

The Charlottetown Guardian

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THURSDAY, MARCH 15th 1917

OPENING OF LEGISLATURE

At three o'clock this afternoon the third session of the thirty-eighth General Assembly of Prince Edward Island will be formally opened with the usual ceremonies by His Honour Lieutenant Governor McDonald. This is the third session held under the war cloud and although there are rifts in the cloud that presage the great struggle in which the Empire is engaged will still take precedence over every other consideration. The resources of the province have been pledged by the government to the purposes of the war and on the fulfillment of this pledge there will or ought to be little controversy.

The legislative year just closed has been an eventful one, a year of unparalleled prosperity for the province, as for the rest of Canada, although not unmarked with sadness. Many of the Island's sons have during the year laid down their lives in the cause of freedom and humanity; many others are "still where danger lies" and no doubt this fact will tend to sober discussion, to put "first things first," to place bounds of seriousness around such controversies as may arise and to eliminate carping and factious criticism, obstruction and time-wasting which, although tolerated under normal conditions, are unseemly and out of place in the presence of the life and death enterprise in which we are in common with the rest of the Empire are today engaged.

We look for a short business session. In past years, under all governments, time has been unnecessarily wasted in prolonged and, in many cases useless, discussion for discussion's sake. We note that in our sister provinces the Speech from the Throne and the Reply are published in the same issue of the Royal Gazette, indicating that discussion has been confined to at most two days. In our legislature each question is discussed at three different periods, during the debate on the Address, in Committee and during the Budget debate. While a full and thorough discussion of every question that comes before the legislature is both advisable and necessary, it would appear that the example of the other provinces might wisely be followed in restricting the debate on the address to formality and proceeding at once with the business of the session. In this way considerable time would be saved and the questions be as thoroughly discussed as they were in the past. It would have this beneficial effect also, that members would prepare themselves to deal with the various subjects in committee or on the Budget, instead of, as at present, spreading the discussion over the whole session.

Under present war-time conditions a three weeks session should be ample and would enable the country members to return home in time to devote their energies to the more needful work of production.

EDUCATION REPORT

In yesterday's issue we published the Sub-committee's Education report submitted to the Prince Edward Island Commission. When it is remembered that these reports were compiled after careful study of conditions prevailing in the province, that they were incorporated into the general findings of the Development Commission, and that the Commission itself was organized by the government with a view to generally bettering conditions in the Province, we should attach all possible importance to them and carry out as far as possible the recommendations made.

As to the report on Education and the suggestions put forward little can be added. The recommendations were made with a full knowledge of the facts. The facts, as submitted, are known to all. The handicaps now hampering our rural schools are known to all and while many of these handicaps have been overcome, while there has been a very general improvement, yet, considering the price paid—a third of the whole revenue of the province—considering, also, that the future of the Province and the future of each individual child in the province is at stake, yet there is still room for vast improvement.

The report points out that one of the great handicaps to be overcome in improving our educational system is that of salary. This is self-evident. It is unreasonable to expect that ambitious young men and young women, after spending years and the hard earned money of their parents in acquiring an education, will content themselves with positions that offer them a much lower wage than is earned by a half educated boy or girl who takes a position in a store, or office, in a millinery, or dressmaking shop or even in a kitchen; unreasonable to expect that they will content themselves teaching here at the salaries offered while our western provinces are offering them positions as teachers at much higher salaries. As already

stated about one third of the revenue of the Province is now paid to teachers as salaries, supplements and bonuses and this is as far as any government is justified in going. Additions have been made to teachers' salaries by the present government, additions which have drawn heavily upon our very limited revenue; inducements were held out to districts to supplement the salaries but only in a comparatively few cases have the inducements been taken hold of. The rural districts are not supplementing the salaries as they should, and the report says "It seems to be a hopeless task, to induce the ratepayers at the annual school meetings to materially increase supplements. For the past few years since the revival of the supplement efforts have been made along this line but the results have been disappointing." This is true and it is regrettable. Taxation in any form has been and is the dreaded demon in our province. We are a generous people, patriotic, fearless, ready—generally speaking—to contribute to any worthy cause, ready even to die for a cause, but our gun is always loaded for the tax collector. Our fear of taxation, our immunity from taxes, has been and is the greatest enemy to our school system and one of the greatest handicaps to our general progressiveness.

