

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THURSDAY, MARCH 20th, 1919.

SAVE THE FOXES.

Foxmen throughout the province will be interested in the address published elsewhere in this paper given by Mr. Chester McLure at a meeting of foxmen in this city. They will be especially interested in his statement that "we (the foxmen) do not know anything about fox farming. We are just blundering along." This admission by a man who knows the fox business as Mr. McLure knows it, and the unanimous concurrence in it by some of the most successful fox breeders in the province is somewhat startling.

The experience of the past few years shows quite clearly that Mr. McLure's statement is only too true. Mysterious deaths, mysterious diseases, mysterious miscolorings have been a too common feature of the fox history of the province. And this was after all to be expected. The transition from wild freedom to civilization cannot be accomplished without mishaps. We civilized the Indian with little regard to his likes and dislikes substituting our own ideas as to what was good for him, and he died with but a comparatively few exceptions. We have adopted similar methods with the fox and, possibly through better care than we gave the Indian, we have succeeded in civilizing him partly at

least, but we have not yet learned all there is to know about the transition and the too common result is mysterious disease, death and alterations in color.

The fox has brought some millions of dollars to this province, and, if he survives the process of civilization, will bring many more millions. It is up to the fox men to study him to find out what there is in our civilization that does not suit him, and if necessary, adapt what we know of medical science and civilization to his condition if he refuses to adapt himself to the methods we are crowding upon him.

Mr. McLure's suggestion to hold a general meeting of fox men is a good one and should be acted upon. They do not meet often enough to do not exchange ideas as often as they should, do not confer and cooperate as much as they should. If at their general meeting they decide to appeal to the Federal Government for such assistance as is being given in connection with our other live stock—hens, hogs, cattle, sheep, etc.—and go after it they are pretty sure to get it for the governments' federal and provincial are only too anxious to help everything that promises to be of general benefit.

CABINET RECONSTRUCTION

While those on the inside are saying nothing, except to themselves, those outside are at present busy in reconstructing the cabinet. How much of this reconstruction will materialize it would be difficult to predict at present but there are many rumors current in Ottawa.

The wise proviso is attached that the reconstruction will not take place until Sir Robert Borden returns from Europe. When he returns and has placed the new material in its place in the reconstructed cabinet, Sir Robert is to retire, the rumors say, and go to a more congenial place than the House of Commons, probably as a member of the Supreme Tribunal, of the League of Nations.

As to Sir Robert's successor all the prophets, pro and con, appear to be agreed that there is only one man who can worthily wear his mantle. This man is Sir Thomas White, the present Acting Premier. During Sir Robert's absence, Sir Thomas White handled the situation with diplomacy and skill; he

is exceedingly popular, and his ability is admitted even by his opponents. It is more than probable that when Sir Robert Borden returns, he will be placed in command and he will not require a managing committee either.

Rumor goes on to predict that Sir George E. Foster and Hon. Martin Burrell will retire and that Hon. C. J. Doherty may also retire. It is also predicted that two Liberal members will retire. There is said to be a movement on foot to induce a few more French members into the cabinet, two of these probabilities being Lemieux and Bédard. The motive back of this consideration for Liberals is to give the protectionist provinces a stronger line-up so as to modify the radicalism of the west. One thing that rumor frankly admits is that the Union Government is today stronger than ever—a fact which explains its apparent apathy in the matter of formulating a distinctive unionist policy to safeguard its future existence.

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

About this time last year the slogan throughout Canada was produce more food. Many amateur farmers took up the cry and with it the spade and the hoe and proceeded to make something grow where nothing had grown before. There was considerable extra production as a result and many found that the raising of most of their own vegetables was a matter of little difficulty and of a good deal of pleasure. Many made gardens in Charlottetown and in the towns and villages throughout the province. Will the good work be continued this season? It will be found that although the war is over the need of production will be almost as great and the prices almost as high as during the war. For this reason, if for no other, all the experiences of the past two or three seasons should be utilized

in filling the world's food basket. Many of those who have learned how to cultivate the unused spaces on their farms or in their backyards and have derived profit and pleasure from it, will no doubt enlarge their labors during the present season. Those who tried and made a failure of it should not quit simply because of the failure, but should try it again determined to win. There will be room enough in the market this year for all that can be produced, and by utilizing the unused spaces of which we have many we shall avoid the sin of wasting our heritage. There is by far too much waste land in this province, land which should not be wasted as it is practically all cultivable. Waste not, want not, applies with peculiar emphasis to the land in this province.

