

THE Charlottetown Guardian

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A VOLUNTARY GIFT

Our Ottawa dispatches yesterday intimated that Premier Mathieson had completed arrangements with the Department of Railways whereby the Island's contribution, in grain and other goods, to the Army Field Fund will be carried free over the Prince Edward Island Railway and by which also the Railway will provide services for the shipment of the grain, warehousing &c.

This is most gratifying and commendable. The adjustment of matters of this kind is not as simple a matter as many might think. There are always objections among departmental heads to reducing the revenues of their departments and the P. E. Island Railway has never been a big revenue maker. It has persistently shown yearly deficits and the concession now made by the government will mean a further drain. But normal conditions have been changed by the war; Government and people are co-operating with only one end in view, to help the Empire in its hour of trial, and revenues and deficits are of secondary consideration. The Governments Provincial and Federal have done their duty; the people will, we feel sure, do theirs and in the end there will be no regret, and there will be no recriminations between government and people.

The 100,000 bushels of oats contributed by the province, is a free will offering by the people. The Government might have made the contribution and levied a war tax to pay for it, thus compelling the unwilling—if there are such—to contribute their legitimate share. It is much better as it is, a free will, voluntary offering, the people giving as they see fit and as their circumstances may permit. It is an outlet for their patriotism and an opportunity to do something for the Empire. It is true that the burden will not fall equitably upon all; there are those who will do as little as they can, but then there will also be those who will do as much as they can and it is worth while giving all the opportunity to reveal themselves. The gift of the people goes forward without the stigma of compulsion or of unwillingness to contribute and the government is helping the people. This is as it ought to be and there will be no faultfinding.

A GOOD SUGGESTION

A correspondent makes the suggestion that sign-boards be placed at all cross roads throughout the country indicating the destination to which each road, if followed, would lead the traveller.

Take for instance the different roads leading from Summerside to Charlottetown. If at each crossing the words "To Charlottetown" were conspicuously placed it would save the traveller much trouble and enquiry. Branch roads leading elsewhere might be similarly marked. The suggestion is a good one and we have much pleasure in passing it on. The cost would not be excessive. Each Road District would look after its own markings and the benefit to the travelling public would be incalculable.

There are few persons in the province who, without continuous inquiry, would be able to make their way along the devious cross roads with which the province is so well supplied, and in these independent days people like to rely on their own resources. Besides this, such information properly and officially posted would give an assurance to the traveller that he knew whether his way led him.

And while on the subject of road marking some similar course should be adopted with regard to our ice roads. Our rivers and bays are always carefully bushed but there are many intersections and crossings in these wharfs, especially during a snow storm, are bewildering to the traveller. In large open spaces of ice, such as Charlottetown harbor and the rivers tributary to it, with their almost countless roads, a system of marking could be adopted which might save many a weary mile to the traveller.

This latter might make a profitable exercise for ingenuity and invention and its solution would certainly be a boon to the public.

THE SITUATION

The war news gives no indication that the end is in sight or even that there has been any appreciable gain by the Allies in Northern France or in Belgium.

We have assumed that, with the return of the German Army from Paris they were in retreat to their own Country where the war would enter upon its second stage and the Germans would be fighting from behind their fortification.

They are being closely pressed in that awful battle in the valley of the Aisne and we believe they will be compelled to withdraw from both France and Belgium. It will be a withdrawal only, not a rout or a surrender and there will be more for the Allies to do than to hasten on to Berlin to meet the Russians and dictate terms to the vanquished Germans.

The German militarist party are fighting against tremendous and ever-increasing odds, and there is likely to be considerable disaffection in their own ranks. But they have roused the indignation and the fury of their enemies, and of the whole civilized world, to such an unparalleled extent that they have made Peace with Honor impossible. It is victory or annihilation for German militarism, and they know it, and they know also that victory is utterly impossible.

They are in a position of a gang of burglars who have killed one of their pursuers. They feel that their lives are forfeit and they are filled with a blind fury to burn, ravage and destroy, and to do as much damage as they can before justice clutches them once for all.

As for the wanton slaughter of their own troops that this policy will cause, that is not likely to trouble them at all. We were told at the beginning of this war that the Kaiser was willing to throw away the lives of a million of

ands, of lives sacrificed by the German war-machine, to whom the lives of their fellow-countrymen are as grains of sand compared to the accomplishment of their own mad ambitions.

