

The Charlottetown Guardian

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1917.

NATIONAL SERVICE APPEAL

The appeal of Hon. J. A. MacDonald, Provincial Director of National Service, to the manhood of Prince Edward Island, appears elsewhere in this issue and we commend its careful perusal to our readers. As explained, the design of this campaign is to secure an inventory of the man-power of the country, not necessarily for military service but for service wherever it may be most needed, whether in making munitions, producing food stuffs, keeping the industrial and commercial machinery going, or whatever in the opinion of the National Service Committee, may best serve the needs of the country and of the Empire. The duty, as the Director points out, is to promptly and correctly fill in the cards and offer to accept service anywhere and at any time wherever it may be most effective.

THE GREAT CAMPAIGN

The great campaign at present in progress, calling for men for military service, calling for aid for the various war funds, calling for a stock taking of all our different powers in men, in industrial possibilities, in productiveness of soil, of fisheries, of mines, of everything in fact which comprises our national life, cannot fail to have wide reaching effects upon the future as well as the present of our country. The call for recruits and for aid to the different war funds will bring more than recruits, more than material contributions. It is a call to duty and that call is insistent, imperative. It reaches everybody, the young as well as those to whom the appeal is directed. The one word Duty stands out over every other inducement. For two years our children have heard this word duty from platform and pulpit, in their homes, in their newspapers, in their magazines. They have seen their older brothers, their fathers, their neighbors leave all and follow the clarion call of Duty. They have seen in beloved homes duty glorified by sacrifice, death becoming not death but the greater love that lays down its life for another. Even death itself, death met on the battlefields or in the performance of duty, has become an inspiration, not a spectre to be dreaded. Brought up in such an atmosphere what should it not do, what will it not do in the building up of character? Selfishness has little breathing space where duty is paramount, where the faithful performance of duty is the one thing admirable, where the shirker is obliged to sneak under cover or leave his country to get away from the accusing eyes of those who are doing their duty.

Unquestionably the war and its different appeals is moulding, as nothing else could mould, the future of our country and of our people. It is placing the higher things on pedestals that command our interest, that make us see things in their real perspective. Sympathy, fellow feeling, love of right, a holy detestation of wrong and injustice and cruelty are engendered by events that are of daily occurrence. We see and our children see that "war is hell" and they see also that the closing down of the lid upon it and alleviating the miseries it has produced is the highest and noblest form of service that men are capable of giving. Let us then take our part, whatever it may be, in the present campaign, not the part of indifferent onlookers but of active participants, doing our whole duty whether that lead us to the battlefield or to the home of the widow and the orphan. Both paths are open to us and both are equally worthy of our highest service. To the one we can bring out physical strength, to the other a share of our material blessings, and out of it all we shall emerge better truer, worthier citizens of a country that will have bought for itself freedom and the blessings of civilization.

WHY GERMANY WANTS PEACE

Many are offering opinions as to why Germany wants peace just at present and why she is in such a hurry about it. While, doubtless there are many things in the back of the German mind: one good and substantial reason for her present great desire for peace is that she has failed and she knows it. She has suspected it since the Battle of the Marne; she has known it since the Battle of Verdun. Her objective when she set out was not the Black Sea, that was to come afterwards. What she wanted was the English Channel. At the Battle of the Marne the outlet to the English Channel was closed against her. Today from the English Channel to Switzerland there is a continuous line of iron and steel, of artillery and infantry and there is not an inch of that line that holds out any hope to Germany. Moreover that line is becoming thicker and stronger; Germany has been told that Great Britain and France can place guns of the heaviest calibre along the whole line so close that their limbs will touch each other. And besides this, the line is every day showing symptoms of moving in the direction of Germany and sweeping everything before it. This line has become a veritable spectre to Germany.

To point to the map, as her boastful admirers do when seeking to show the strength of her position, is a mere ruse to conceal what really overlies the map. Of what account is a map that may be altered tomorrow, and is certain to be altered in a few months? Moreover, let us, when we look at the map, remember that the seas are on the map, and that the German lines were also in the map. Save a scrap in East

Africa there is no Prussian blue to be seen on any modern map. There are no ports outside the Baltic and the North Sea where the German flag is visible. The seas of the world and Germany's lost colonies are at least equal in importance to the enemy territory in Europe that Germany has occupied. So that if we looked at the map and looked no further or no deeper we should still have no reason to admit that the map gives any reasonable ground for German satisfaction.

