

The Charlottetown Guardian

Office at Charlottetown, Branch Office at St. John's, Miramichi, and Montserrat.

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 1918.

FARMERS' WEEK

This will be an important week for the farmers of this province. Today the annual meeting of the P. E. Island Egg and Poultry Association will be held. This is one of the young co-operative institutions that have risen into prominence within the past few years and there are few if any institutions of any kind that have exerted such an influence on the agricultural life of the province. It has created a veritable revolution in the poultry business through a system of co-operation that has worked with wonderful smoothness and with unparalleled success.

The story of what it has achieved during the past year and of the manner of its growth to its present proportions will no doubt be one of the features of the annual meeting and it is hoped there will be a large attendance not only of farmers but of citizens generally. The Egg and Poultry Association has not made much noise since it came into being, but the things it has accomplished are guarantees of successful management and of hearty co-operation among its members.

The Central Farmers' Institute will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday and Thursday, and it is expected that representatives will be present from the different institutes throughout the province. This also is a co-operative association of farmers, and its deliberations should be of great benefit to the farmers present and to the institutes which they will represent. As the things accomplished are the measure of the usefulness of any institution, the year's review of this association also will be of interest and profit and will give proportionate weight to such conclusions as may be arrived at for future guidance. It is hoped that this meeting or series of meetings will also be well attended. The Guardian heartily welcomes the farmers of both organizations to the city, and trusts that their deliberations will mean further development and more prosperity for the coming year.

FIXING PRICES

There is considerable divergence of opinion regarding the compulsory fixing of prices of food products, especially to farmers. It is mainly those who have the interest of the consumer at heart who agitate for a fixed price of oats, wheat, of bacon, of beef, of all agricultural produce. The farmer, on the other hand, is not so anxious that a maximum should be fixed and that the "spread" should take the place of supply and demand. In the United States when Mr. Hoover has fixed the price of sugar to be paid the refiners and the planters, the latter have raised a howl of protest which has agitated the Senate and been discussed in the press. Discussing the question the Montreal Journal of Commerce, of which Mr. Fielding is the Editor, says that the "sugar situation resulting from the compulsory fixing of prices makes it clear that all attempts of the Government to fix prices on commodities are failures, and that notwithstanding the President's expressed wish, there exists in Congress considerable opposition to any price-fixing legislation. Some members have shown it to be their intention to use the facts disclosed by the present probe to show that price-fixing has not only been disastrous, but that it is not necessary for the United States. If the shortage in coal and in sugar can be attributed to the attempts to fix the price on them, then these opponents will have uncontroverted facts at their command. But this will not constitute the only evidence they will offer in rebuttal. It is evident the intention of these opponents to show that the United States is chiefly a country of production; one upon which Europe depends for her supplies. If prices are fixed upon commodities in the United States, it is argued, that will tend to curtail the rewards of production and thereby curtail the volume of production. To curtail the volume of production would be most disastrous at this stage of the war."

DETENTION OF CARS ILLEGAL

One of the great difficulties in transportation heretofore and one that has had a good deal to do with the increase in the cost of foodstuffs was the holding of loaded cars at their destination. An Order in Council has just been passed that a freight car containing food or food products shall not be allowed to remain under load at its destination on any railway in Canada for a longer period than four days after notice

of its arrival has been given by the railway company to the consignee of such food products. This order will release many cars now being used for days, and sometimes weeks at a time for storage purposes, and will greatly facilitate transportation.

—IN WELL DOING

Over three and a half years at war! Are we as enthusiastic in our helpfulness as when the war-coulds first grew thick and black about us? Sustained enthusiasm may be an impossibility, for even enthusiasm when it becomes an everyday grind grows monotonous and commonplace and loses its freshness and vigor. But well-doing never ceases, never grows weary. There are many women in this province as, doubtless in every other province in Canada, who are knitting and sewing, sewing and knitting as diligently for the soldiers today as in that first terrible year when the boys went away, as diligently as before the dreaded telegrams began to come telling of a son or a brother for whom nothing more could be done. But always there was some one else who needed and the sewing and the knitting continued. Here in Charlottetown a band of the "never-weary in well doing" meet twice a week at the Armouries to sew and knit for the Red Cross. The attendance is perhaps no as large as at first, but there are those who have seldom been absent, who have never let up, who are always working, always planning for something that will add to the store of the Red Cross and therefore to the comfort of the boys. We trust there shall be no wearying in this work; that our persistence will be akin to that of the boys who in the face of odds that we know nothing about, are holding the enemy at bay and driving him back.

