

THE Charlottetown Guardian

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OPTIMISM

What the sunshine is to the plant, optimism is to business. The plant, no matter how favorable soil and climate may be, will become a weakling and will never reach a healthy maturity, if the life-giving influence and the warmth of the sunlight are wanting.

The analogy may be carried further. To the plant struggling "by the wayside" or "on stony ground" too much sunshine is injurious. The growth of the plant is hastened unnaturally, it outgrows its strength and the cruel sunlight which wooed it out of its shallow bed becomes its greatest enemy.

Similarly a business enterprise that is not well grounded, that has more of the sunshine of optimism than of the soil of suitable advantages will thrive for a day and then become wilted.

Instances of both kinds of growth are to be found right here in Canada. Under an optimism that increased automatically and that was not backed up by necessary advantages, cities grew up almost in a day and almost as quickly wilted. Real estate was boomed until it far exceeded its intrinsic value, and the last purchaser was caught with land on his hands for which he could not obtain the price.

Contrast the rapid and unhealthy growth under these conditions, with the slow, steady growth in the eastern provinces. Here in Prince Edward Island, for example, land values increased only as their power of production increased. The country grew slowly, with increasing cultivation, with growing facilities for marketing, with improving methods of farming. The foundations had been laid in the soil and in the climate and in their ability to produce, in the fact that they had never failed to produce, and under these conditions the country became prosperous.

And yet we might have prospered more rapidly with a little more optimism, a little more faith in our own province. We were dazzled by the rapid growth in western Canada; we became impatient at the comparatively slow growth of our own province and many abandoned their farms to try their fortunes in the land of rapid development and optimism. Those who remained, who held to their faith in the land and its possibilities have succeeded and today we have the richest province in Canada.

When the war broke out we took it for granted that we, in common with the rest of Canada, would suffer. It is quite true that, as a result of the war, there have been changes, but few of these changes will affect us to our hurt. What we need most is more faith in our province and its resources. We have survived the first shock of the disturbance caused by the war, came through it without any loss, while our sister provinces and the rest of the world were hit hard. We have the land and its productiveness and as long as the world stands the products of the land will have value.

NUISANCES

Charlottetown, like other respectable cities has its nuisances. Some of them have been complained of, others have been treated as necessary and unavoidable evils. A nervous neighbor complains of the early and untimely cock crowing in certain localities; another, although musical in his tastes and even in his habits, fails to find any beauty in the cat concerts that occasionally shatter the midnight air and shake his windows, and thinks that civic or if necessary, legislative action should be taken to preserve the peace and the sanctity of the midnight air from marauding cats.

Apart from the music, objectionable or agreeable as the varying tastes of citizens may designate it, cats of the prowling variety are as dangerous a class of citizens as it is possible to have. They are veritable disease carriers and now, with a few cases of scarlet fever, and possibly other infectious diseases in our midst, the cat portion of the population should be very particularly looked after and those of them that can be spared disposed of in the most humane manner possible.

A New York exchange directs attention to this nuisance in the following forcible manner and we commend it to the careful perusal of our citizens.

"One child is worth more than a hundred thousand stray cats. The fate of little Grace Polhemus should stir city authorities to the action long demanded by common sense, the ending of a continuous nuisance and a sporadic but frequent peril to human life.

"A little girl sees a homeless cat on the sidewalk near her home. The impulse to caress it, to pick it up, to pity it, is irresistible. If children didn't have such impulses the outlook for humanity twenty years from now would be pretty dark and forbidding. The cat, crazed perhaps by hunger or thirst, or by ill treatment from hoodlums, bites the fondling hand. A year later hydrophobia develops, doctor's efforts seem in vain; death appears near at hand.

"Many years ago a woman in Manhattan thought she had a mission to put homeless cats out of the way. Night after night for months, she roamed the streets with a bag into which she dropped anyone of these animals that would let her reach it. To her captives she gave euthanasia with chloroform. People treated her as almost a lunatic. Eventually she was compelled to quit. Yet that woman had the right idea, and what she did on a small scale the city should do on a large one. Occasionally, as in the case of Grace Polhemus, hydrophobia may be directly traced to a stray cat's bite. But the function of these cats as disease carriers is more of a peril than their bites.

"A license law, and extermination of unlicensed cats, is the rational policy. Whether domestic animals should be permitted as pets in a great city is still a debatable question. Properly cared for in homes cats are not so dangerous as dogs. But those not cared for should die as un-cared for dogs die, and a heavy penalty should be put on any person who sets loose to starve a cat that has been a family pet. A drastic policy is demanded in the interest of public comfort and public health."

