, because my pig became his pork. The garden-truck that I made grow—'twas his to sell, but mine to hoe. It's not the smoke in the atmosphere, nor the taste for 'life' that brought me here. Please tell the platform, pulpit, press, no fear of toil or love of dress is driving off the farmer lads, but just the methods of their dad's."

There is truth as well as poetry in the above but not all the truth nor all the poetry. In this province of ours probably more boys have left the farms than in any other province in Canada; left their fathers' farms to work on other peoples' farms elsewhere, to work in stores, in offices, in factories; to take up professions and to enter upon life from some other angle than that presented by the farm. "Thinkers of platform, pulpit and press," have waxed eloquent about the "fresh and germless air" on the farm and have proved to their own satisfaction that the best place on earth is the farm—but the boys don't believe a word of it. The boy would be a chump who would work twelve to fifteen hours a day on a farm at a dollar or less a day when he could get three to five dollars for an eight hour day in the city. In yielding to the call to the city he is not turning his "poor old father down" but often helping him and many a poor old father in this province whose farming has not given him a decent living would be poorer than he is but for the help of his son who has gone elsewhere to earn a living.

In connection with the question of the boys leaving the farm there are two things to remember: (1) Boys do not leave well managed or prosperous farms except to take up a professional or other calling which may be more congenial to them than farming. The prosperity of their father's farm places a college career within their reach; many of these have made a success of their calling; more have failed because through misguided direction on the part of parents or others they have been induced to enter one or another of the so-called, "learned professions" without any regard to their fitness. There are many of these, who would have made successful farmers had they chosen that life and it is quite probable that in this province the greatest loss sustained by our farms is the loss consequent upon the fathers' prosperity and his mistaken idea that the "learned professions" offer a more promising career than the drudgery of farming. (2) Boys leave the illmanaged farms and it is the only sensible thing they can do. With other callings offering them a reasonable living they would be untrue to themselves and to their parents if they preferred a sentimental adherence to the farm, rather than work in a factory, office or store that would afford them a living. Untrained as farmers they would, by remaining at home, only perpetuate the mismanagement of their fathers.

Then what is the remedy? One remedy is to make farming a more business-like undertaking than it is and not be blinded by the false glamour of the so-called "learned professions." To be a successful farmer is infinitely more honourable than to be a failure in the church, at the bar or in politics and the boy brought up in that doctrine on a well managed farm will, as a rule, stick to the farm and make a success of it. For the other class, the unsuccessful farmer, there is only one remedy, the slow, tedious process of agricultural education. Every farm in this province should be a profitable business undertaking and can be made so by diligent use of the information available for the asking from the Department of Agriculture. When we have prosperous, well-managed farms the boys will stay by them. Until we have they will go where the money is to be made.

A SILLY CHARGE AGAINST STATES FALLS TO GROUND

LONDON, Dec. 31.—The Bolsheviki newspapers continue to print revelations of an alleged American plot to support General Kaledines, according to a Petrograd despatch to the Morning Post dated Tuesday. So far as Ambassador Francis is concerned, the charge falls to the ground before the straightforward statement issued by him on Tuesday. Colonel Kolpashnikoff never applied to the Ambassador for any funds, for any purpose, although fully empowered to draw as needed on the Red Cross account, he being connected with the American Red Cross.

Leon Trotsky's charges against Kolpashnikoff and American representatives in Petrograd, the correspondent adds, amount to a series of suppositions unsupported by evidence of any kind. The correspondent says that General Kolpashnikoff assisted the officials in Halifax in examining Trotsky when he and Trotsky were travelling to Russia together, and adds:

"The matter thus comes down to the personal element which plays so large a part in what is called politics in Russia today."

Colonel Kolpashnikoff, the correspondent says, is still in prison and has not been seen by any American official. It is plain, according to the correspondent of the Post, that in some small bits of friction between the respective American missions to Rumania and Russia, Trotsky found a peg on which to hang a series of baseless charges against Ambassador Francis and the American nation. Trotsky's object is to discredit the entente allied Governments through their representatives and the methods he has adopted are calculated to intensify the hostility of the Russian proletariat toward the Allies, which German agents also have fostered.

A Petrograd despatch to the London Times said that Ambassador Francis in his statement denied that he and his staff had interfered with Russian internal affairs or aided any political faction. The Ambassador published letters showing that the one employed in the transportation of Red Cross automobiles were drawn for the Red Cross and not for the embassy, which the Bolsheviki had alleged.

STANLEY COMING

OTAWA, Jan. 1.—Hon. J. D. Reid, Minister of Railways has received word that five large steamers which left the upper lakes for ocean navigation are fast in ice in the vicinity of Cape Chette. Orders were drawn for the Car Ferry "Prince Edward Island" to proceed to the rescue of the imprisoned vessels. The Stanley will be placed on the Picton-Charlottetown route.

Second Trip To France

The following letter was received by Mrs. Jerome Pineau, New Acadia, from her son who was wounded and has returned to France.