BUSINESS IN THE PROVINCES

The failure record in the maritime provinces for the year just ended has been one of the best in the country's history. The number of failures was small and the liabilities relatively smaller. These satisfactory conditions are accounted for by the great plenitude of employment for every body who was willing to work and the price paid for labor. Never before have the merchants of the country had less trouble to collect their bills and as a result they have made such payments of their own debts to jobbers as a few years ago would have been thought quite impossible. The feeling today among bankers and jobbers is that the retail trade of the country have their own affairs well in hand and that so long as the present industrial situation continues which would seem likely to be for some time, the merchandising condition of the provinces is prospectively good. Considering the times and world conditions generally, there would seem to be great cause for gratitude that business with us has been so satisfactory. Think of the contrast between Australia's case and ours. We can sell anything we have to sell, while they, because of shortage of ship tonnage are more or less shut off from export trade. We have had the advantage in Canada of being close to the firing line, but yet quite as safe as though we were in the Antipodes. We have been benefitted rather than injured in a business way by Hans in his submarine. Nothing that ever happened has given this country the same chance to make money at the U-boats. And we are making it. Look at the price of wooden vessels, of Nova Scotia codfish, in fact of the foods that Canada produces. This is certainly the golden age of money making in this country and it is therefore not surprising that despite the high prices, the retail merchants have had such a good year's business and have paid their bills so well. —Martitime Merchant.

NOTES

The mayor of a suburb of Antwerp has been ordered to deliver to the Germans 40 fat cats. What is it going to be, sausages or oil for machinery?

Sir Donald Mann wants Government ownership of railways in Canada, too, but his personal experience with Government ownership has been rather brief.

Tolstoi prophesied that a journalist would arise in the North who would dominate not only Russia, but most of Europe for fifteen or twenty years. Trotsky is the successor of Kerensky as "the man."

It is said that the British and French depots at Archangel are being broken up, as no more supplies can be sent to Russia until the chaos has worked itself out. The Allies are making no pretence of counting Russia in as a military asset to them now.

Trotsky in Boo Outlined Plan He Puts into Practice

Such a thing never could happen. Every wide-awake, practical man will admit that every man who is used to "dealing with the hard realities of life" instead of mooning around in the queer dream-world which this man seemed to inhabit positively absolutely beyond all shadow of a doubt, such a thing never could happen. But it did. It couldn't be possible, for instance, that a poor immigrant who couldn't earn his living in New York, a "Journalist" with ability of a sort, but one of the kind who gets \$10 or \$12 a week when things are running smoothly and \$3 or \$4 when they don't—it couldn't be possible that such a man could move his family out of four rooms and a bath in New York and become, in the space of twelve months, a powerful juggler of the central political figures on earth.

No, such a thing couldn't be possible, but it happened, nevertheless. What is more, the man knew it was going to happen; at least he saw very clearly the strange turn of world events ahead which would make such impossible happenings the order of the day. He had written a book about it before he left Switzerland and came to New York to await the first move in the new world shake-up.

The man was Leon Trotsky, Russia's unique Minister of Foreign Affairs. The book, written in Switzerland before the Czar was overthrown and before Canadians knew that there was such a thing on earth as a Bolshevik, bears the title, "The Bolshevik and World Peace."

This book is a complete outline of the world-startling Bolshevik programme, which its author is now putting into practice in each a world-startling way. Had it been published when he wrote it, it would have had few readers, for how many were there then who ever foresaw the dethronement of the Czar, to say nothing about the latest uprising which the Western world immediately stamped as mad? Had it been published a few weeks ago it could not have been understood, for the three handed contest of the last few weeks between militarism, civilization and Trotsky has been altogether too dazzling for general comprehension.

Trotsky had this book with him when he was trying to earn a living in New York. It was to be his monument. He was certain that the Russian revolution was imminent, and he was only waiting in New York for that revolution to begin. Then he would sail for Russia.

It wasn't at all certain that he would get there for he was a marked man. The Czar had exiled him. The German Government had imprisoned him, and now, Miliukoff, the head of New Russia's first Provisional Government had denounced him as a German spy. But even so, he sailed. He would take a chance with his life, but not with his book. He left that with his most intimate friend in America—to be published when the right time should arrive. The Mail and Empire has come into possession of his most remarkable document. The time for its publication has arrived. Next Saturday The Mail and Empire will contain the first instalment, with an introduction by Lincoln Jefferson, one of the first American journalists to grasp the meaning of the new Russian revolution.

