

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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A WAR MEMORIAL.

In another column of this issue we publish the letter of Citizen, calling attention to the timely subject of a public Memorial to our brave soldiers who fought in the Great War. We need not repeat here and now the voluminous tributes, spoken and written, expressive of our appreciation of what these men living and dead have done for the cause of liberty and humanity, and the honor and fame they have achieved which will be our heritage for all future time. All must agree that we owe them a debt which can never be repaid. The best that we can do is to express our gratitude and loving admiration in some enduring form. And the time for action to this end is now. It is indeed already over ripe. We have already delayed too long. Much more promptly we moved after the little war in South Africa, in which our losses were small and the shadow of mourning which fell upon our province was limited to a small number of homes. Then the movement for a public monument took shape and was carried into effect almost immediately after peace was declared and while the glow and ardor of the war spirit was warm in our hearts and the events of the struggle, and the valor and endurance of our soldiers were still fresh in our memories.

year what should have been done last year. We quite agree with Citizen in what he says as to the single object and purpose of our War Memorial. In what has been done to this end in the British Isles, and they have not been so dilatory in the matter as we have been, the utilitarian idea has been relegated to the background. Here some persons have expressed approval of what British opinion seems to have discarded. A public library building has been suggested either separate or as an addition to the Provincial Building. The latter building complete in itself, would be marred in its fair proportions by any attempted addition. A new and separate library building would at the outset be more distinctively a library than a memorial, and in the future the memorial idea would be completely overshadowed. We must also bear in mind that the Memorial should be provincial rather than local. Our soldiers dead and living came from all parts of the province and all sections of Prince Edward Island will be asked and expected to contribute to its cost. Would they do so if the proposal were to erect a memorial building here to be of use chiefly by the people of Charlottetown? To ask the question is to supply the answer. Moreover there is already available the considerable nucleus of a fund for a Memorial Monument provided, it shall be exclusively devoted to the one object, a soldiers' monument. That object is provincial in its scope, not narrow, or local, or dominantly for local utility. We believe this purpose will prevail. It may take the form of an artistic and imposing monument, or group, or a memorial arch. After hearing the views of all who may desire to be heard on the subject, a decision should be promptly made as to the site of the Memorial, the form it should take and the estimated cost.

Current Comment

The Bell Government prison basket is increasing in leakiness. It was surely insecure enough in its former natural, or rather unnatural, condition, but now its retaining value as a place of confinement is being further impaired by the deliberate acts of those whose duty it is to maintain law and order in our Province. While the House was in session we had occasion to refer to the shameful release upon the community of a prisoner whose term of sentence as a prohibition act offender had not expired. Premier Bell in his efforts to discredit the Guardian, and exculpate his Government attempted to throw the responsibility upon the Prohibition Commission, reflecting upon it as an action of theirs. We claimed at that time that releasing of prisoners was not a prerogative of the Commission, and are surprised that they have not resented the aspersion. Their duty is to enforce, and not to defeat the purposes of the act, and we cannot believe that, even if they had the power, they would be parties to those wholesale releases of offenders which now seem to be the order of the day. In point of fact no one but the Lieutenant Governor in Council has any power to pardon prohibition act offenders, and THE GOVERNMENT MUST ASSUME THEIR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE RELEASES. While it has been admittedly easy for prisoners to escape through the flimsy or unguarded doors or windows, this method seems to be becoming obsolete, it being just as easy, and more convenient, to walk out with a Government pardon in the hand, which has the advantage of freedom from the possible annoyance of a recapture, with the addition of more or less of newspaper publicity. The question is now assuming a tenacity of seriousness, involving as it does the question as to whether we are to have any regard for law or any administration of justice in this province. We are fully conscious of the adverse feeling in Govern-

