

# The Charlottetown Guardian

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Tuesday, December 25th, being Christmas Day, and a Statutory Holiday, the Morning Guardian will not be issued on Wednesday. The Evening Guardian will not be issued on Tuesday, but will be published as usual on Wednesday. Advertisers please note these changes.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 19th 1917

## THE ELECTION

With six seats to hear from, one in Alberta, one in British Columbia, two in Halifax, one in Manitoba and one in the Yukon the Union Government has been sustained by a majority of 47, a majority greater than the most optimistic forecasts predicted. It is almost certain that the Yukon will return a Union member; the probability is that both Halifax seats will go to the government, and if the British Columbia and Manitoba constituencies follow the example of the other western ridings, they also may be counted on the side of Sir Robert Borden's government, thus adding six to the already magnificent majority.

The Guardian takes pride in chronicling this great achievement. We had never doubted the result in Canada. We had advised the people here that the Union Government would be returned with a majority of between forty and fifty; and did so on information received from one of the most experienced and expert newspaper men in Canada who is in close touch with all the provinces in the dominion. He seriously erred in only one instance and that was with regard to our own province; his forecast was that we should return two Union candidates and two Laurierites. It may be that the soldiers' vote may yet bring this about, but meantime Prince Edward Island has to go on record as standing alone in Canada with Quebec as being solidly anti-conscription and anti-union. This is a hard pill to swallow for a people renowned for their loyalty and their activity in all good works connected with the war. That they have been misled by the insidious canvas of the Laurierites goes without saying. We have no desire to go into this matter at the present time; suffice it to say that many electors, and especially women voters, at the last moment went to the polls to vote, as they said, against Borden taking their last boy from them and sending him to the front.

In other provinces, as we have already said, the anti-conscription vote was largely counterbalanced by the vote of patriotic Liberals who rose above party and lent the weight of their influence and vote to the Union policy. In Prince Edward Island only a few Liberals were big enough to place country before party and these, unfortunately, were far from sufficient to offset the anti-conscription vote on the Conservative side. When all is said and done and we come to the last analysis of the situation in Prince Edward Island, it must be admitted that the isolation of Prince Edward Island with Quebec in the dominion of Canada is due to these two prime factors, the failure of the Liberal leaders to follow the example of Liberal leaders in other provinces in the support of Union, and the defection of anti-conscriptionists in the Conservative party.

It may be said that the Union organization in the three counties was as good as, if not better than the organization of the Laurierites. In some instances it was superior but unfortunately no organization could counteract the effect of the Military Service Act, and the Exemption Boards in the country, the city and towns. The Laurierite candidates played upon the natural antipathy of many people to conscription and conjured up bogeys which appealed with force to the unthinking and credulous amongst the electorate. In many places the Union workers were met with the same story, "Borden wants to send all our boys to the front and is starving them." The falsity of this is self-evident but with women, and with men of military age, it proved a potent factor in defeating the Union candidates and the result is Quebec and Prince Edward Island are linked together as anti-Union provinces of Canada. The soldiers' vote, fortunately, may alter this.

Every right thinking person will rejoice that similar influences failed in the

other English-speaking provinces in Canada and that today the world knows that Canada as a whole is behind the Allies and behind the boys at the front to the last man and the last dollar.

## THE WAR

The war news of the past week has not been reassuring. Mingled with the reports of "successful raids" that meant only the taking of a few prisoners or the killing of a few Germans, not without loss to our own, come reports of a reverse on the western front in which the British were obliged to give ground. While the reverse is minimized it is significant that the Government has ordered an investigation of the cause which led to it, the idea being that the British were taken by surprise. What the investigation is likely to disclose is not hinted at but it is evidently surmised that there was lack of foresight or miscarriage of plans.

With this report comes also news of a great movement of German and Austrian troops from the Russian front, the Germans and Russians having concluded an armistice and practically a separate peace. It is estimated that from three-quarters of a million to a million seasoned troops will thus be available for the other fronts and the expectation is that the Germans are about to attempt a new and more tremendous blow on the Western front. Preparation for this blow is on a vaster scale than any yet attempted and the outcome is being awaited with considerable anxiety in Great Britain. It is known that there is great jubilation in Germany over the new movement, which the military authorities are assuring them is going to be the final blow for peace. The German idea evidently is to endeavor to force a decision before the United States gets into the conflict and with this in view they may be expected to leave nothing undone, to spare no sacrifice, to omit no detail of devilishness to carry out their purpose of breaking through the lines on the Western front.

On the Italian front, while the Italians reinforced by British and French troops are holding their own it is quite evident that they are up against a difficult proposition. The Austrians have been strongly reinforced from the Russian front and are making a desperate effort to give their people at home something to cheer them up.