Most emphatically this is not a mere book of generalities dug up and published after its author happened to rise to fame. It is a concrete statement of the author's purposes; his plans to end the war and bring the working classes of the whole world together in a regime of universal peace and cooperation; his plans to start social revolution in Germany, to arouse his workers to shake off militarism, to dethrone Kaiserism and free themselves from capitalism.

For once in all history, ultra-radicals have been placed in power and lost none of their radicalism. The German Socialists were opposed to militarism, but they voted the war credits. They were opposed to the Kaiser, but they helped to carry out the Kaiser's programme. Trotsky was in Germany when the war broke out, and he was disgusted with the attitude of his German comrades. They in turn were angry at his taunts. They said that German Socialists were practical, and they pointed to the largest, best disciplined and most successful Socialist organization in the world to prove their practicality. It was all right for Russians, they said, to talk so loudly, but what had the Russian Socialists accomplished? Trotsky answered that the most revolutionary programme would be in the last analysis the most practical, and in the eventuality of what seemed to have the utter break down of the beloved "international" he began to formulate his programme.

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 TUESDAY
Breakfast—Oatmeal Porridge, Baked Apples, Brown Bread Toast, Tea or Coffee
Dinner—Mashed Potatoes, Boiled Carrots, Cup Pudding
Supper—Cream of Celery Soup, War Bread, Cottage Cheese, Tea Biscuits, Tea

The recipes for Fish Pie and Cup Pudding, mentioned above, are as follows:—
Fish Pie—2 cups flaked fish, 1 cup seasoned white sauce. Mix the flaked fish with the white sauce, put into a greased baker, cover the top with buttered bread crumbs and cook in the oven until the crumbs are brown.
Cup Pudding—Put into each greased cup 1 tablespoon of jam. Cover to one-half the cup with a batter made as follows:—

2 tablespoons of butter
1/2 cup of sugar
1 egg
1 cup milk
2 1/2 cups flour
4 teaspoons baking powder

Cream the butter, add sugar gradually, and egg well beaten; mix and sift flour, baking powder, and salt; and alternately with milk to first mixture. After turning into cups, put in the oven and bake.
(What and meat saving recipes by Domestic Science Experts of the Food Controller's Office.)

Two Sons Fight Bravely in France

Mrs. John Bryant, Ellerslie, has received the following letters from her sons:

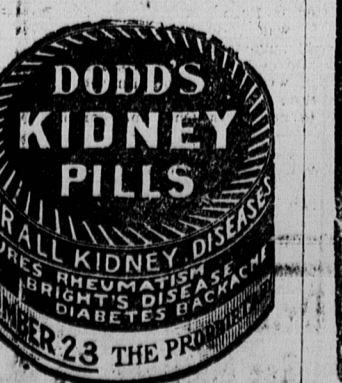
26th Batt., Somewhere in France. 14-12-17

Dear Mama: I am going to send you a few lines to let you know I am well, hoping this will find you the same. I had a letter from Jimmy today. He is still in England and is getting a Commission. He is coming right up. I will have to salute him when I see him again I suppose.
Well mama, I have been up to the front line for six days and we are out for a rest now. There is great weather over here this fall we only had one rain storm, when we were in the lines, and it made it muddy I tell you. I wish you could have seen me when I came out of the firing line. I had nearly all the mud in Flanders on me, and I have been trying to scrape it off ever since. I am writing this by candle light and there is a crowd walking all over me. We were paid today and we have an awful time with this French money.
I've just come in from voting, for the soldier's all voted here and I suppose the election will soon be on home. I hope you get my badges and watch all right and I had a letter from Henry McLennan the other day.
He is over here somewhere, you need not be uneasy if you don't hear from me often as there is not much chance to write.
Well I must close now, give my love to all and write soon. Your loving son WILL.

London, Dec. 15th, 1917.

Dear Mother: Just a few lines now to let you know I am still all right. I am going back to France next Sunday, so you see I won't be able to enjoy Xmas in England. However I've spent the last two in France and might as well make it the third. I may not be out very long this time, because I've been recommended for a commission and thought I would have had it before now. But in the meantime, they want every available man out at the front.
I voted the other day, one more for the Government. They need the men over here now or at least they will shortly. I haven't heard from Will lately in fact after he moved from Shoreham, I lost his address. I've written to him but don't know whether he received it or not.
Well mother dear I hope you won't worry too much. I'm pretty lucky and I know the ropes in France, now, so I'll be all right. I hope you received the Xmas cards I sent, all right. Good-bye for now. Your loving son, Jim.

P. S.—I'll write when I get to France and in the meantime my old address will find me. Cpl. James Bryant, B. Sqdn. L.S.H. Can. Cavalry Brigade, France.



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