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THE COMING CONFERENCE

The conference to be held in Charlottetown next Tuesday is now looked forward to with keen interest. It is generally felt that if we are to keep pace with our sister provinces in the new industrial and commercial era that is now upon us, the time has arrived when we must begin to lay foundations and make preparation for the part we are to take in it.

We have many interests, agriculture, fishing, commerce, manufacturing; with these are interwoven such questions as immigration and emigration, transportation, our school system, our social conditions. Any one of these interests may be developed at the cost of, or without benefiting the others, it may be developed with but little benefit to the province as a whole.

While no formal programme has been arranged for the conference, a number of well known and well qualified gentlemen, authorities in their respective lines, have consented to take part. The subject of Technical Education will be introduced by Prof. McCready and Dr W. J. P. McMillan; Fisheries by Mr A. J. McFadyen, Tignish; Drainage by Prof. Reek; Trade and Commerce by Mr Percy Pope; Transportation by Mr Nelson Rattenbury; Immigration by Prof. Reek, Mr W. F. Tidmarsh and Rev. Dr Fullerton; Special Industries by Hon. Charles Dalton; New Industries by Hon. H. D. McEwen, Mr Alfred Pickard and Mr J. O. Hyndman; Special Features of Agriculture by Rev. Dr Gauthier; Improvement of Rural Communities by Rev. J. J. MacDonald, Kinross; Improvement of Towns and Villages by Rev. R. G. Fulton. These gentlemen will merely introduce the subjects and discussions will then become general.

It is expected that all who have the interests of the province at heart and who can make it convenient to attend will do so. Single first-class fares good to return up to and including Friday, have been arranged for, to accommodate all who wish to be present.

LIBERAL CORRUPTIONISTS

A Regina telegram in an out-of-the-way corner in yesterday's Patriot announces that H. C. Pierce and S. Simpson, M.P.P.'s, and Gerhard Ens, a former M.P.P., have been committed for trial on charges of corruption, and admitted to bail. This is the first outcome of the Saskatchewan Liberal Government scandals which have been occupying public attention for some time. It is admitted on all sides that the Scott Liberal Government has reached the end of its tether. An Ottawa correspondent says it is fully recognized there that Premier Scott is fighting a losing battle and adopting every expedient known to politicians to gain time, sympathy and immunity.

DUTY, SERVICE, SACRIFICE

Throughout the length and breadth of our province during the past nineteen months the words, Duty and Service and Sacrifice, have been dimmed into the people's ears, and as a result, there is good reason to believe that there has been a general brightening up of these virtues and that men and women are beginning to realize something more of the sacredness of these than ever before.

We cannot too strongly impress these three words

upon the young. It is especially important that they, particularly, should learn the lessons of the war, should learn the new meaning of duty and service and sacrifice, the meaning that is being woven into their lives by a cataclysm, that in the years to come they shall look back upon as the central fact in history, the foundation of their world, for the world is going to be changed by this war, changed intellectually and morally as well as geographically and physically.

Are our children being given the part they should take in the activities that are making for these new conditions? One splendid example of what children can do when encouraged has just been brought to our attention and we give it here for the good it may do in stimulating others.

The pupils of Prince Street School have, since the beginning of the war, made the following contributions:

Table with 2 columns: Fund Name, Amount. Army Service Fund \$17.40, Queen Mary's Birthday Fund 72.00, Field Kitchen Fund 37.62, Trafalgar Day Fund 28.00, Sale of flowers, candy and concert, February 29th fund 80.00.

Total \$235.02

In addition to these these pupils have been sending weekly to the Charlottetown boys of the Signaller's Corps at the front a scrap-book containing the current home news and such other items of interest as were to be found in the daily home papers. Since the 98th Heavy Siege Battery went overseas the pupils have sent to them also every two weeks a scrap-book similar to that sent to the signaller's. The advanced class has even gone a step farther than this and, in addition to helping with the projects mentioned above, are devoting part of two days each week to knitting socks for the soldiers, much of this work being done outside of school hours.

The teachers of the school have contributed out of their salaries \$53 for the Army Service Fund in 1914 and \$71 for the Patriotic Fund in 1915.

It is possible that some other schools in the province are doing work of this kind, work that will perhaps compare favourably with the splendid work above referred to, but it will be at once admitted that such effort is not as general in our schools as it ought to be. The benefit of such giving does not end with the satisfaction and the comfort it gives to our soldier boys. Like "the quality of mercy" "it is twice blessed; it blesseth him who gives and him who takes."