Germany's deficiency in ammunition appears to the military expert of the New York Times to be one of the most significant events of the fighting in the past year. He thinks that too great stress cannot be laid upon the fact that Germany is short of cotton, and cotton, as we all know, is a necessary ingredient of all explosives. Without it the powder cannot be made for even the small guns. Time and time and again it has been announced that a substitute has been discovered for cotton, but a substitute for cotton is very much like a substitute for food. It is by no means impossible that the German military campaign may absolutely collapse like a punctured tire, for no other reason than that she cannot get the cotton with which to make her explosives. All the steel, copper, nickel and explosive chemicals in the world, all the armies and all the food cannot equip the guns with their fodder if there is no cotton. The failure of the British government to make cotton absolute contraband as soon as the war began has been greatly criticized. Had this course been taken, and the opinions and interests of neutrals disregarded it is possible that the war would have been over by now. Since last February, Germany has been forced to depend upon her accumulated stores of cotton and the amount she has been able to smuggle in from neutrals. This is by no means enough. The lack of cotton must be one of her most desperate problems.

And then there is Russia. We do not clearly understand the situation on the Eastern frontier. We know that for all practical purposes Russia's man-power is inexhaustible, and that she is now being supplied with munitions at an amazing rate. That Russia in the next six months will be able to undertake the greatest offensive she has yet made, and that in eighteen months she would be ready for still greater effort is simple fact. These are the watermarks in the paper upon which the German war map has been drawn. These are the facts behind Germany's desire for peace and there are other marks that the German war lords are looking at. There are clamourings for peace among the people, cries of hungry women and little children. These cries have been choked and stifled by cavalry charges and by cruel blows on the streets but hungry women cannot be held in check while their children are starving. This also stands as a spectre demanding peace as an alternative to worse and during the present year real peace offers, not the sham, hypocritical hand outstretched of the past few days, will be made and peace will come but not in any terms dictated by or approved by Germany.

THE WHITE FEATHER

A story is told of a lady whose enthusiasm outran her discretion in connection with military service. She undertook to apply the "white feather" cure to slackers and in one of her pilgrimages she accosted a gentleman in civilian dress who in her opinion should be in khaki. Taking a white feather from her handbag she offered to pin it on the lapel of his coat. With undisguised contempt he told her to "go ahead." Her pinning finished, he coolly unbuttoned his coat, revealing a Victoria Cross and a D. C. M. pinned to his vest. She had the grace to apologize and the saving grace of repentance and accordingly threw her stock of feathers in the gutter.

Her act was the act of many who undertake to judge others and her experience should be of value to the rest of us. That there are slackers and cowards and shirkers there is no doubt. Many who to all outward appearance are physically fit for military service have been refused admittance to the army for some defect, perhaps slight, sometimes serious, and are bearing their cross in silence. There are many such in this province as well as in other provinces. We are not their judges for we do not know, and in every case the prudent and the charitable course is to refrain from judging. Besides being debarred by physical defects many are bound by ties that we know nothing of, held back by causes which are known only to themselves.

The present campaign for recruits is a searching one; the campaign to secure an inventory of the country's potentialities is also a searching but an absolutely necessary one. It is one also which is left to the consciences of individuals and no one else can get behind that. We can only trust that the returns made shall be made truthfully and conscientiously; that those young men who go through the war time in civilian dress and who are sticking by their former employments are able to do so with clear consciences knowing that they are doing all that they can. There is one supreme duty before each one of us, a duty in which we all share and which no one can shirk without injury, irreparable injury to himself—that is to win the war. As to what each shall contribute, that is each one's own business. Many have contributed all they held dear on earth, their homes, their positions, their comforts; many have laid down their lives; many have laid down lives dearer to them than their own. And, thank God, there are enough of these still to save the Empire, to save civilization from the wreck that threatened it. And there are the others; we cannot know them and it is best that we cannot. They shall continue to live in the shelter bought for them by the sacrifices of their betters; they will be content to live as parasites, as mere lice on the body politic. It is best that we do not and cannot know them, best for them and best for us, but they know themselves and to their own master they stand or fall or fatten.

STIRRING APPEAL TO THE MEN OF P.E. ISLAND

By the Director of National Service to Place their Man Power, and their Available Resources at the Disposal of their Country.