11-25-1917
Somewhere in France

Dear Mother—
Just a few lines to let you know that I am well, and hoping I find you all enjoying the same blessing. We are having cold weather now and lots of wind, but not much rain. We are having an easy time as far as war is concerned, but lots of harness cleaning. I am not with the same battery as I was before, but I am going to try to get back with them, if there is a chance at all.
I see quite a few Island boys out here and in England. Did Maurice Gallant hear from Harmon lately? I did not see him yet, but if he is out here I will look him up if I get a chance. I suppose they will be taking the boys on the road who are of age as Conscription is in force. Well, mother, I haven't much news, and can't say much in a letter. I will bring my letter to a close by wishing you a Merry Christmas. Your loving son,
No. 86783 J. H. PINEAU,
3rd D.A.C.,
Second Sec.,
C.E.P., France.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson,

ALL'S WELL

Is the pathway dark and dreary?
God's in His Heaven
Are you broken heart-sick, weary?
God's in His Heaven!
Dearest roads shall have an ending
Broken hearts are God's mending,
All's well! All's well!
All's—well!
Is the burden past your bearing?
God's in His Heaven!
Hopeless?—Friendless?—No one caring?
God's in His Heaven!
Burdens shared are light to carry,
Love shall come though long He tarry,
All's well! All's well!
All's—well!
Is the future black with sorrow
God's in His Heaven!
Do you dread each dark to-morrow?
God's in His Heaven!
Nought can come without His knowing,
Come what may 'tis His bestowing,
All's well! All's well!
All's—well!

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 FRIDAY

Breakfast
Oatmeal Porridge Coffee
Toast
Dinner
Boiled Fresh Cod
Fried Onions Mashed Potatoes
Dutch Apple Cake
Supper
Creamed Toast Cookies
Sliced Bananas Tea

The recipe for Dutch Apple Cake, mentioned above, is as follows:—

Dutch Apple Cake
2 cups flour
2-3 cup milk
3 tablespoons fat
3 tablespoons sugar
3 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 egg
5 apples
Six dry ingredients together, cut in the fat with a knife and add gradually the egg well beaten with the milk, mixing with a knife. Put on a floured board, roll out as thick as for biscuits, and put in a greased, floured, shallow pan. Pare, core, and quarter the apples; cut the quarters into 3 or 4 slices lengthwise, and press the sharp edges of the apples into the dough, arranging them in parallel rows. Sprinkle the apples with sugar, and bake till the cake is done and the apples soft. Serve hot with lemon sauce.
(Wheat and meat saving recipes by Domestic Science Experts of the Canadian Food Controller's Office.)

Big Blaze at Glace Bay On Sunday

GLACE BAY, December 31.—A fire which started about 7.30 Tuesday morning in St. Anne's Catholic Church, supposedly from furnace in the basement, burned the church, Glebe House and St. Anne's Convent adjoining the church, on either side of the ground. The loss is about \$10,000 with about forty-five thousand dollars insurance. The church was the largest in the town and was beautifully restored and rebuilt inside last summer at a cost of twenty-five thousand dollars, owing to damage from subsidence caused by mining underneath.

Most of the furniture in the convent and Glebe House was saved, and the furniture in St. Anne's school was removed as a precaution, as for a time is looked as if the fire would spread and sweep a large part of the town.
The fire was discovered about 7.45 by Father Macdonald on entering the vestry to prepare for Mass. Half a dozen people were in the church at the time and all escaped.
There was a quick turnout by the firemen, but the buildings being in a higher part of the town the water pressure was ineffective and nothing could be done to save the church. By the time the fire engine got to the scene through deep snow and started pumping the Glebe House was more than half burned and the convent was all.

At one time it was feared that the big machine shop of the Dominion Coal Company, close to the fire, would be destroyed, but it escaped damage. All of the Sisters in the convent were able to get out of the building without difficulty, but one of them, Sister Evsebia, who has been ill for some time, suffered considerably from the shock caused by the fire. Dr. Thompson, the rector of the parish, collapsed after the destruction of the buildings, and his condition tonight is quite serious.

BLIND MEN IN FIGHT TILL ONE IS PUT OUT

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—Two blind men, inmates of the home of aged and infirm on Blackwell's Island, became enraged yesterday during an argument concerning the war and fought to a finish.

Gustav Sailer, who came from Germany, took the German end of the discussion against Alexander Badgen, who is 69 and a former subject of Russia.

FIVE GERMAN AIRPLANES DESTROYED

LONDON, Dec. 31.—Five German airplanes were destroyed or put out of action Saturday by the British who lost none of their air machines.

The Army and Navy Veterans In Canada

A meeting of all officers, N.C.O's and men, belonging to or who have belonged to any of the Naval and Military Forces of the Empire is called to meet on January 4th, at 1 p.m. in the City Court Room, for the purpose of organizing a branch of "The Army and Navy Veterans in Canada" for P. E. I.

We would request that as many as possible returned men and old Militiamen attend this meeting. Militiamen with six years Militia Service are eligible for membership

D. STEWART, Lt. Col.
C. LEIGH, Major
F. McRAE, Major
J. W. STANLEY, Major

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GOFF BROS., Shoe Men



TO OUR PATRONS

In appreciation of their support and our pleasant business relations we extend our—

"Best Wishes for the New Year"

G. H. Taylor
Jeweler and Engraver