The privilege of looking backward through the years at the greatest war in the world's history, of remembering its special incidents, the preparations made for it, the sending of their brothers and fathers and neighbours to the front, the interest in the daily news of the war's progress, and the many other matters in which everybody is interested to-day, this privilege is in reserve especially for the young and it will be made a barren and regrettable one if it will lack the recollection of having helped in some way. It is in those coming years that the war will be seen in its true perspective; we are too close to it to grasp its immensity or its significance. Let us help our children to do things that will be worth remembering when they look backward; let the schools impress upon the pupils that they have a part in the war and that their duty and their service and sacrifice are as important and as much needed as are those of the men who are fighting our battles in Europe. Every school in the province should line up in the army at home and at the front that is fighting for the life of the Empire and for the future of civilization.

MAGIC OF THE PIPES

The Rev. A. M. Maclean, B.D., C.M.G., in a stirring account of his year's work as chaplain in France, paid an eloquent tribute to the magic of the bagpipes, says a Halifax exchange. He was presented with a set through the generosity of the Scottish Flag Day Committee, and he would never forget the first occasion on which they were used:

"It was a Sunday afternoon, a sweltering hot day and the road was deep with dust. The long, snaky, khaki column came marching steadily down the hill, silent under the weight of their accoutrements with the grilling heat of an April sun. In the middle of the column they could see the blue bonnets and the dancing badges of the Scots. He let the English units who formed the vanguard go by, and as the Scots came abreast he gave the sign to the piper behind. He stepped forward and struck up one of the great battle marches of our race. The scene that followed baffled description. Like a gleam of sunlight sweeping over a ripe cornfield a wave of delight surged along the column of the Scots. A roar of cheering broke from the ranks. Forgetful of military discipline, men clapped hands and literally danced in the road."

From that day no Scottish unit marched out of camp without the inspiring strains of the bagpipes to cheer them on their way.

"GETTING ON"

Writing in the Montreal Herald and Telegraph, Hon. Charles Marcell, in referring to the speech delivered in Ottawa by Premier Hughes of Australia, has this to say of compulsory military training: "If Canada had had such a system it would have obviated much outlay, and it would have placed us in a position of greater preparedness. It may have been adopted in this country."

Mr Marcell is one of the leading men of the Liberal party and a man of keen intelligence. If he had talked or written the above two years ago, his colleagues would have thought him insane—in the same class as Ian Hamilton, Sir John French and the others who believed we should use a little more of our time preparing for possible war.

Even now, Mr Marcell's words are significant, likewise encouraging. As Mr Asquith would say, "We are getting on."—Ottawa Journal.

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK A TRIBUTE TO MR DENNIS PRAUGHT

This week's social events were very pleasantly opened on Monday evening when the members of the Caledonia Club entertained at a very delightful dance, interspersed with a musical program of general favorites, in their large and commodious hall in the Newson Block. The President, Mr. D. Edgar Shaw, presided most affably and a thoroughly enjoyable time was enjoyed by all.

There were several delightfully informal parties this week at which knitting needles formed a very important part on the program. It is marvellous the amount of work being accomplished by the ladies who in past years were busily engaged at this season of the year with pre-lentil bridges, dances, etc.

Not a few one-and-two table "bridges" were also enjoyed as a pleasant diversion from knitting. The afternoon Bridge Club was entertained on Wednesday by Mrs. C. H. B. Longworth at her lovely home "Hillhurst."

Prof. and Mrs. Clark entertained very pleasantly last Saturday evening in honor of Mr. Paul Murphy. About twenty-five ladies and gentlemen passed a delightfully arranged evening followed by supper served from a prettily appointed tea-table with its decorations of exquisite tulips.

Mr. Horace Hassard is just recovering from an attack of la grippe, and although not out yet is able to leave his room.

Quite one of the nicest social affairs of the season was the long talk of Patriotic Bridge in the Woman's Club on Friday evening when upwards of one hundred ladies and gentlemen were in attendance and engaged in warmly contested games of bridge. So complete were the details arranged that the players heartily congratulated the committee in charge of the success of the affair. These ladies are generously giving their time and efforts in raising funds for patriotic purposes and are doing all in their power to help along in a financial way their King and Country. The hall was a pleasure to look at, having been very artistically decorated with the different flags of the Allies, while the daily served supper of coffee, cake and sandwiches, left little to be desired.

Mrs. Moore of Summerside, with her young son Frederick, are spending the week-end in the city with Captain Moore of the 105th Regiment.

Mrs. Prowse and young son, Carl, left yesterday morning to spend the balance of the season in Ottawa with Senator Prowse.

Many letters received from the Island boys now at the front show that the gifts sent by friends and relatives long before the Christmas season have been received and are even more welcome than if they had reached their destinations on time.

Lieut. Col Beer was a guest of honor at a dinner given in St. John this week when Brigadier McLean was host at the Cliff Club. Col Beer also held his first inspection at Fredericton on Monday of this week.

Mr. Neil McQuarrie, K. C., of Summerside, is being showered with congratulations on his appointment to the Judgeship, which pleasing news he received this week.