The Commission's sub-committee report that it seems to be a hopeless task to look for a remedy in this direction. Our history unfortunately proves they are right, for the present and the immediate future at least. We are improving somewhat and slowly but while this improving our teachers are being lured away elsewhere, many of our schools are doing much less than they ought to be and many of the men and women of a few years hence will take up the burden of farming and province-building with a narrower outlook upon life than if they were given a chance to day.

The Committee suggests consolidation as a remedy. There are doubtless many neighboring districts where consolidation is clearly the only remedy, clearly the only sane business method. Three or four small struggling schools, maintaining three or four poorly paid teachers and poor equipment, if conveniently situated, could be consolidated with marked advantage. The report instances several cases in which this would apply and we trust it has been carefully read, and pondered.

There are now some three months between us and the annual school meetings, time enough to consider what is best to be done to improve the schools. Consideration of this should not be put off till the day of the annual meeting, it should be taken up now and plans laid for such action as may be agreed upon. The success of the schools rests with the people, with the parents of those who a few years hence will bless or blame them for their education or the want of it. We would suggest that the Committee's report, as published, be carefully studied by every parent in every district in the province and that such action be taken as will ensure for the children a fighting chance when they take up the burden of manhood and womanhood.

THE CAR FERRY

"Referring to the statement in yesterday's Guardian to the Ferry Steamer not being able to get on the slip for repairs last summer we reproduce the following from the Guardian of 30th, Oct., 1916:—

"TO CONTINUE REMOVING FREIGHT—The car ferry steamer which has been awaiting an opportunity for some two months past, to go on the drydock at Halifax, received orders on Saturday morning to proceed to that port, as the slip would be available for her on Tuesday. Premier Mathieson at once got into communication with Mr. C. A. Haynes, Moncton, informing him of the congestion of freight here, particularly perishable produce, and pointing out the undesirability of having the steamer withdrawn at this time. As a result Mr. Haynes at once gave instructions that the steamer should remain here until further orders. Premier Mathieson communicated this decision to the Board of Trade, who were taking steps in the same direction, and who expressed their satisfaction at the decision arrived at."—Patriot.

Is this an admission of previous error on the part of the Patriot or has it mistaken the above from the Guardian as a new mare's nest?

NOTES

Some day, we may get an organization of "United Consumers."

The United States has been humiliated by a dozen Senatorial bad eggs.

"Anyway," says the Crown Prince, "father can't blame me for this Mexican mess."

Amongst those keenly interested in the proposal to have the public buy coal in summer are the coal barons.

It is fitting that the news of the magnificent work of the British Indian army against the Turks in Mesopotamia should arrive at the same time as the exposure of the miserable German plot with headquarters in New York to create a native rebellion against British rule in India.

AUTOS VS. TRAINS.

Sir—I wonder if you realize the time the average man wastes travelling by train. Comparatively speaking, at its best the train arrangements on the P. E. I. Ry. have not been good, and would not be tolerated in the majority of States of America, or provinces of Canada; but apparently we are reconciled to grin and bear it. If the future looked more encouraging we might be justified in waiting, but the contrary is true. There is little encouragement we can extract from the situation. The irregularity of passenger trains, mails and freights is appalling, with the encouraging information that we can prepare for on worse.