The Teaching Profession

Sir,—Much is being said these days about the question of Education not only here but throughout the Dominion. Take up the report of any of the Superintendents of Education, and you will note that the same complaint is found in them all viz the insufficient supply of teachers especially of male teachers. In no province is this want felt so keenly than in Prince Edward Island. If the youths of the province are to get the necessary educational qualifications to enable them to successfully meet present day conditions some remedy must be found.

It is admitted by all that the salary at present paid to teachers is insufficient to retain the teachers at present employed or to attract young people of ability to enter the Profession! Save the mark!

The necessity for better salaries for teachers being admitted by all, the only question is how shall the better

salaries be secured. There are only two ways in which this can be accomplished; either the Government must increase the Educational grant, or the supplements paid by the people must be increased. The advantage that the Government would have in undertaking the work would be that it is in a position to make the necessary levy equitably, while leaving it to the people, being a voluntary matter with each district, the wealthiest districts sometimes pay the least.

Seeing that an intelligent and educated people is a national asset, it seems but reasonable that the Government should assume the full responsibility for this service. It is not left to each district to determine how much they will tax themselves for the up-keep of the roads, but the Legislature settles that by statute. Why not do the same in the matter of this admittedly more important service?

Hoping that others will take up the discussion of this subject.
I am Sir, etc.
J. D. SEAMAN

150,000 Belgians Being Repatriated

One of the first problems to confront the British Government on the signing of the armistice was the repatriation of the 150,000 Belgian refugees in England and Scotland. Certainly the first impulse of most refugees was to celebrate the auspicious eleventh of November by the purchase of a trunk or some means of conveying their belongings back to their own homes. After four years of exile the thought that the invader was now definitely driven from Belgian soil gave rise to intense impatience once more to take possession of the land of which they have been dispossessed. The workmen of the Britley Munition Works, were the first to be recalled to work at the rebuilding of their own land, write K. Ennis from London, as quoted in the Pittsburgh Gazette-Time. Gradually Antwerp and the surrounding districts were repopulated and since January 15 it has been possible for the exiles to return to all parts of Belgium. Shipping facilities for the purpose have been greatly extended and arrangements are now in force to transport 10,000 refugees a week. It is estimated that by the end of March the country will be emptied of all Belgian save these desirous of settling here, or those wishing to return later at their own expense.

No Place for Poor Men

A glance at the list of prices prevailing in Brussels at the end of December suggests that the joy of return is likely to be dampened by the cost of living. Belgians who are self-supporting here and can afford to return at their own time are, in fact, waiting for this to abate. Eggs are quoted at 30 cents each, butter \$4.80 the kilo (2 1/5 lbs.), coffee \$3.40 a pound and sugar is unobtainable. Beef dripping is sold at \$2 a pound, lard at \$2.40 to \$2.80 while toilet soap is at \$5 the piece. Perhaps the most prohibitive price is that demanded for ordinary cotton, which is from \$1.80 to \$2.40 a reel. Clothes and boots are proportionately scarce and dear. Fortunately the sailing of the "Rubis" on Jan 31 commenced the re-establishment of the regular steamship service between Tilbury and Ostend. The first cargo included a great store of mattresses, bedding and clothing as well as 100 tons of soap. The resumption of peaceful commerce, ought soon to bring relief to the depleted country, while the restoration of the machinery and live stock, which has been carried off into Germany by the invader, should materially help the re-establishment of industry and agriculture.

Back to School and Convent

The universities and other educational institutions are already issuing invitations to their students to resume their interrupted courses, although the immediate reopening is in some cases being delayed by the buildings being used as clearing stations for returning allied prisoners of war. Among the most eager exiles to return are the large number of nuns to whom the English convents have been affording hospitality. These are faced with the arduous task of repairing the damage and removing the disorder consequent on the prolonged occupation of their convents by German troops.

The return of the Belgians will witness the closing down of a special department of the British local Government Board, created to deal with relief measures. When, in 1914, the

Daily Selections for Guardian Readers

Furnished by W. S. Louson

SOME DAY.

Some day, with joy, my waiting heart shall hear
The welcome summons,
"Rise, and come away;
The winter cold is passed—lo, spring is near,
To usher in the eternal day."

Some day I shall awake and be like Him,
The journey ended, satisfied at last;
Then never more sad tears my eyes shall dim,
The sorrows of the desert will be past.

Some day He will unfold before my eyes
The hidden meaning of the desert way;
And I shall own with happy, glad surprise,
That earth's dark shadows lead to endless day.