For the first time in our history an appeal is being made to the manhood of this Province to place their human energy at the disposal of the state for war purposes. A grave situation must be faced seriously. Hitherto during the course of this frightful conflict we have been content to let other men do most of the fighting, and to let other parts of the Empire pay most of the bills. The call from the front is insistent for men, and more men, and now that call comes to us stronger than ever before to give our man power and other available resources to "National Service."

We all know that the British Empire and its Allies are quite equal to the task before them, but what we do not appear to realize is the urgent need of mobilizing our men and material in order to strike such a blow as will effectively proclaim our strength to the whole world—the only way of securing a permanent peace.

The National Service Board of Canada has been charged with the duty of making a complete enrolment of the male population between the age of sixteen and sixty-five. For this purpose the present week has been specially named as "National Service Week," during which cards will be placed in your hands on which you are required to give such information as will enable the country's position in relation to this great struggle to be accurately judged. You are asked to give this information voluntarily, to fill out the answers to ALL questions on the card correctly, and to return it promptly. This is the duty of every man NOW. In performing this duty you do not take upon yourself any further obligation. There is no more law to compel any man to serve his country after filling in this card than there was before. It is simply a stock taking, such as all good business men practice at this season of the year. But bear in mind that the nation which has always given one hundred per cent protection to our lives and property, free of all cost to us, should be entitled to have both man power and material resources placed at her service in the hour of need.

National service does not necessarily mean active service overseas, though that is the highest form it can take at this time. Food and ammunition for the men at the front is just as essential as the men themselves. Consequently a man may "do his bit," just as effectively at home as he could by going to the front. The whole national service idea is that men and women shall volunteer to serve the state in whatever capacity their services may be most valuable in this emergency.

Peace Dream Over

(Special to the Guardian.) BERLIN, Jan. 2.—The Peace dream is over for the present, says the Tagliche Rundschau who ever abandoned himself to it will be sobered by the entente reply and will adapt himself to the hard reality. If the German offer is today rejected by this refusal. The British, French and Russian people have been deluded into the belief that our offer was a confession of our weakness and an attempt to save ourselves before collapse.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson, A CALL TO PRAYER

Abram Lincoln said: "I have been driven many times to my knees, by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere to go. That was in a time of war and war is now driving multitudes to their knees. In the Old Land there are special calls to prayer and great leaders both in military and naval circles are giving encouragement to such supplication. London was surprised on the morning of Nov. 16th to find walls all over the city covered with huge official posters exhorting Englishmen to pray daily for their country, for its soldiers and sailors. Admiral Beatty's words being quoted: "Until a religious revival takes place at home, so long will the war continue." They are followed by Gen. Sir William Robertson's message: "A serious determination on the part of the nation to seek

ROADMASTER'S PATRIOTIC FUND

A Start Made — Who Follows in the Train?

In response to several appeals, Mr. A. W. Bruce, Red Point, has opened a Roadmasters Patriotic Fund. The idea being that every Roadmaster contribute \$2.50 to the Fund. The money may be sent to Mr. A. W. Bruce, to Mr. H. W. Binning, Bank of Nova Scotia, or to the Editor of the Guardian and it will be acknowledged in the columns of the Guardian.

Andrew Mooney, Little Harbour \$2.50 S. S. Robertson, Kingsborough \$2.50 A. A. Bruce, Red Point 2.50 Robert Ware, Wheatley River \$2.50

STUDENT'S GIFT GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

The following letter has been received from Major Campbell, thanking the students of the Prince of Wales College for a gift to the 105th.

105th Batta, C. E. F., Witley Camp, Surrey, 15th Dec., 1916. Mr. James Brown, Charlottetown, P. E. I. Dear Sir,—On my return from a short trip to France I found your letter awaiting me. I can hardly tell you how much your thoughtful kindness means

to me and will mean to those boys of the 105th who for one reason or another can expect no Christmas gifts from home. It will give me the greatest possible pleasure to be the medium through whom your gift will be distributed and I promise you that I will make it my personal business to see that your \$27.01 shall be distributed exactly as the contributors intended that it should.

I wish to thank you most heartily and through you the students of good old P. W. C. for your generous gift which will do much to help ward off that terrible home sickness which is sure to attack us all during the Christmas season.

Yours faithfully, R. H. Campbell, Major, 105th Batta.

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G O F F B R O S.