ment circles to our prohibition laws and of their sympathy for the liquor traffic, but this does not justify this method of defeating the purposes of the act which is the accepted law of the land. They have not had the courage to attempt its repeal, knowing the power of publicity in our Province, and by repeated release of convicted offenders, they are doing all in their power to nullify its provisions, and as far as they are able to bring its working into disrepute. There have been more than one of these releases by Government pardon, but the last reported is the most reprehensible. One acting as Deputy Sheriff in Queen's County was convicted for liquor selling, and because he was an officer of the Supreme Court, whose sworn duty, we presume, was to enforce and uphold the laws of the land, his honor the Stipendiary Magistrate very properly imposed upon him the maximum penalty. Public opinion and all sense of right and justice will applaud this, but not so the Government whose sense of right or wrong, in its plicancy, has become the bye-word and reproach of the community. By their command this Deputy Sheriff violator of the prohibition laws, after serving only a very few days of his sentence, is permitted to walk out to liberty with the Government pardon in his hands. When public officials, whose holding positions as peace officers of the province, are thus encouraged to break our laws, and thus pardoned for their offenses, how can we consistently keep the less guilty offenders behind the bars of confinement, or with any show of decency punish them for their wrong doings? We have a Prohibition Commission to whom the people are looking for the enforcement of this law and whom we fear unjustly, will be too often saddled with the blame for these defaults which they are apparently powerless to prevent. Of what avail is it if they place the whole fraternity of

THE PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondence of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by its correspondents.

A MEMORIAL FOR OUR SOLDIERS

Sir,—Is it not high time that there was something done, something real and effective, to provide a public memorial for our brave Soldiers—Boys—dead and living? High time, I have said, it is years since the armistice was signed, years since the survivors of the Great War returned to us, and yet nothing effective has been done toward this much desired end. More and more the war recedes into the distance; more and more we become engrossed in our daily occupations of farming, trading, business and professional life. Is there not danger that we forget our great duty of providing a lasting public Memorial for all that our brave boys have done and suffered? It was not always thus. After the war in South Africa in which only two of our brave Boys met their death an immediate and strenuous effort was made to signify in lasting form the public appreciation for all they had done and suffered. The Guardian lent its hearty and earnest effort at that time to awaken the public interest and carry the movement forward. A public subscription was speedily set on foot to which the people of the city and province contributed liberally. This was done almost at once after the war had closed and while the incidents of the struggle were still fresh in the public mind. The result was the worthy and striking memorial monument which now stands upon our central square, and which has been, is and will continue to be an object of prime interest to our citizens and to visitors from abroad. For the few who died or were disabled or maimed in the Boer War there were hundreds who made the great sacrifice, or suffered severely in the Great War. Those whom a kind Providence spared to return unscathed had made a great sacrifice, had suffered much, endured greatly in the cause of liberty and humanity. What they did, the living and the dead, demands public recognition on a scale in some degree proportionate to the magnitude of their great services and the number of those who took part. The Great War was a much more colossal and momentous struggle than the war in South Africa. To my mind there is no place so fitting as our central square for such a memorial, it is the one most public place in our city and province. There was placed our first and only public monument. There the second memorial, larger and more imposing, as artistically beautiful and impressive as it can be made, should also be placed. Let it be in its aim and object purely a memorial as the first monument is. I would discard any utilitarian. Let our memorial express our admiration and gratitude for the heroic spirit, the noble self-sacrifice, the valorous achievements of our soldiers dead and living. That should be, in my opinion, its one, all-sufficient object. I am, etc. CITIZEN.

Others' View Points

Experienced (Christian Register)

A Japanese "boy" came to the home of a minister in Los Angeles recently and applied for a position. Now it happened that the household was already well supplied with servants, so the minister's wife said, "I am sorry, but we really haven't enough work another boy busy."

"Madame," said the Oriental politely, "I am sure that you must have. You may not know what a little bit of work it takes to keep me employed."

NOTICED ABROAD

(Columbus, Ohio, Citizen)

The sun never sets on the British Empire's troubles.

"MOST MOMENTOUS."

(Hamilton Spectator)

The overwhelming vote in favor of church union (4 to 1) registered at the general assembly of Presbyterians in Toronto yesterday is the most momentous religious event of recent times.