What preparations are we making to cope with the situation? In reality, are we not actually blocking the salvation of the whole situation? I would like to know how many farmers would travel to town on the train if they owned a light car and could cover the distance in even the same time as the train. With a car one would not become train-sick following the serpentine line of rails. A car will take the shortest cuts, and you are at perfect liberty to leave home and return at your own convenience. It is safe to say that in the event of the roads becoming opened up by progressive farmers would conduct auto passenger and freight services from outlying districts in direct competition with the railway, and it is safe to say that the same could be conducted successfully. They claim that I believe there is nothing that would prove such a boon to Prince Edward Island, agriculturally, industrially and commercially, as would the auto. It would prove a blessing to isolated communities; it would mean the emancipation of such sections, and no time should be lost in devising stringent measures controlling the operation of cars so that the people of Prince Edward Island may have some relief and some hope, and will not be compelled to submit to the present intolerable transportation difficulties on the Island Railway.

I am, sir, etc. OBSERVER.

ADVISING STOCK HOLDERS OF RANCH CONDITIONS

Sir—Yesterday I met a prominent business man of this city, and in conversation he expressed an interest in referring on P. E. Island, he said: "I have some stock in a ranch up here." I inquired the name of the company, and he said he really didn't remember, as he paid his cash for the stock some three years ago, and had never heard a word therefrom since, and did not know whether they had raised any foxes or what they were doing. I did not question him, as I felt so disgusted to think a company was so negligent as not to send some report to their stockholders in three years. Of course, this party did not have any considerable amount invested, but he would have looked it up. Nevertheless, handling a company in this manner works to the detriment of all other companies, for this party is a "knocker" against the fox industry in general.

Being foxes in captivity is a comparatively new industry, as far as investments are concerned, and not like the old-time proven security that for years have paid their stated dividends regularly, quarterly or semi-annually as the Bell Telephone or U.S. Steel stocks.

Once to keep the stockholders' confidence until the fox companies get established and have paid regular dividends for years. It is of the utmost importance to send out a notice to all stockholders quarterly or at least semi-annually, telling them the exact conditions on the ranch, and this, I find, is rarely done. I have heard stockholders say they did not know whether the company they had invested in was dead or alive. I was told of one caretaker, who was secretary of his company, who said he would not tell the stockholders how many pups there were on the ranch in the spring because if any of them died he might be accused of selling them or splitting them away. An officer of any company, or a caretaker who is as unscrupulous as this should be shipwrecked on a desert island like Robinson Crusoe, for he is too far behind the times to live in a civilized country.

I believe if a company has unfortunate experiences it is far better for all concerned to report direct than have the information "leak" out as it sure will, and be exaggerated and garbled, for a rumor that a ranch has lost some pups and not a single one replied. This company is all right, and what is better, the stockholders know it, and are satisfied.

If good news, the stockholders are pleased to hear it; if bad news, it had better come from one of the officers direct than from rumormongers, and be magnified a hundred times. Fox stock is beginning to percolate into the United States, and the best way to make it popular is to keep the stockholders posted and no excuse on earth is tenable for not keeping the stockholders posted about conditions on the ranch in which they are financially interested.

One party said to me some companies did not have the money to pay the postage on the notices; if such is the case, they had better go out of business right quick for such conditions will put them down and out in short order and do much damage to others which are run on sound and sane principles.

Stockholders are entitled to know how the business is progressing in which they are financially interested and if no other way can be devised let them turn the information over to a local paper, paying for the insertion and

order a copy mailed to every stockholder, or send out a printed report quarterly and at least after the cubs have all been dropped, notifying stockholders of the results and if it is proposed to pay a dividend or increase the number of foxes to reduce the capitalization. But by all means, let the stockholders know how a company is progressing for by not so doing injury is worked to every fox company on the Island and doubly so on the company not reported. I am, sir, etc. F. E. MUZZY. Springfield, Mass., March 10, 1917.

ANOTHER FARMER HAS BOUGHT A CAR.

Sir—As a farmer I wish to express my views regarding automobiles. A great deal has been said on both sides concerning cars, and a great deal more has been left unsaid. In my opinion the time has arrived when political parleying should cease, and the broader interests of the Province be considered. It is nothing short of a shame, the way in which the automobile question has been used and abused in the past, and one of the greatest conveniences of the age prohibited, to please a few who wish to dominate the majority.