WHERE IS THE STATEMENT?

More than a week ago we challenged the officials of the Temperance Alliance to publish a statement which they had been secretly circulating among the clergy and others, and which was said to contain a list of Prohibition prisoners whom the Government had arbitrarily set at liberty without serving their term of imprisonment. This alleged action on the part of the Government was stated to prove its laxity in the administration of the Prohibition Act. The Patriot hastened to produce the statement, and by examination of each case we showed that in only three instances had the Government interfered, and in each case on good and sufficient ground. Clemency in the other cases mentioned had been extended by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, who no doubt acted in good faith and for good and sufficient reasons. Mr Schurman, thereupon, repudiated the statement, and we therefor called upon the Patriot and the compilers not only to withdraw the document, but to apologise for circulating it. Mr Schurman again appeared in print, and claimed that "the statement" was part of "a document." We politely suggested that were the whole no more accurate than the part, Mr Schurman would require some higher defence than the Patriot's, as with all its ingenuity it could not possibly make two and two into five. But, like the child in the poem "We Are Seven," the Patriot got back to its original untenable position and argued that it had published the document in its columns and we would be surprised when the document was published. Thus far and no farther have we got in this controversy. But yesterday introduced a new feature.

After many days' loud protestation about its Simon Pure Prohibition Principles, the Patriot opens its columns to a correspondent who advocates "open bars," "where one could take a drink and get it pure..."

Well, well; there must be "a nigger in the wood pile to 'true." What does the Patriot care whether there be open bars or prohibition, so long as it can have a fling at the Government? It was Kaiser Wilhelm who reminded Lord Tweedmouth, that had not Eve kept constantly looking at the apple she should not now have to wear clothes. It is to be hoped the Patriot will be able to produce its candid correspondent to prove his allegations. Anyway, the Prosecutor is bound to take note of them, for the allegations are specific and the correspondent should have little difficulty in proving the cases; for his information, like Weller's, is evidently both extensive and peculiar.

We note, while it has plenty room for generalities, our contemporary has not found editorial space to answer our specific questions about the elusive document, the source of all the trouble, according to Mr Schurman. Why not let us get to the source and have all misunderstanding cleared away? Is it because it would prove to the public that the Government has a better Prohibition record than any of its predecessors, and because it believes in deeds, not windy words, in its administration of the Prohibition Act, that our contemporary is so backward in coming forward? Our readers may judge.

ADVERTISING IS OPTIMISM

"Economic Advertising," the official organ of the Toronto Ad Club, well says: Two things make advertising almost a synonym for "optimism." One is that the advertiser who would be successful must be an optimist. The other is that when an advertiser loses his optimism he generally cancels his advertising. "Business is rotten," exclaims the manufacturer, and forthwith orders all his advertising stopped, little realizing that his own action is one of the causes that make business rotten. Cancelling advertising is so easy that it is nearly always the first step toward retrenchment. The matter is seldom decided on its merits. It is impulse. Advertising must be an expense, the advertiser reasons. Therefore, to cut it off effects a saving. The stoppage of advertising during time of stress and change has two bad effects upon the business involved. It turns off immediately a method of securing new business and holding old business. In addition to that, it advertises the pessimistic views of the advertiser, and therefore spreads his own lack of faith in himself, his goods, his country, and the future to other business men who are, perhaps, also on the verge of doing the same thing.

AUSTRIA MUST FIGHT

Reports from Petrograd to the effect that Austria and Germany are on the verge of rupture should be received with extreme caution. Doubtless the correspondents of the London Times and the London News give these reports currency in perfect good faith and themselves believe the Russian explanation that Austria, smarting under a series of heavy reverses and dissatisfied with the conduct of joint operations by German officers, is planning to break her alliance and negotiate a separate peace.

We do not need to go very far below the surface to discern the inherent improbability of these reports. Assuming that friction does now exist between the Austrian and German general officers, and that the Austrians have substantial grievances against their Allies, the desertion of Germany by Austria would be tantamount to national suicide. The Dual Kingdom must stand or fall with the cause of her stronger neighbor. If Austria purchased a separate peace at the expense of her honor as a nation she would greatly facilitate Russia's campaign against Germany and contribute materially to the latter's defeat. But what would follow? An isolated Austria, with the immense weight of Russia impending on one frontier; a Balkan confederacy on another; to the west an historically unfriendly Italy eager to round out her territory and waiting an opportunity to dispute the supremacy of the Adriatic; to the north a former ally unwilling, perhaps unable, to aid in a crisis.

