

THE Charlottetown Guardian

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THE WINTER SERVICE

In keeping with the old saying that "the darkest hour is before the dawn," it was not to be expected that this winter should show any marked improvement over its predecessors in the matter of winter communication.

It was not expected that the Stanley and the Minto could possibly keep up the service continuously as was done by the much more powerful Earl Grey, and the expected has happened. After a very creditable service they, on Thursday, met with difficulties which they could not overcome, and the Department acted wisely in reverting to the original route and the original method at the Capes.

COUNTING THE COST

Statistics are now being given, mainly guesswork, as to the casualties resulting from the war. Necessarily the figures are so large as to be inconceivable, but a vague idea may be formed by comparison, a vague idea may also be formed as to what the "wearing down" process may mean before the belligerents are worn down sufficiently to induce them to call a halt.

An American statistician who, apparently, has good data on which to base an estimate, calculates that out of 4,350,000 men in the German army at the beginning of the war, 1,740,000 have been killed, wounded or taken prisoners; Austria lost 1,400,000 out of total of 2,500,000. France lost 1,600,000 out of 4,000,000 and Russia 2,150,000 out of 5,000,000. This at the end of 1914.

This means that out of approximately 18,000,000 men, including British and Belgians, at least 8,000,000 men have been killed, wounded or taken prisoners, or in other words as many as there are men, women and children in the whole Dominion of Canada.

In the case of the British army the daily casualty lists tell of losses varying from the equivalent of a company to that of a brigade and the British forces have not been engaged in any such struggles as characterized the operations in East Prussia, in Poland and in Galicia. Quite a hundred thousand of the British expeditionary forces—more than the whole population of Prince Edward Island—it would appear have been placed on the casualty lists as killed, wounded or taken prisoners.

The rates of losses in the British corps would probably give fair ground for estimating that of the French armies, the work being done by them being practically the same. In the eastern field where actual crushing defeats were given or sustained the number of losses has been vastly greater.

In the operations around Allenstein, where a whole Russian army was destroyed, the losses are declared to have numbered 150,000. In Galicia great Austrian armies disappeared, so complete was their rout. When General Von Mackenzen cut his way out of the trap laid for him by the Russians he admitted German loss was 40,000 men and it was but a portion of that of the whole campaign which Von Hindenburg was directing.

So it will be seen that the process of "wearing down" is cutting into the ranks of all the belligerents. Russia and Great Britain still have untouched and practically unnumbered resources to draw from. Germany and Austria are drawing on their last reserves. Even France's resources in men have an appreciable limit.

It will be remembered of course that the casualties include many wounded who will recover and many prisoners who will be released, but the appalling number of men that have fallen, the young and the strong of their several countries, will make a fearful blank in the population that will not be overtaken in many generations to come.

A PLAN THAT FAILED

It is now pretty well known that Germany, while occupying the past peaceful twenty years or more in figuring out how she could secure command of Britain and British colonies, mapped out a suspiciously definite plan to get her claws on Newfoundland as a preliminary move to capture Canada.

Mr. Thomas Cantley, general manager of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company, which owns many mines at Wabana, Newfoundland, was in Germany three or four years ago and spent some time with one of the chief directors of Krupp's. This famous warship and gun manufacturing concern, it will be remembered, is very close to the head of the Royal Family of Germany. There was no war in sight, and Mr. Cantley was there to sell ore. He did place a contract for 250,000 tons, delivery being spread over five years. Thus it is highly probable that the metal in the famous great destructive howitzers which battered to pieces the ports of Antwerp, came out of the rocks of Newfoundland, and every time a monster "Black Maria" bursts about the British trenches, the mind of the soldier can be carried to the island near St. John's where men delve in the ground and bring forth the ore from which the shell was made.

After concluding his negotiations with Mr. Cantley, the Krupp director showed great interest in the work of the Nova Scotia company's works in Newfoundland and an amazing knowledge of details. During the discussion, an assistant was summoned and a portfolio produced containing complete plans of the surface and underground work at Wabana, full details as to the entire equipment, facilities for shipment, in fact as complete confidential data as, the company themselves possessed.

The director said that it had been compiled from various government reports, papers published by geographical societies, etc. Mr. Cantley's own impression at the time—which subsequent information has gone far to verify—was that the great bulk of the information was obtained directly from somebody at Wabana. The German agent, whoever he was, had certainly given Krupp's an immense amount of knowledge which was never intended to be made public.