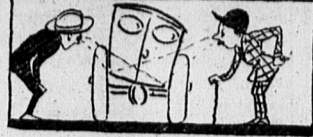
—Selected.

HINTS FOR THE MOTORIST

By ALBERT L. CLOUGH
Editor Motor Service Bureau Review of Reviews

SPECIAL GASOLINE AS FUEL

C. H. P. writes: One of the oil companies here offers to supply me with high test gasoline, in steel drums, at a price considerably higher than that asked for ordinary gasoline. Will it pay me to use it?



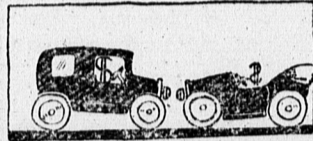
Answer: It will not pay you in any way, but it may prove worthwhile from the standpoint of convenience. Its use will enable you to start your engine more easily and promptly and it will operate at full power with a shorter preparatory heating period. Its use will also largely eliminate the thinning of the cylinder oil, which is so troublesome when commercial gasoline is used. We doubt if it will give you any more power than ordinary gasoline, assuming that your engine is well designed to burn the latter and its use will prove quite a little more costly. We notice that some car manufacturers have recently been urging their customers to use high test fuel, but the supply of such gasoline is so limited that, if many users adopt it, it will no longer "go around." Unless a car has a carburetor adjustment, within reach of the operator, it is very inconvenient to change from fancy gasoline to ordinary gasoline—as one may have to do on the road—as the carburetor

must be re-adjusted whenever the quantity of fuel is altered.

OPERATIVE COSTS OF CLOSED VS. OPEN CARS

A. W. C. asks: How much more expensive is the operation of a sedan than that of a car with open body upon the same classes?

Answer: Very slightly, as a rule. The sedan body usually weighs a few hundred pounds more than the open body, making the closed car weigh perhaps one-tenth more than the open car. Tire expense increases very nearly in exact proportion to the total weight carried, but fuel expense increases in a lower ratio and you would find the difference, in this regard, rather small in favor of the open car. Interest and depreciations upon the larger investment in the closed car is in excess of that for the lower priced open car and this item, with the added tire expense, would form the main items on the excess maintenance cost, which we believe you would not find burdensome in view of the advantages of the closed car. You can readily ascertain just how much heavier the sedan you are considering is than the open car and make your own figures on tire costs.



Questions of general interest to motorists will be answered in this column, space permitting. Address Albert L. Clough, care of this office.

country was roused by the account of their suffering to a spirit of "Britain for the Belgian," voluntary committees sprang up in every district and private funds were forthcoming in every direction. Gradually these funds were supplemented from the national exchequer and in proportion as voluntary contributions and organizations fell off there emerged a Government scheme employing a staff of 172 members.

What Was Done for Belgians

The relief given varied with the individual requirements of the applicants. Where private hospitality was not available, accommodation was afforded in hotels or in houses let rent free or at merely nominal rates. Favorable treatment was afforded at dispensaries, hospitals and sanatoria. As regards education, the children were placed in convents or colleges, according to their religion, a grant of \$2.50 per week being made to the convent for each child. Clothing was supplied in all cases where investigation showed circumstances to demand it, and, while class distinctions were not officially recognized, every effort was made to guard susceptibilities where possible. The separation allowances of wives of Belgian privates were also supplemented to bring them up to those of British soldiers' wives. War-time labor shortage made it possible from a very early stage to absorb many of the refugees in remunerative employment. Very soon they were among the most highly skilled and best paid munition workers, and the whole colony of Elizabethville (so called after the Belgian Queen) at Britley, County Durham, was populated by them. Another very large munition works, the Pelabon, at Twickenham, near London, was entirely in Belgian hands. In addition to munitions Britain's visitors were not slow to make their mark in other employments. Millinery and blouse shops of a truly French smartness soon made their appearance in many parts of London.

Founded National Industry

But perhaps the most truly national industry which the Belgians founded here is represented by the "patisserie" shops in the West End of London. Food rationing had not been long in force before Londoners discovered the value of these establishments as being mysteriously capable of still producing satisfying "treats." Soon they became known as the last stronghold of the fancy cake and the provider of the almost extinct chocolate. It certainly would appear that the Belgians found in this country, in addition to a refuge from the horrors and deprivations of war, a new and profitable field for enterprise. They should carry away with them the memory of as prosperous and comfortable a time as it is in the nature of a period of exile.

THE WAR IS OVER

You that Have Learned to Knit Must Knit for the Boy's at Home

Sock prices are not going to be any lower this coming fall, so Knit—Kint and save.

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