And so we say that our readers must gird up their souls with fresh courage, and be prepared for anything so long as the faces of our troops are still set towards Berlin. The stakes are so tremendous that no sacrifice is too great. "The last man and the last dollar" is a phrase that has become cheapened through over-use, but it is literally true, and Canada is as much in the throes of a struggle for life or death as Britain herself.

GERMAN ATROCITIES

Since the present war began, says the Montreal Gazette, the civilized world has been shocked by the account of repeated, of barbarities which, not long since, would have been deemed incredible. Some of the worse forms of atrocious cruelty that have been charged against German officers and soldiers are such as one might associate with Comassie or Dahomey, Thebaw or Theodore rather than the inhabitants of a civilized land. "Some thought," said Mr. Winston Churchill not long since to the people of London, that there would be a German war, some did not, but no one supposed that a great military nation would exhibit all the vices of military organization without those redeeming virtues which, God knows, are needed to redeem warlike operations from the taint of shame. We have been confronted with an exhibition of ruthlessness, and outrage enforced upon the weak, enforced upon women and children." We may be sure that one holding the position of First Lord of the Admiralty would not use such language as we have quoted unless he was convinced that his words could be sustained by evidence. The speaker is not likely to be shocked by the customary rudeness of warfare. He knows from experience that the soldier is sometimes ordered to do harsh things that go against the grain of his sympathies. But enlightened warfare had its laws and the soldier knew when they were transgressed. Mr. Churchill knew that Germany had transgressed them. On the same occasion Mr. F. E. Smith, M.P., asked what excuse there was for barbarities that had disgraced civilization. Universities had been burned, cathedrals had been ruined, the inhabitants of cities, towns and villages had been terrorized. "The women and children were terrified," said Mr. Will Crooks, "so that the men might the sooner be forced to surrender." This triple testimony to the savagery of German warfare is all the more effective for the comparative reserve with which it is asserted. Much stronger language might have been used without offending the ears of the listeners and without any violence to veracity.

Those who have been wont to see in Germany a stronghold of science, learning and art rather than a barracks or a camp have been stricken with dismay, where they have not been incredulous, at the reports of German atrocities.

THE BREED

It is hinted, with sardonic German wit that Count Zeppelin is to "pay a visit to England." The German "joke" in this is that Count Zeppelin is to drop shells on some English City, probably London. When offered by the Kaiser, the position of Commander in Chief of the Aerial Fleet, he declined with modest thanks but intimated smilingly that he might accept it "after he had returned from England."

It is quite possible that Count Zeppelin, or some other, might do this. It could be as easily undertaken as any other murderous act, and would not perhaps be much more dangerous to the perpetrator than are the usual undertakings of assassins. But it would be murder all the same. The Germans, however, evidently think it is war. The sack of Louvain, the destruction of the Rheims Cathedral, the murder of innocent non-belligerents, the torture of women and children, the planting of mines in the open sea, are all counted as war by the Germans. According to the Hague Convention, according to all the standards of humanity and Christianity such acts as these are not war but murder.

Already the Germans have drawn down upon themselves the righteous indignation of civilized humanity and further persistence in such methods of warfare as those referred to will place her outside the pale of civilized nations and would justify a war of extermination waged to a finish.

This may seem like harsh judgment, may seem cruel, but it would have been infinitely less cruel to have exterminated the whole breed when they were only a band of defeated Goths many centuries ago. They are the same breed still and while they exist as a nation such catastrophes as that now in progress in Europe will be possible.

NOTES

The use of the parcel post is growing from month to month, it is announced, and justifying the action of the Government in establishing it. The parcel post has to compete against a good express service at moderate rates, and to some extent had to make its way into a field already occupied. To many places, however, it has a monopoly, and it is to these it will be of greatest service. Time will be its vindication.

Among the weapons which have recovered their old reputation is the bayonet—the British bayonet, says an exchange. It is not so long since military experts thought of discarding it altogether. It was a burden to the soldier and a cumbersome attachment to the rifle; and the men very seldom came near enough to their enemies to make any use of it. It would be far better—these military experts reasoned—to let the soldier carry that weight in cartridges or food.

We are informed, says the "News of the World," that the Hon. Archer Windsor Clive youngest son of the Earl of Plymouth, whose name appeared in the first list of killed, was done to death under singularly tragic and disgraceful circumstances. Seeing what he took to be a British officer, who was wearing the cloak which is worn by the officers of one of the British regiments, he went up to him and saluted. The "officer" at once took out a revolver and shot him. That "officer" was a German. No comment is needed on this bit of news.