The entrance to St. John's harbor through a cut in steep mountains, known as "The Narrows," was at one time defended by several batteries and fortifications and could be made impregnable. It could command the St. Lawrence and thus hold possession of the world's greatest waterway, the outlet for the cattle and grain of a vast continent. Our security would be worth but little with a powerful German base at St. John's and the exit from the St. Lawrence as strewn with mines as the waters outside the Elbe! It is only the British Navy that prevented St. John's becoming another Heligoland, and only the continued overwhelming superiority of that Navy that removes the danger of it still becoming a most menacing German stronghold.

CANADIAN FOR PRESIDENT

It is surprising, says an exchange, to find American newspapers discussing the possibility of making Franklin K. Lane, President Wilson's secretary of the Interior, the Democratic nominee for the presidency in 1916. Columns have been devoted to the enumeration of his qualifications. The New York Herald makes the "discovery" of Mr. Lane the subject of its leading article. The Lawyer and Banker, a legal and financial journal published in New Orleans, took a poll among its Democratic readers. Mr. Lane was at the head with 1,119 votes, the president and Champ Clark securing 703 and 700 respectively.

The facts seem to have been overlooked entirely that by the United States constitution, Mr. Lane is ineligible for the presidency. It is laid down there that no one but a native of the republic can hold the post, and Mr. Lane happens to have been born in Prince Edward Island. This restriction is very unfortunate, as it would undoubtedly be a fine thing for the States to have its chief executive a Canadian, but it is one that is practically impossible to get around.

ITALY'S CALAMITY

The appalling catastrophe that has overtaken Italy, by which in the space of a few minutes, untold thousands were swept into eternity, places nature's conflicts in fearful contrast to man's mimic warfare. We have been appalled at the destruction of life resulting from "man's inhumanity to man" during the past five months on the battlefield of Europe, but here in the space of a minute, a shake of the old earth's bosom has caused more actual destruction of life and property than weeks if not months of the greatest war in the history of the world.

Italy has always been subject to earthquakes and destructive volcanic disturbances. Since the first recorded catastrophe in 79 A.D., when the cities of Herculaneum and Pompeii were buried in lava and ashes with their thousands of inhabitants, to 1903, when Messina was destroyed, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions of more or less violence have occurred at different periods.

The full extent of Wednesday's disaster will not be known for a few days, in fact, will never be known, but from the reports so far received, it will rank among the most destructive that have visited the earthquake zone of which Italy seems to be the centre.

Coming in conjunction with the war this catastrophe adds to the terrors of a year that is opening in the midst of terrors and the end of which no man can foresee.

TIME WASTING HABIT

A most unfortunate habit has developed in many cities that might be named without mentioning Charlottetown of delaying the opening of public meetings for a half hour, sometimes a full hour, after the scheduled time of opening. So general has this habit become that it is taken for granted that the meeting called for, say, 8 o'clock, will not open before 8.30, and, therefore, only the few who are old fashioned enough to think that 8 means 8 will be on hand. The meeting, whatever its purpose may be, will obligingly wait for the 8.30 people, and so the habit is perpetuated. What such cities need, and it would not do any harm in Charlottetown, is a Society for Prompt Attendance (it might be called S. P. A. for short.) Among the pledges taken by its members would be: (1) To attend all meetings promptly on time, or not at all. (2) To remain at a meeting not longer than five minutes after the hour scheduled for opening; if the meeting is not then opened, to quietly walk out (not necessary to slam the door.) (3) If an admission fee has been charged to demand a refund, on leaving at the expiration of the five minutes specified in Pledge No. 2, and if refused to institute legal proceedings at once for its recovery. A sufficient number of citizens banded together in such a cause would correct this most aggravating and time wasting habit within the course of one season.

NOTES

Through the vigilance of the Ministers of Finance and Commerce in Rome, a vast Austro-German conspiracy has been unmasked, with ramifications throughout Italy, particularly in Naples, Genoa, Florence and Milan, its purpose being to corner and smuggle contraband food-stuffs, footwear, blankets and material for clothing from some small port in the Adriatic by means of Austrian steamers and sailing vessels. One of the principal firms involved is a German house, with its chief establishment at Bergamo.

It is estimated that between 40,000 and 50,000 Irishmen have enlisted in England. Add to that the approximate number who have enlisted in Ireland—certainly not less than 50,000 and probably far more—and it will be seen that Emerald Isle has not done badly even in existing circumstances. Cork alone has contributed 2,500 recruits, and the other week Mr. Devlin's tour in the North brought in 1,200 men.