Meantime we on this side of the Atlantic will await with such patience as we can command the events of the immediate future. That there are no signs of the end of the conflict is certain and we know there are strenuous days ahead. Our despatches this morning tell of partial victory and partial reverse on the western front, also of a disaster in the North Sea by which a British destroyer and eight merchantmen were sunk and another British destroyer damaged.

While these are but incidents in the war and, insignificant compared with German losses and reverses, they emphasize the continuous strenuousness of the war and the greater need than ever of doing our share in carrying it on. Two years ago our little province rang with a clarion call to duty, a call echoed and re-echoed by men and women of both political parties, men and women in every walk of life. Within the past few weeks the clarion call to duty gave place to the raucous voice of the political demagogue, to an appeal to the slacker and the ignorant, and to our disgrace there were enough of these to land us among those who claim we have already done enough. We have yet to learn, and we may learn, that we have a bigger part to play in the war than to place our responsibilities upon others while we go on with our money-making.

## WE ARE ALL RIGHT, BUT—

Canada's splendid response to the appeal from Halifax is both gratifying and inspiring. From every city and town and village, from every province, from practically every individual came contributions, generous, prompt, unsolicited. All that Canada needs is to understand, to realize and she will do the right thing. Our own province has responded generously and promptly, has offered homes to the homeless and is ready to do yet more.

## NOTES

What will our boys in Europe think of their home province? Heretofore they were proud to call themselves Prince Edward Islanders. Henceforth they will disown the name and be just Canadians.

Hearty congratulations to Rev. Canon Simpson, who enters today on the thirty-second year of his pastorate in St. Peter's Cathedral, a record in Prince Edward Island and probably in the dominion.

## A HARVESTER'S DIARY

(Continued)  
 Nov. 10, 1917.—There was splendid weather for threshing this fall. The outfit travelled home with flying colors on the afternoon of Oct. 11, the season's work completed. Then they started the engine ploughing. It hauls a plough that turns eight fourteen inch furrows. Coal is used for fuel while ploughing.

Two or three inches of snow fell on the evening and night of Oct. 16. Then we had frost. Most of that snow disappeared but we soon had more and severe frost. On Oct. 27 and 28 we had howling winter. Many farmers did not get their potatoes all dug and they were frozen in the ground. Since Nov. came in the weather has been delightful. The snow and frost are gone and teams have been ploughing for a week. Coal could not be got to run the engine.

This seems to be a very healthy climate. I have not had a "cold" worth mentioning since I came here. They make timbers for barns any size or length by spiking two inch plank together, breaking end joints. Windmill masts are made any length by bolting four 6x5 inch timbers together, breaking end joints. Such a mast is ten inches square.

I expected to see more Aurora Borealis. Have seen only one very brilliant display.

A tame crow is an interesting bird. The boys have one here they call Jack. He will swoop down and light on one's shoulder or on top of his head. He hit on my shoulder the other day and tried to bite a piece off my ear. Jack is very inquisitive and is sure to be around if one is building something or making repairs on a machine. He delights to fly off with washers, nuts or anything else he can carry especially if the object is bright. One day he went into the house and finding some change on the sideboard was caught making off with a ten cent piece. Once the piano started playing Mrs. M. went to find out the cause and discovered the crow treading back and forth on the keys evidently enjoying the music. The wild crows are all gone but Jack does not seem lonesome. One day not long ago he perched on the ridge of a stable and began to chatter away at a great rate as if saying: "I am monarch of all I survey; my right there are none (no crows) to dispute!" I have seen no running brooks in this country. Some farmers have spent hundreds of dollars digging wells and failed to find an adequate water supply. It is a serious matter to haul water two or three miles for stock when the temperature is 40 or 50 below zero.

Nov. 30.—The weather all through November has been delightful. Ploughing could be done for three weeks. The ground is frozen but the days were mostly mild. Today is cold. When a real nice mild day comes in winter we may look out for a blizzard or a snow storm.

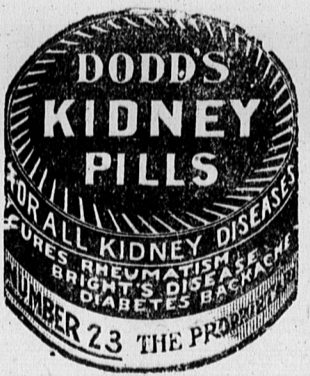
Quarter of half sections of land about here sell at from thirty five to fifty dollars an acre.

I shall escape Jack Frost's attentions this coming winter and "laugh to see away." The lure of the sea is calling to me, the lure of the western sea. So farewell Strassburg!

## HARVESTER

### CAPT. R. BARTLETT KILLED AT THE FRONT

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld., Dec. 17.—Capt. Rupert Bartlett of the Newfoundland Regiment in overseas service, has been killed in action, according to the casualty list received. He was a younger brother of Capt. Robert Bartlett, who commanded Peary's steamer Roosevelt, on the expedition which resulted in the discovery of the North Pole. Capt. Rupert had twice been awarded the British Military Cross for Valor.



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