The war spells long, protracted martyrdom for the German people hereafter. The final collapse will doubtless be hastened by the military occupation of Germany by three million foreign soldiers, but its chief promoting cause will be the utter inability of a hundred millions of ordinary people to procure at any cost the absolute necessities of life. Those who forecast the duration of the war by reference to military conditions only stand an excellent chance of having their predictions falsified by the event. When the collapse does take place it will resemble that of an empty egg-shell or a castle of cards; it may easily be a break-up rather than a break-down, the result of an outward explosion rather than that of an inward

METHODIST CONGRESS DECIDES TO AMEND CHURCH HYMNBOOK

New Book Will Contain Ritual and Omit Some Old Favorites

DR. S. D. CHOWN'S HOME

To be Toronto in Future, he Having Completed Special Work in West

OTTAWA, Oct. 9.—For the first time in the history of the Methodist Church in Canada, some ritual will be embodied in the new hymn book for the Church. The General Conference so decided Tuesday afternoon. The ritual will include the Lord's prayer, the ten commandments, the apostle's creed, the questions and answers of the Reception service, and the general confession of the service of the Lord's Supper.

Discussion on the report of the hymn book committee of which Rev. Dr. S. P. Rosemont, Montreal, was chairman, and Dr. A. D. Watson, Toronto, secretary, absorbed considerable time, and was the feature of the business today. The conference plans to conclude its business tomorrow, and will sit until midnight if necessary.

The Use of Amen

The report of the hymn book committee provoked considerable debate. One of the first items to cause discussion was the recommendation that "amen" be sung only at the end of certain suitable hymns. Some of the delegates favored singing amen at the close of all the hymns.

Rev. Dr. Salem Bland, Winnipeg, pointed out that some hymns are in the nature of a warning. The committee desire that "amen" be sung at the end of certain suitable hymns. Some of the delegates favored singing amen at the close of all the hymns.

There was a feeling amongst some of the delegates that the committee had, in selecting hymns for the new book, omitted to put in some of the best old tunes.

Old Associations

Rev. Dr. Bland suggested an appendix for the new volume, in which some of the old favorites thrown out by the committee should be placed. "Some of the old tunes have been dear to us since childhood," said Dr. Bland.

One of the greatest events in the history of Methodism in the Province of Quebec was celebrated Saturday night when a gathering of the prominent Methodist ministers and laymen of the district, some of the principal heads of the church in Canada as well as representatives of the sister colleges in Montreal, assisted Principal Smyth, the staff, the students, and the Board of Governors of the New Wesleyan Theological College in opening in an adequate manner the splendid new building which has been provided through the liberality of Methodists for the teaching of those who will be their religious leaders in days to come.

Before the meeting in the fine new hall with its draped flags over the small platform, and the pictures of early principals, Rev. Dr. G. Douglas, 1873 to 1894, and Rev. Dr. W. I. Shaw, principal 1894 to 1911, and professor since 1874, Rev. Principal Smyth with members of the Board of Governors and their wives received the large and representative gathering of guests. In turn, received a genial and wholehearted welcome, enthusiastic students took the visitors on a tour of the college so that they could see for themselves the new home. From the gymnasium and the baths in the basement to the students' rooms in the second, third and fourth stories everything was planned on the ample scale to meet not only the needs of the present, but the expanding calls that the future will make upon this college for generations.

MR. MCCONNELL OPENS.

At nine o'clock all the guests gathered in the large hall to the left of the entrance, where Principal Smyth took the post of honor as chairman, introducing each speaker with a few words relative to the part he had played in helping on the new college. The college was formally opened by an address delivered by Mr. J. W. McConnell, who referred to the courage and perseverance of the Methodists in Montreal district which had brought through the great project of a new college suitable for modern needs against the misgiving, doubt and little faith of very many who did not think it possible. Chief amongst the factors contributing to this great result he placed the indomitable perseverance of Rev. Principal Smyth. He defended the building committee against the charges of extravagance brought by those who had thought the quality, appearance and comfort provided, greater than was warranted. The building was certainly second to none in the Dominion in these respects, but, in providing the quality they said the object had been as well to secure a low cost of maintenance for the building. The manner of construction was such that the insurance rates would be very low and the cost of general upkeep be reduced to a minimum.

PRaises PRINCIPAL SMYTH.