Maximilian Harden, the one journalist in Germany whom the Kaiser has shown that he dare not try to curb, continues to make ridiculous the attempts of the German agents in America who are trying to defend the policy of their country.

"Cease your pitiful attempts to excuse Germany's actions," he writes. "No longer wall to strangers telling them how dear to us were the smiles of peace we had smeared like rouge on our lips and how deeply we regret in our hearts that the treachery of conspirators dragged us into an enforced war. . . . We wanted it! . . . Germany strikes!"

Harden is brutal but he is honest with himself, and for that we must admire him. There have been other instances outside of Germany where a newspaper man was a safer guide than a university professor.

GERMAN BLACKMAIL

PRINCE OF MONACO'S PROTEST TO THE KAISER.

PARIS, Jan. 15.—If the Germans execute their threats, the Chateau de Marchais, a gem of 16th-century architecture, filled with treasures of art situated in the Canton Sissonne, will be destroyed. The history of this amazing piece of German blackmail is contained in the following documents, which have been placed at the disposal of the eminent American architect, Mr. Whitney Warren, an associate member of the Institute de France, and were communicated to me by Lord Murray of Ellbank:—

November 19, 1914. Monsieur le Maire, Commune de Sissonne.—It has been proved by evidence that the road leading from Sissonne to the next railway station, Montaigny, has been covered with broken glass at intervals of 50 metres on this 18th of September, which was undoubtedly done to impede the movement of automobiles.

I hold the Commune of Sissonne responsible for this hostile act by its inhabitants, and I punish it with a fine of 500,000. (£20,000). This sum must be paid before the 15th of October to the Treasury on this post. The Inspector of the Post, now at the village of Montcornet, is charged with the carrying out of the order. (Signed) General-in-Chief of the Army: Von Bulow.

A FALSE ACCUSATION.

It may be noted that the inhabitants protest that the accusation is without foundation. The fact is that everywhere the Germans have passed the route is entirely covered with bottles, the contents of which they have consumed. On November 30 the Lieutenant-Colonel von Krupka, Commander of the post at Sissonne, had reported to the treasurer of the Post that probably it could only raise about 120,000fr. On receipt of this letter a council of all the Mayors of the districts was called, and a report submitted to the Commander of the Post, showing the impossibility of collecting so great a sum and probably suggesting calling upon the Prince of Monaco for aid, as is shown by the following document:—

December 5, 1914. To the Mayor of Sissonne. The result of the Mayor's decision in council to-day to call upon H.S.H. the Prince of Monaco for aid is not possible, because of the conditions due to the war. The fine must be found in the district. I therefore advise you to give me a positive reply not later than October—at 12 o'clock noon, and to tell me on what date the payment of the entire sum, or of a second instalment, which ought to be at least half of the fine, will take place. (Signed) Von Krupka. On second thoughts, after consultation with the General-in-Chief, Von Krupka decided to allow two delegates to proceed to the Prince of Monaco.

St. Quentin, Dec. 15, 1914. Monsieur le Maire.—The Commander-in-Chief of the Post allows a delegation of the Commune of Sissonne composed of two persons to go to Monaco with a view to obtaining from H.S.H. the Prince of Monaco the sum required to cover the fine. The delegation must leave on the 16th of the month, will receive a pass and by automobiles put at its disposal will reach a German railway station, from which it must leave at once by train and proceed through Switzerland without delay. I am also ordered by His Excellency to tell you that the remaining part of the fine must be paid before November 1. The delegation is instructed to mention this decision to H.S.H. the Prince of Monaco, adding that if this sum is not paid, besides other acts this the Chateau de Marchais will be demolished and burnt. (Signed) Von Krupka.

THE PRINCE'S LETTERS.

The Prince of Monaco received the delegation and gave it the following letter for General von Bulow:— Monaco, Dec. 22, 1914. Monsieur le General.—To avoid for the Commune of Sissonne and for that of Marchais the rigorous fate which with you, have threatened them. I on my honour pledge myself to remit to H.M. the Emperor Wilhelm, if the war ends without intentional damage to my residence or to the two communes, the sum necessary to complete the 500,000fr., which Sissonne is fined by you. As a Sovereign Prince I will treat with the Sovereign who during 15 years called me his friend and made me a Knight of the Black Eagle. My conscience and my dignity bring me far beyond any feeling of fear and my energy will bring me beyond all regret, but if you destroy the Castle of Marchais, which is a centre of science interesting to the whole world and of charity, if you reserve for this jewel of archaeology and history the fate of the Cathedral of Rheims without any hostile act against you on its part, the world will judge between you and me. I address to your Excellency the expression of my highest consideration. (Signed) Albert, Sovereign Prince of Monaco.

