

# The Charlottetown Guardian

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1916.

## PATRIOTIC DAY

A good send off to the proposal to celebrate February 29 as Patriotic Day for the Province was given at the meeting of the members of the Patriotic Fund Committee and other citizens yesterday. The proposal generally was approved, and it was unanimously agreed that this special effort should be made to augment the Patriotic Fund, which it must be understood is not to interfere with the ordinary subscriptions and collections. The proposal adopted is that every storekeeper, employer of labour and professional man should be asked to make a special contribution to the Fund on February 29, and that every employee should be asked to give a day's wage. Mr C. R. Smallwood, who was appointed secretary of the meeting, was asked to bring the matter to the notice of the Mayor of every incorporated town and the leading residents in other districts. It is hoped by this means united action will be taken, and that as the result of the effort a very considerable addition will be made to the most deserving fund now before the public. Subscriptions should be sent direct to Mr Binning, Hon. Treasurer, marked "Special Patriotic Day offering."

## EPOCH-MAKING BUDGET

Probably for the first time in history the Opposition in the Canadian House of Commons have been non-plussed by the Budget of the Finance Minister. It is the rule for the Opposition to put up their leading financial critic to reply to the Finance Minister the moment he concludes his budget speech. On Tuesday the Opposition broke all precedent by moving the adjournment of the debate without uttering a word of criticism, favourable or otherwise. A greater compliment to the Government, and inversely, a greater reflection on the competency of the Opposition would be impossible to conceive.

The surprise of the Budget was the decision to tax the net profits on business since the beginning of the war. In the case of corporations there is to be a twenty-five per cent. tax on profits exceeding seven per cent., and in the case of individuals and private partnership twenty-five per cent. on net profits exceeding ten per cent., when the capital is more than \$50,000. The tax is retrospective and covers the period from the outbreak of the war. The tax will have little perceptible effect in this province. The companies that would be liable are mostly fox companies; unfortunately the war has played havoc with their profit earning, and few will be in a position to make returns of profits exceeding seven per cent. But the returns from other parts of the Dominion will be considerable. The Finance Minister instanced the C.P.R., which will contribute \$2,000,000 annually under this tax; the Montreal Street Railways, which will contribute not less than \$75,000; the Toronto Street Railway, about \$100,000; Ottawa Street Railway, about \$50,000; or two and a quarter millions by four companies alone. Altogether the profits tax will yield between \$25,000,000 and \$30,000,000 to Canada's war chest. This is a fair and honest means of raising money for such an emergency. It proceeds on the principle of taxing the moneyed classes; and at the same time has the effect of preventing manufacturers transferring the burden to the consumer. It is the excess profits that are taxed, not industry, not labour, not capital. The Finance Minister has gone a step farther than the British Government. It has taxed merely direct war profits which includes munition manufacturers and arm contractors. Here all excess profits are to be taxed, and it is difficult to see what exception can possibly be taken to the proposal. Apart from this coup, which so greatly upset the Opposition, there is practically no changes outlined in the Budget. There has been an increase of 50c. per barrel on imported apples, which will tend to help the Canadian apple grower, and in no way injure the consumer. Owing to the disturbance to the foreign apple market, the apple growers were hardly hit by the war, and this slight recompense will assist them in the home market by preventing unfair competition from the United States.

## BITING THE HAND THAT FEEDS

Not for the first time, the Patriot informed its readers yesterday that our Ottawa correspondent was a myth, and that our Parliamentary report was the output of "a Government Fake News Bureau, said to be presided over by the Hon. Bob Rogers." It also adds that the purpose of the alleged Bureau "is to circulate false and misleading statements in regard to what is done in Parliament and especially to misrepresent the Liberal Leaders and Party."

We need hardly inform our readers that we know nothing of the existence of any such Bureau. Certainly no such Bureau is kind, or unkind, enough to supply us with Parliamentary reports of each day's proceedings. We do know that the Patriot is regularly supplied with letters issued by the Central Information Office of the Canadian Liberal Party, Hope Chambers, 63 Spark Street, Ottawa," and we presume that because our contemporary is fortunate, or unfortunate,

enough to receive free gratis and for nothing such tainted and unreliable information, it concludes that we draw from a similar polluted fountain for our reports. We may inform our contemporary that our Ottawa correspondent is a regular member of our staff, that his reports are sent exclusively to the Guardian in the Maritime Provinces, and that he represents at Ottawa only one other newspaper, and that the leading commercial daily in Montreal. His reports are marked by accuracy of detail and soundness of judgment rarely equalled in parliamentary reporting, and any opinions our readers may find expressed in his daily reports of the proceedings of the House will be found wholly trustworthy and reliable; so accurate and reliable; indeed, are his reports that the Patriot commanders them every day without a word of acknowledgment or thanks. Were it not for the enterprise of the Guardian in paying a special correspondent at Ottawa to supply it with the latest Parliamentary reports the Patriot's readers would have to go in ignorance of what has transpired the preceding day in Ottawa. Yet the Patriot would turn round and bite the hand that feeds it.