As did every succeeding speaker Mr. McConnell paid a high tribute to the outstanding ability and Christian character of Rev. Principal Smyth, saying that the Board of Governors were proud to have a man capable of such wholehearted and energetic leadership at the head of the college. The college in the future would turn out thirty graduates in a year, and it was hoped that under such leadership and in such a building every decade would add to their ministry three hundred Christian educated gen-

those who had come to act in the college, gave a short history of the college under such men as Douglas, Shaw, Flay and Ferrier, finishing with a strong eulogy of Dr. Smyth's work.

C TH PREACHER AND TEACHER.

Speaking of the educational ideals for which the college stands, Mr. Johnston said:—"I think I am safe in saying that the Governors are in sympathy with a ministerial education of the broadest type consistent with the conservation of the great fundamental truths upon which our religion is founded. Our aim will be to turn out men who will appeal to the head as well as to the heart, men who will be something more than mere pulpiterators, who will not only be preachers, but teachers.

"We trust we shall turn out men with a passion for righteousness, endorsed, not only by our ministry generally but by our Educational Society. We stand for the welding together into one harmonious whole the two great factors in Empire building, religion and education. If we can conserve this harmony, giving no exclusive emphasis to either factor, I am persuaded we shall proceed along right lines and achieve the most beneficial and permanent results.

"This is the principle behind our work here and I am persuaded that it is endorsed not only by our ministry generally, but by our Educational Society. We stand for that welding together into one harmonious whole the two greatest factors in Empire building, religion and education. If we can conserve the harmony, giving no exclusive emphasis to either factor, I am persuaded we shall proceed along right lines and achieve the most beneficial and permanent results.

NATIONALIZING CHRISTIANITY.

Mr. W. M. Birks, chairman of the joint board of governors, brought formal greetings and sincere good wishes from that body, expressing his gratification that such an institution had been added to those in Montreal for fearlessly seeking after the truth, and mediating between modern thought and the old gospel of the cross of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Dr. Sparling, president of the Montreal Conference, one of the Governors of the college, and an old graduate of the institution when it was in humbler quarters, told of those days and the men who had presided over the education of the young ministers, and his feeling that only men capable of creating an inspiring atmosphere should preside over the college's destinies.

FINANCIAL SIDE OF BUILDING.

Mr. William Hanson, treasurer, said that \$200,000 had been the amount set before them when they started out on the project, \$200,000 for building, and the rest for endowment. Of this sum, \$257,200 had been subscribed by 1,117 Methodists in sums varying from 25 cents to \$50,000. Completed, the building would cost \$220,000, and \$118,000 had been paid already, \$98,000 of the amount subscribed had been paid in, and the balance of the amount paid had been borrowed. Under present conditions interest charges were very high, and the sooner the amount was cleared off the better. Not a single accident had occurred while the building was going up.

Rev. Dr. S. D. Chown, general superintendent of the Methodist Church in Canada, in praising the self-denial which had raised such an edifice, told them that the Methodists all over the Dominion were doing the same thing, the value of the Methodist Church's investments in educational institutions in Canada having risen in four years from three million dollars to nearly seven million dollars' worth.

WAITING FOR PRESBYTERIANS.

Referring to Church Union, Dr. Chown said that he thought the church had done the right thing in leaving the doors still open for the Presbyterian church as he did not think the feeling for union in that church had been adequately represented at the last meeting of the Assembly. Co-operation was already taking place in the West so that in a hundred of localities they had stopped duplication of energies.

Principal Smyth extended his thanks to the principals of the other Protestant theological colleges in Montreal who were present, and to Dr. Symonds, who was present as chairman of the Protestant Board of School Commissioners. He agreed with Mr. Birks that the duty of the leaders of Christian thought in this generation is to mediate between modern views of the extreme type and the evangel of their fathers' love to preach. Their church was faced with a difficult situation with so many members harking back to the old dogmas and shibboleths which are obsolete, and clinging to old forms and ways of expressing their religious conviction which they mistakenly believed to be essential, important parts of the doctrine in which the church was founded, and which moved with the spirit of modern rationalism and craving for demonstration which in spiritual things could not always be found. The wise course was the safe course, the middle course. They had to take into account the marvellous progress of modern thought in order that in their preaching they could command themselves

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Simon W. Crabbe

to the intelligence of the best people were starting the new term. They in their congregations. Since he had had also a number of art and medical come to the college the number of students in residence, and experiment resident students had increased from which they hoped would be of benefit thirty to the seventy with which they had both.



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