OBSERVATION, NOT ARGUMENT

(Port Arthur News-Chronicle)

When asked by one of the census enumerators if she were married, a Port Arthur woman, resident of the section where most of the foreign born reside and mother of four children, answered: "No, but the man I live with is better to me than a husband. He lets me keep boarders and I make plenty of money."

And it is more than a possibility that many other women in this and other countries would receive better treatment from "her man" if she were not bound to him by the legal ties constituting marriage. Self-satisfied possession is in many cases not conducive to proper appreciation on the part of husbands. The woman who can "up and leave" whenever conditions become unbearable would seem to have much the advantage of the woman who is "tied for life" and, pursuing the idea further, it might be found that the same thing would apply to some men.

Please Note—This is not an argument against marriage. It is merely an observation.

WHAT IS A BETTER WAY?

(Guelph Herald)

The Toronto Star asks a pertinent question when it queries whether the Province of Ontario is possessed of a fair, honorable or satisfactory method of disposing of its timber wealth? We imagine the answer, if truthfully given from all interested, would be that it has not.

There appears to be too much guess work about the value of the timber limits offered for sale from time to time by the various governments who appear to be in power, and it is this lack which has given rise to much of the suspicion which prevails over the disposal of timber limits in Ontario. This might have been permissible in times gone by, when timber was so cheap, but it is not so any longer. Some better methods than the one now in use, which plays into the hands of the "interests" could surely be devised. A better policy, for the time being at least, would be to put up only such timber lands for sale as have been thoroughly cruised by agents of the province. Were this done and the data put at the disposal of possible buyers, a larger revenue should inure to the province. Under any other system the public will always be suspicious that its forest wealth and that privileged persons are getting confidential tips as to the nature of the information in the possession of the government.

POLITENESS A CIVIC DUTY

(Cleveland Plain Dealer)

If visitors are treated with courtesy by salesmen in the stores they patronize, if the questions they ask of pedestrians or of traffic officers are answered as if it is a pleasure to impart information to strangers, if street car conductors hotel clerks and taxi drivers remember that civility is not only a mind. Constantly then use this retreat, and renew thyself therein and be thy principles brief and elementary, which, as soon as ever thou recur to them, will suffice to wash thy soul entirely clean, and send thee back without vexation to what so'er awaiteth thee.

personal grace, but a civic asset as well, these thousands will return to their homes ready to sing the praises of the city and to come again when opportunity offers. It is worth while, any way one looks at it.

THE BACKUS CASE

(London Free Press.)

Mr. Backus has huge pulp and paper interests in Minnesota and Northwestern Ontario. He controls a big paper mill at Fort Francis. Most of the paper he manufactures goes to Chicago and Western American papers. During the war he openly defied the orders of the Canadian paper controller and refused to supply his quota of paper to Western Canadian publishers. Recently he was granted vast timber limits in the Kenora district by the Drury Government. Along with these limits have gone valuable water power rights on the Lake of the Woods and tributary streams. Such power sites should have been earmarked for the Hydro-Electric Commission, but the Drury Government is evidently following in Northern Ontario the policy of the old Ross administration at Niagara and is giving away power rights to private interests. The City of Winnipeg has a great public ownership power development scheme and feared that control by the Backus interests would seriously affect its power project, the waters coming from the Lake of the Woods drainage basin. It was supported in its protest by the Province of Manitoba. Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen held a conference with Premier Drury and Premier Norris, when it was decided to appoint a control board, the Ontario and Manitoba Legislatures and the Federal Parliament passing concurrent legislation. Manitoba did its part, but Premier Drury failed. Now the Dominion is fulfilling its compact with Manitoba by passing legislation which Premier Drury admitted was necessary. If there is invasion of provincial rights in the Dominion's legislation, it is merely invasion of the right to hand over to an American plutocrat, who has shown callous indifference to Canadian interests, the control of Ontario's boundary waters.