A victorious Russia is the gravest peril Austria can confront. To smooth Russia's road to victory would be the height of folly. Vienna realizes that and is not likely to forget her obligations of honor and loyalty for the sake of an advantage that could be temporary at the best.

NOTES

A German officer told an English girl in Brussels that she would be safer in that city than in London, because of the success of the Zeppelin raids in England. The item relating this fish story remarks that "the girl giggled."

HON. M. MCKINNON REPLIES

Mr. Schurman's letter in Monday's Patriot headed "Mr. Schurman Continues his Exposures" was not so dreadful after all, considering the threats he made in Saturday's issue.

It would like to ask, when did the Alliance authorize him as their Secretary to sign such communications threatening all kinds of vengeance on the Government on all subjects? There are good, earnest men in the Alliance, on both sides of politics, who have sufficient regard for the great Temperance Cause to keep their Temperance work free from politics. Those are the men who are really doing temperance work. They have the good will of all except a very few indeed, and never have to appear as martyrs. They are unfortunately others who never know where their petty politics and personal grievances stop, and their temperance begins. When one of these gets into office smooth enough to impress a few honest men with his sanctity pointing to his private character and high calling as a proof of the righteousness of his course, then trouble begins and we have a large crop of martyrs. However, it is not often that such a leading spirit exposes his double dealing as completely as Mr. Schurman did in Saturday's Patriot. All the efforts the Guardian could put forth could not clear the atmosphere and let the public know where matters stand as that short letter from the Secretary of the Alliance did.

So far as anything I have said or written is concerned I am ready to stand by it. I never said to anyone that members of the Presbytery appointed to me, I repeated the plain statement made to me "that they were heartily ashamed of what took place," which statement did not mean an apology to me and was never reported by me as such. It is true that Mr. Schurman says he had the authority of one of the most influential members of the Presbytery for his contention. This is part of the game. Draw in the Presbytery or some member of it and if anything is said in reply raise your hands in a holy horror at your disrepute for the Presbytery. As a Presbyterian I have as much respect for the Presbytery and for my clergy as Mr. Schurman and too much respect for them to try and make use of them in a case of this kind. I wish to say in making my statement in regard to this matter I state what I know to be true and don't depend on hearsay, even from influential authority.

In regard to my statement that the witnesses were sent out of the Province so the Government could not get them, which Mr. Schurman denied I give the following extracts from the report of the investigation held in Summerside as proof of my assertion.

Mr. Bentley's evidence: Q. What did you do after communicating with Mr. Schurman? Did you give any advice Mr. Bentley? A. I did.

Q. What advice did you give? A. I advised him that if the witnesses were subpoenaed by the Crown they could be held here and the trial protracted for some time and that it would be done at the expense of the Alliance.

Mr. Schurman's evidence: Q. What was your purpose then in sending them out of the province? Mr. Schurman.

A. I was not going to allow these men here to get subpoenas on them and keep them at our expense. If the committee desired to do what was right, they could have said to the Crown or to these men referred to by Mr. Schurman: "We are through with these cases, you can now deal with them as we like to do, but continue the case." Instead of that they were hurried out of the province before anyone was aware of it lest they should be subpoenaed and cause expense to the same dealers involved. I tell you so many cases were investigated. If Mr. Schurman can in view of the above evidence make it clear that the charge which to me, is too apparent, that we well founded no one will be better pleased than I as I would be sorry to think that persons who would be guilty of such could be backed up for one moment by any well-thinking people.

As to the offer to pay the expenses of witnesses to Summerside, the following extracts from the correspondence show the facts: On September 14th, a letter signed by Messrs. Fash and Schurman was delivered to the Attorney-General saying among other things: "That Alliance must decline to proceed further with regard to the charges against the Queen's County and King's County officials unless the Government is prepared to pay the extra expense which will be caused by having such investigation held in Summerside instead of Charlottetown."

The Attorney-General answered on the same day: "The Government is willing to pay the extra expense which may be caused by the investigation being held in Summerside instead of in Charlottetown in the case of all necessary and material witnesses who may be examined."

To this Messrs. Fash and Schurman replied on the 15th September, in substance, as follows: "We have selected a list of some seven or eight witnesses which we deem necessary and material. That there may be no misunderstanding at the close of the investigation as to the payment of the expenses of these witnesses, we would ask you to kindly let us know if the Government will be willing to pay their railway fare and hotel expenses while attending the investigation in Summerside."

To this the Attorney-General replied on the same day as follows: "In reply to your letter of today I beg to refer you to mine of yesterday, which covers the questions completely, and concedes all that is necessary for the purpose of a bona fide enquiry into the remaining cases."