Monaco, December 22, 1914. I forward to your Majesty several documents concerning an affair very grave and urgent. General von Bulow has occupied for a month and a half my residence of Marchais, situated five kilometres from the village of Sissonne. The General has fined the 1,500 inhabitants of this poor ruined village 500,000fr., of which they are unable to pay more than a fourth part. Moreover, he sent me two delegates, bringing documents in which he threatens to destroy my residence and the village of Marchais besides that of Sissonne, in case I

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

"The Lost Paradise" was the chief attraction this week and was very largely attended on both evenings, the cause which it was assisting and the ability of Mr. Irving Beers and his talented supporters being splendidly drawing cards. The hope is being expressed that other appearances of these clever young people are not too far in the future.

It is generally understood that Miss Clare McLeod of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John McLeod of this city, has been accepted as a nurse to accompany the McGill Medical Corps on active service with the second contingent. It is most gratifying to learn of Miss McLeod's appointment as she is the second young lady to represent the Garden Province. Miss McLean of Souris, who went with the first contingent, now being in France at one of the base hospitals.

Mrs. (Hon. J. A.) Mathieson gave a delightful Afternoon Tea yesterday for the members of the Short Course in Domestic Science and the teachers. Mrs. Mathieson was assisted in receiving by Mrs. (Hon.) Murdoch McKinnon and a very pleasant social hour was spent. Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. Pethick presided over the prettily appointed tea table and were assisted in serving by Miss Newberry, Miss Aitken, Miss Gillespie and Miss Smith. Exquisite carriages and softly shaded lights added much to the effect of the attractive drawing room in which Mrs. Mathieson received her guests.

The sewing circles in connection with the different Patriotic Funds have been resumed after the holiday season with unabated interest.

Mr. Artimas Lord's friends were delighted to see him out taking short walks after his recent severe illness.

The Thursday afternoon Bridge had a very pleasant game at Mrs. (Dr.) Bagnall's home this week.

The improvement in Mr. S. W. Crabb's health is most gratifying to his very wide circle of friends.

Mr. Harry McLean, son of Hon. John McLean, Souris, accompanied by Mr. George Buntain of this city had a very interesting trip through the European war zone. Sailing from Charlottetown by the Morwenna, they safely arrived in Havre from which centre they visited as far as permitted the battle fields. They then proceeded by the same steamer to London. Mr. McLean having business in different parts of England, both young men left the steamer at Southampton and after a short tour will likely return home via New York. Their friends eagerly anticipate their safe arrival with direct news from "our boys at the front."

A very nicely appointed luncheon was enjoyed by the Bridge Club of which Mrs. Morson is the President and Miss V. Hyndman, the secretary, on Wednesday afternoon in their Club Rooms, upwards of twenty ladies being present.

Mrs. Pethick made a very pleasant hostess on Tuesday for the Afternoon Bridge Club.

Mrs. Neil McQuarrie, of Summerside, left yesterday via Georgetown for New York, where she will be the guest of her friend Princess Laura McDonald Stallo Rossignol, who will be remembered by many friends in this city.

Mrs. E. T. Higgs and Mrs. John T. McKenzie entertained yesterday evening the Y. W. C. A. of Prince of Wales College and a number of their friends. A delightful evening was spent in games, charades, guessing contests and other amusements. Refreshments were served at the close of the evening. The kindness of the hostesses was greatly appreciated by the young ladies.

would not take on my shoulders, and this before the end of October, the aforementioned sum. This is how a Prussian General acts toward a Sovereign Prince who was during 40 years the friend of Germany and who has received from every country of the world tokens of respect and gratitude for his work.

I answered the demand of General von Bulow saying that I pledged myself on my honour to complete the said 500,000fr., because I wish to prevent a horrible action, coldly accomplished, but as a Sovereign Prince I put this question before the judgment of the Emperor, declaring that the aforesaid sum will be paid when the Chateau de Marchais shall be freed from the risk of intentional destruction. I am, with great respect, your Majesty, your devoted servant and coadjutor. (Signed) Albert, Sovereign Prince of Monaco.

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