It is a disgrace to Prince Edward Island, to allow the present obsolete law to longer continue in force. There should be no occasion to repeat that the automobile is one of the greatest conveniences of the 20th century. This fact is acknowledged, even by many big game sportsmen. They claim that the automobile will come eventually—no force under Heaven can keep it back. The automobile question is one that concerns the country population, and the farmer in particular, much more than it does the city man. With the present exact factory and farm arrangements, high freight rates and shortage of farm labor, I repeat that the automobile is an imperative necessity on a large farm, and more farmers are coming to realize this fact every week.

To convince readers that I have the courage of my own convictions, I might say that I have already contracted for an automobile for spring delivery, and I know of several other farmers in this district who will purchase cars as soon as the present factory law is replaced by a progressive regulation controlling the operation of motor vehicles. I am, sir, etc. HARRY WEBSTER. Cape Traverse, P.E.I.

P.W.C. BOYS' POTATO CONTEST

An innovation which promises to be not only interesting but profitable both educationally and industrially has been inaugurated in connection with the Prince of Wales College. It is a potato growing contest and will be known as the Prince of Wales College Boys' Potato Growing Contest. The Guardian understands that some 35 or 40 boys have already expressed their intention to enter the contest. The majority of these are boys from the country and will carry on the work at their own homes. The Charlottetown boys will be obliged to look to their city friends for the necessary land and it is hoped they will be accommodated. Seed potatoes will be furnished free by the Experimental Farm. The officers are:—

Honorary President—Dr. S. N. Robertson. President—Wilbur McParlane. Vice-President—Ulysses Cameron. Secretary-Treasurer—J. E. McLarty.

- OBJECTS OF CONTEST: 1. To stimulate an interest in improved methods of potato culture. 2. To cultivate varieties as demanded on the open market. 3. As a means for the boys to conduct investigational work along the lines of improved varieties. 4. As a means for the formation of pure seed centres. 5. As a means of arriving at cost of production. RULES OF CONTEST: 1. Contest shall be open to boys in attendance at the Prince of Wales College during 1916 and 1917.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. LOUSON.

WHAT THINGS GO WRONG.

"Joy is in the Conflict, not in the Prize." When everything goes dead against you, Though you know 'tis all unearned; When, though troubles round have fenced you, So-called friends have turned; When the world seems keen to hurt you, With wounds that time alone can mend, And your tiny store of virtue, With it all can scarce contend. When you feel that joys are trifles, As compared to sorrows borne, And the thought your courage stifles, While with pain your heart is torn, When the looked-for silver lining, To the cloud that gathered round, Turns out black instead of shining, And hope with wretchedness is crowned: When the very best that's in you, To a work has been applied, And you've strained both nerve and sinew, In the conquest of your pride; When the deed you wrought in kindness, By a foe to ill is turned, And in ignorance and blindness, Good by evil is returned: In your soul, deep down within you, Where the finer feelings hide, Though 'tis harder to continue, Don't you feel just glad you've tried?"

WHO RULES BRITANNIA?

"WHY, THE WOMEN AT THE FIRESIDE, OF COURSE!" SAYS HARRY LAUDER IN THE ILLUSTRATED SUNDAY HERALD.

There is an old saying that the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. It is only in this war we have realized how true it is. I am not going to particularise the old mother does not particularise. But she has seen her boy go forth to die while sleek-headed, smooth-tongued gentlemen wasted the time of the nation. And she has determined she her young lads shall grow up with a hatred of politicians in their hearts.

For the Fireside Party there are two issues, and two issues only; the home and the country. very minor question which arises must be tried on these touchstones. How will it effect the country? How will it effect the home? At present, of course, we have only one business—the war—the war for the protection of the mother in her home. And we are keeping a sharp eye on politicians to see that they do not betray the old woman who has sacrificed so much. It is one of our duties to see that she does not starve.