It was a kindly act on the part of the ladies of the Royal Edward Chapter, Daughters of the Empire, to remember the sick soldiers of the 105th Regiment with flowers on the anniversary of Paardeberg Day.

Miss Daisy Hobkirk who has been quite ill for the past few weeks is getting along nicely, and her complete restoration to health is anticipated by her friends.

The serious illness of Miss Emma Robertson who is a patient in the P. E. Island Hospital is deeply regretted by her wide circle of friends.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

GOD OF OUR FATHERS

God of our fathers, at whose call We now before Thy footstool fall; Whose grace has made our Empire strong Through love of right and hate of wrong: In this dark hour we plead with Thee For Britain's cause on land and sea.

Not for the lust of war we fight But for the triumph of the right; The strife we hate is on us thrust, Our aims are pure, our cause is just: So strong in faith we plead with Thee For Britain's cause on land and sea.

Asleep beneath Thine ample dome, Be Thou their comfort and their stay; If dying, may they in their pain Behold the Lamb for sinners slain; In this dark hour we plead with Thee For Britain's cause on land and sea.

And soon O Blessed Prince of Peace, Bring in the days when war shall cease: And men and brothers shall unite To fill the world with love and light; Meanwhile, O Lord, we plead with Thee For Britain's cause on land and sea.

Among those who have enlisted for Overseas duty is Mr. Dennis Praught, Cherry Valley, and his commendable, sacrificing action, together with the proper patriotic spirit displayed in such a crisis, is more than worthy of special mention. He wins unstinted praise and admiration from those who, not so fortunate as himself, have by circumstances been compelled to remain at home.

Up to the time of his enlistment Mr. Praught, with his two brothers, Luke and John, worked on the farm. He was a studious, energetic, first-class farmer, and his many successes in that line are due to steady application, perseverance and far-sightedness. Mr. Praught is one of the foremost of those unprogressive men who are content to go on blindly and rely on past traditions or meagre experiments, but a clever, broadminded agriculturist in the true sense of the word, one who advances and keeps pace with the rise in agricultural applications which has been so marked within the past two decades and which continues to progress with such amazing rapidity.

It was a subject for remark by the examining officer that Dennis was one of the best dressed men he had so far had the pleasure of testing, as he is over six feet tall in his stocking feet, built in splendid proportion, weighs over two hundred pounds and is very strong. Such a magnificent specimen of manhood is hard to find now-a-days, the race seems to be degenerating, but when one comes into personal contact with Mr. Praught, the radiated sense of strength and mental power is simply overwhelming.

A good author has generally to seek abroad the fame which his own country denies him, and the same is often true in regard to men endowed with extraordinary brilliancy of mind and great physical attributes, but in this case the exception proves the rule. For Monday evening last a deputation, representing the district of Cherry Valley and Earncliffe, waited upon the enlisted hero and presented him with a beautiful address and a useful and handsome fountain pen to show their appreciation of his sterling qualities.

A common trait of great men is to become greatly embarrassed when their nobility is touched on in their presence. Perhaps it is because they, until then, have not known that they possessed such high ideals of character, or perhaps, although knowing true humility set it's seal upon the tongue. So it was with Dennis. He was so taken by surprise, and so touched by such an expressive address and gift, that he could not for a time voice his deep tender sentiments.

However, in a few terse words he thanked his friends for the kind remembrance, and hoped that he would meet them again in old Cherry Valley when the present raging, titanic struggle was over. In conclusion he said "that they might well rest assured, that, when within reach of the Bescher, the name of Dennis Praught would not be dimmed by fear or cowardice, or, if dimmed at all, so would it be by the befooling blood of the Traitorous Teutons."

Mr. Praught has made an immense sacrifice on behalf of patriotism, he has placed love of native country on a pedestal before all, leaving all pleasant associations and facing with undaunted courage the unknown future in the trenches.

His example should be followed by every young man of military age; it is the offering of love upon an altar of bloody sacrifice, the undying fire which reigns in all patriot hearts. The love of home, mother and sweet-heart has been relegated to the background. Mr. Praught has done this. Why not every young man in similar circumstances? Cherry Valley's hopes and prayers for safe guidance go with the hero who shoulders the precious Union Jack, and the wish is that a large number of young, eligible young men of the same district will consider it their honest, conscientious duty to emulate this splendid example.

IMPORTANT

Relatives of soldiers returning from the front are asked to communicate with the Secretary of the Provincial Committee of Wounded Soldiers' Compensation, Miss Nellie Gillespie, Charlottetown, intimating the date of expected arrival, cause of return and any other particulars, in order that preparation may be made for a fitting reception.

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Pure Wool Khaki Riding Breeches...5.00
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Ladies' fancy front House Slippers 25 cts, while they last.

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