"There is no room for any misunderstanding upon your proposal and my acceptance."

The Commission met in Summerside on the following day when Mr. Bell enquired who would decide which witnesses were material and necessary, and he was informed by the Commissioner and the Attorney-General that the decision would rest with the Commissioner, but this was not satisfactory to those gentlemen whose object was to drop the enquiry and throw the blame on the Government.

In regard to Rev. Mr. Wilson I did recommend him and that gentleman will admit that I gave him all the support and advice I could as long as he would accept it from me. If he wishes to discuss why he ceased to

EGG CIRCLING CANDLING STATIONS

Mr.—There have now been established in this province two Egg Candling and Grading Stations in conjunction with the Prince Edward Island Egg Circles.

These stations are being operated by the Prince Edward Island Co-operative Egg and Poultry Association, generally known to Egg Circle members as the Central Association. The objects aimed at in introducing this system will be as follows:—

To ensure good quality being placed on the markets to safeguard the reputation of the Egg Circles.

To encourage the production of good quality and protect the producer of such good quality.

To ensure absolute justice to each individual member of the Egg Circles.

To in future ensure to the consumer good quality at even lower prices than they have been compelled to pay in the past.

To ensure to the farmers of this province a greater profit from their poultry industry by the encouragement of good quality which will build up a good reputation for our island eggs and justify greater production, which will mean more business done with increased profit owing to the elimination of present wastefulness.

To induce Egg Circle members to absolutely refuse to sell their eggs "full count" regardless of quality, which custom has been so injurious to our industry from time immemorial, and which today is the strongest weapon in the hands of those who wish to crush out the Egg Circle movement.

This is another step in advance in connection with a method of marketing eggs which is based on honesty and fairness to both consumer and producer. Judging from what has been taking place in this province during the year past, strong opposition to this further effort on behalf of producer and consumer may be expected.

Just as egg buyers during this past season have been offering such ridiculously inflated prices for eggs marketed in the old, antiquated way (in which have been included eggs, good, bad and indifferent) simply to discourage egg circle members and make them unfaithful to their associations, just so may we expect to see prices as high or perhaps higher offered for eggs, circle or otherwise, that do not go through the Candling Stations, just to discourage the Egg Circle members who would send their eggs through their managers to the Candling Stations. There are in fact already indications of this attitude on the part of those in opposition to the Egg Circle movement.

Every president of an Egg Circle in this province should immediately call a special general meeting of his egg circle and ask members to pass a resolution to have all the eggs of the circle from now on shipped to one or other of the Candling Stations, where all eggs will be carefully candled and graded before being marketed, and returns carefully and promptly made, arrangements having been made to avoid any delay in this respect. Full particulars either have been or will be sent to every Egg Circle.

As the Candling Stations will be in the hands of the Farmers' Association it will be possible to keep the expenses down to a minimum, as there will be no immediate profit to be charged to the producer and the interests of both consumer and producer will be looked after.

The consuming public would do well to study what has taken place during the past season in this province. Eggs have been bought just as they came in, good, bad and indifferent, at as high a price as could be obtained for circle eggs even of the best quality, and all circles have been paid the same price by the same dealers irrespective of quality, so we see that eggs have been paid for in our local stores at higher prices than in any other province, and far higher prices than they were honestly worth. The efforts of those who have tried so hard for the uplift of the industry on the island being discredited.

In spite of these conditions, however, all egg buyers will be invited without prejudice to bid for the candling station eggs and are asked to reconsider their unreasonable attitude towards this movement by which they are working such great harm to both consumer and producer.

The attention of circle members is also drawn to the prices for eggs which have prevailed in local stores in those parts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick where there are no Egg Circles. During the first week in May these stores were paying 15 cents per dozen while our stores were paying 19 to 20 cents, and before we had Egg Circles we always received a little less for our eggs than was paid on the mainland.

Do these members who have taken their stamped eggs to the stores which is against Egg Circle rules really believe that they have made more money by so doing? Do they believe that as much can be paid for poor quality as good quality? It must be made up somehow.

What will happen next year if all the Egg Circles are crushed out? Egg Circle members are invited to rally round those who have tried so hard to help them and support the efforts being made in their own interests.

I am Sir, etc., F. P. ARSENAULT, President P. E. I. Co-op. E. & P. Ass.

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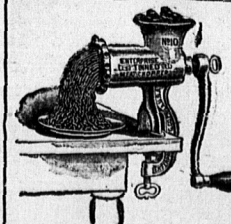
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