Many are making fortunes out of the war, and the old mother is only too willing to pay them what they ask if only they will help in the great cause for which their son has died. We tax the profits of these men; yet their riches grow, while the old mother stays poor. Let us hear this fact in mind. On this point the Fireside Party will have much to say. When the war is over, and we dictate the terms of peace, the Fireside Party will look very carefully into these terms. The mother knows far better than any politician what price she has paid for victory, and she is determined that the victory she has bought so dearly shall not be bartered away. If blood be the price of victory, Lord God! she has paid in full, and after that she is determined to apply the lessons of war to the problems of peace. In times of tremendous difficulty we have done without the shoddy foreign goods. She is determined that we shall always do without them. We have taken the right to tax our profits. Have we not at least an equal right to tax the peace-time of men who flood the British market with shoddy stuff from abroad?

To buy cheaply and sell dearly, has been in past times the sum total of our commercial code. The British mother will have it no longer. "My son died for you," she says, "and I have endured pain and hunger, and great sorrow for your sake. In return you shall do this for me: You shall think of your country as well as your profit when you make and buy and sell."

We are all more or less working now for the country. So it must be after the war. We are all more or less soldiers now. So we must be after the war. This is the last return we can make to the mothers of our fighting men. It is, I think, a return that in the end they will compel us to make. HARRY LAUDER.

- 2. Each competitor shall operate two plots of exactly 1-60 of an acre, using two varieties of potatoes, namely Green Mountains, and Cumming's Pride, seed provided by the Experimental Farm, one variety to each plot. 3. Each competitor must do all work himself and keep careful records giving the following information: (a) Dates of planting, kind of soil and manner of cultivation, treatment of seed, spraying, digging, grading and profit and loss account following the scale of wages allowed here with. Rent of land, \$3.00 per acre; horse hire, 10c per hour; manure at \$1.00 per ton; fertilizers and spraying material at actual cost; potatoes at market price per bushel; Competitor's time valued at 20c per hour. 4. The plots to be inspected during the growing season and scored according to condition. 5. Digging and weighing must be supervised by some uninterested person. 6. An exhibit of one peck must be sent to for competition. 7. Only one entry to be allowed to each person. 8. Each competitor shall write a short essay on his work, supplementary to his record in Sec. 3. 9. The prizes will be awarded on the following basis: (a) Report of

DAMAGES AGAINST GERMAN SHIPS IN U. S.

WASHINGTON, March 12.— Liability of the North German Lloyd liner Kronprinzessin Cecilie at Boston, and also of many other German ships now held in American ports for damages in returning to America when war was declared, breaking contracts to deliver freight abroad, will be decided by the supreme court. Request of the North German Lloyd for review of decrees awarding damages to the Guaranty Trust company and National City Bank of New York for failure to deliver gold, shipped to England and France, was granted today by the court, whose action prevents possible auction sale of the "gold ship" pending the outcome of the appeals.

Children Had Eczema Doctors Failed to Cure

TWO LETTERS WHICH PROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF DR. CHASE'S OINTMENT AS A CURE FOR ECZEMA.

Fortunate are the mothers who know the virtues of Dr. Chase's Ointment, for there is no treatment so suitable for use after the bath to relieve irritation and chafing and to thereby prevent eczema and similar skin disease.

Mrs. W. L. Barnes, Timmins, Ont., writes:—"I want to tell you about the case of my little boy, who had baby eczema when he was three months old. It started on the top of his head, on his forehead and around his ears. The doctors failed to do him any good, so I tried Dr. Chase's Ointment on the recommendation of a friend, and in a month's time the child was entirely free of this disagreeable skin disease. He is now four years old, and has never had any further trouble from ailments of this kind. I also have had faith in Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, and believe that it cannot be beaten as a restorative for pale, nervous women."