## MR. GARRISON'S RESIGNATION

It has been officially announced from Washington that Mr Lindley M. Garrison, Secretary of War, has tendered his resignation to President Wilson and that it was accepted. Refusal of the President to insist upon acceptance of the continental army plan, and Mr Garrison's disapproval of the Philippine Independence Bill as it passed the Senate, are understood to have been responsible for his decision to quit the cabinet. The resignation of Mr Henry C. Breckenridge, Assistant Secretary of War, is also announced.

This puts a period, for the present at all events, to the forward military movement in the United States which has had as its leaders ex-President Roosevelt, Mr Garrison and the general staff. The predominant feeling among industrial magnates and diplomats in the United States is that more attention should be devoted to the navy than to the army. In this connection we may mention that an exceedingly illuminating and timely article on United States ambitions is published in a recent issue of the Saturday Review. The writer is evidently thoroughly familiar with inside knowledge of his subject and treats it with a breadth of view and judgment singularly refreshing at a time when partisan feeling is running high both in the United States and in British possessions, not to mention Germany as well. The writer expresses the opinion that ex-President Roosevelt is an ardent disciple of Lincoln, especially in military matters, but that he has no material following in his conscription propaganda. No students of events, however, can fail to see that the United States, with its export trade and tremendous seaboard, must become a great naval power, if it desire to protect right with might in an industrial world subject periodically to war. What the British Fleet in seventeen months has done to the sea-going trade of Austria and Germany, and what German submarines have done to liners and merchantmen are additions to Mahan's creed of sea power that no neutral with great possessions will omit to study with care and foresight. The United States has studied them, and its fleets in the years to come, if Mr Daniel's plans be carried out, will be guardians of formidable strength. Then there will be at least two pacific nations with great navies armed against aggressive policies, so that their force will be a vigilant police in the affairs of diplomacy. The British Navy will remain the strongest in the world, and the United States will be the second naval power.

It should be pointed out that the United States has already built, or are building, 12 super-dreadnoughts, 22 battleships, 11 armoured cruisers, 14 light cruisers, 62 destroyers, 13 torpedo-boats, and 30 submarines. In 1921, according to Mr Daniels' far-seeing plans, there will be 27 first-rate battleships with 6 battle cruisers, 25 battleships of the second line, with enough armoured cruisers and more light cruisers, 18 cruisers of other types, 108 destroyers, 18 fleet submarines, and other vessels. But, if Congress accepts the advice of Mr Daniels, some troublesome problems will have to be encountered. It is difficult in the United States to raise men enough for the Navy, for a people that thinks—not in francs, nor marks, nor shillings, but—in dollars, and that loves comfort in large towns, needs the attraction of big wages. Discipline on a battleship, we imagine, will have to be popularised by inducements of exceptional pay. According to Mr Daniels the American Navy is short-handed by 7,500 men, 2,500 apprentices, and 1,500 marines.

It is well known that the policy of President Wilson in naval matters is progressive—so progressive, indeed, that Lord Rosebery the other day deplored that while Europe was at war against militarism, the United States should be vigorously pursuing a policy of naval aggrandisement. On the other hand, the President is strongly opposed to the development of an army on European lines, and it is due to his opposition to Mr L. M. Garrison's continental army plan that the latter has resigned the Secretaryship of War. Secretary Garrison asked officially for three developments:—

1. A standing army of 250,000;
2. A reserve of the same strength of ex-professional soldiers; and
3. Half-a-million second line troops with a sufficient reserve of capable officers.

This policy has the backing of Mr Roosevelt and his followers, but on the other hand neither has a serious following. There is no military feeling in the United States outside the volunteer training camps, the American Security League, and those who are concerned as soldiers in national service. It is believed that even the President's little army proposals—an increase of 40,000 to the regular forces and a body of "disciplined citizens," to be raised to 400,000 by yearly increments of 133,000—may scare the pacifists and anger the labour organizations and set by the ears many capitalists, who have all the militarism that they like in trusts, in corners, and in other peaceful persuasions.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS TO PATRIOTIC FUND

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