OLEOMARGARINE

(London Free Press)

The Farmers Sun is protesting with vigor against the bill of the Government extending for another year permission to manufacture oleomargarine in Canada. The Sun makes its usual attack on the "unrepresentative" Parliament. It might interest the Farmers' Sun to know that every member of the Farmers' party in the Federal House, from Hon. T. A. Crerar down, voted for oleomargarine. Instead of attacking the Government, the Sun might well turn its batteries upon its own leader and his followers, including the recently-elected member for West Elgin. Oleomargarine is recognized as a fit and proper food product in every country in the world except Canada. Even Denmark, the greatest European dairy nation, allows the use of oleomargarine. At the present time, with butter at a low figure, there is little likelihood of anyone using oleomargarine as a substitute for butter, but oleomargarine proved a boon to thousands when prices were soaring and may again.

Utopia and Coal.

(New York Evening Post)

The householder would welcome a ton of anthracite for \$11—in fact the householder would think the coal dealer insane if he quoted that price. Yet for \$10 he might begetting a ton of smokeless coal without slate, a month's supply of cooking gas, fertilizer for a garden, tar enough to keep the street before the house dustless, and 40 miles of motor fuel. The Government's scientists insist that this is no fanciful picture. In 1915 they point out, a ton of soot coal was worth \$11.5 at the mines. The products which the coal contained 1500 pounds of smokeless fuel, 10,000 feet of gas, ammonium sul-



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THE STALEY HOMES OF ENGLAND

(London, Ont., Free Press)

Taxation having overtaken capital in the landowning classes of England castles and great houses are being shut up, first because the territorial owners cannot afford to live in them; second, because they cannot rent them if they would. This state of affairs causes the London correspondent of the Manchester Guardian to exclaim: "The evacuation of the larger houses, of course will materially change the whole face of English social life. The new people with a few exceptions are not seeking to buy estates and most of the great houses that survive will doubtless pass into a new phase where they will have no connection with the country that surrounds them except perhaps in a sporting sense. "One sees in the 27th generation that the houses of the rich in the country will be much like the houses of the rich in America—little islands beautifully kept in a countryside that only knows them as people who come and go in motors." "People who come and go in motors." What a social revolution is summed up in those words. By comparison with the neighborliness and the interest which have so long subsisted between the cottage and the castle, how unfriendly they sound. Yet, if the pauperization and the patronage erstwhile back of the "neighborliness" and the "interest," our sentimentally admires are to go with the going of country houses, who except for

ESTHETIC REASONS CAN REGRET THEM?

(London, Ont., Free Press)

Between the years 1882 and 1886 Felicia Hemans wrote her "National Lyrics and Scenes and Hymns of Life." The most popular and the best known single selections out of these works, perhaps, are "Casablanca" and "The Homes of England" and all of us remember the lines. "The stately homes of England, How beautiful they stand! Amid their tall ancestral trees, O'er all the pleasant land, The deer across their green-sward bound, Through shade and sunny gleam, And the swan glides past them to the sound Of some rejoicing stream." It is a fair picture. In certain senses the world will be poorer for its passing. If, however, that passing contributes to the greater upbuilding of the "merry homes of England," of whatever estate, around whose hearths a household love is gathered; to the strengthening of "the free, fair homes of England"—if the fall of the "hall means the fall of the "hut" as well what matter? Hearts of "native proof" will still be reared in England. There will still be hallowed walls and let us hope bright groves and lowery sod: "Where first the child's glad spirit loves Its country and its God." Knows No Bounds Bobby—"What does 'knows no bounds' mean, dad?" Dad (buried in newspaper): "Kan garoo with rheumatism."



White Footwear Time

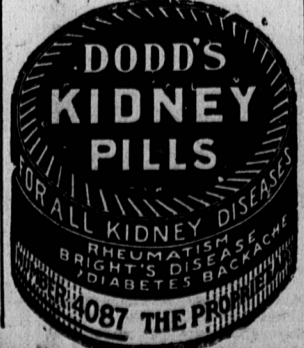
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