

THE Charlottetown Guardian

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MORE ROOM WANTED

There has probably never been in the history of Charlottetown such a scarcity of available residences to rent as there is at present. As a result of this the city is losing sources of revenue and of business, and there appears to be no remedy in sight. The city has reached its limit of growth under present conditions. There is no land available for building within the city limits at a price which the man of an ordinary means can afford to purchase or on which it would pay to build houses to rent. There is, it is true, any amount of land in the outer suburbs and beyond these boundaries but these sites are too far from the business sections. There is only one way in which the difficulty can be overcome, in which the city can grow beyond its present limits, that is by a street car service. Whether such a service could be made a profitable one is for the financiers to settle. In any case, without such, the city has attained its full growth and in the natural order of things, the next period will be one of senility and decay. Where there is no growth and no development, stagnation is inevitable.

Discussing this question with a citizen who knows something of the cost of automobiles and auto buses we were told that, with a capital of \$50,000, an autobus service could be established which would meet all present requirements, give the necessary accommodation to suburban residents, and pay. Auto-buses are now being used extensively in many cities that are not large enough to adequately support a regular street railway service. In this city such a service, with good roads, could be made to include a number of the outlying districts, would give an opportunity to build out into the country and so enlarge the city.

Many of our farmers are retiring yearly from active work. They would gladly avail themselves of city privileges of within reach. Many residents in the city are at present obliged to board because residences are not available, and many others are taking up their residence elsewhere for the same reason. These things are a direct loss to the city, a loss which a little enterprise could make good. Several moves have been made in the past with a view to establishing a street car service but usually on too elaborate a scale to be profitable. Now that gasoline has cheapened the means of travel and auto carriages of all sizes can be procured at reasonable cost, a service sufficient to meet the growing demands of the city should be within reach. Some day, no doubt, foreign capitalists will come in and do this for us and we shall have the mortification of seeing others do for us what we should have done for ourselves.

AMENDING ELECTION LAW

The bill to amend the Controverted Elections Act now being discussed in the House of Commons is, in many respects, one of the most important measures introduced in recent years. It is designed to expose and punish wrong doing in a parliamentary election campaign. This was also the purpose of the Act which the present one is designed to amend, but although the original act appeared to be sufficient for all ordinary political conditions, "man has sought out many inventions" and the former act was found to be defective.

The bill in its present shape is the result of study by a special committee of the House of Commons of the law, the recommendations made for its improvement, and the conditions that may be improved. The clauses leave untouched, and rightly, the requirement that one who undertakes to unseat a returned member shall make a sufficient deposit to guarantee the good faith of whoever it is that promotes the action. They reduce the number of opportunities for dilatory motions, and provide for hastening the actual trial of the petition, on its merits, and thus whether the parties interested move or not. A cursory study of the proposals suggests that they are designed to improve the law, first by reducing the possibilities of delay, and second by making it more probable that men who deliberately set out to win an election by corruption or who spontaneously seek to be corrupted shall not only suffer through the unseating of their favored candidate, but shall be made to pay a smart penalty for their wrongdoing. It is made the duty of the public prosecutor or crown attorney to take steps to secure the conviction of men designated as wrongdoers by the election court judges, and those convicted of corrupt practices are to be liable to imprisonment as well as fine as the circumstances make proper.

That there has been, and doubtless shall be, crookedness and wrongdoing in political contests cannot be denied although perhaps there is less actual transgression than is generally supposed. The beaten side usually accounts for its defeat by accusing the other side of improper practices but it is noteworthy that when questions of vital importance are at issue, corruptionist methods will not prevent the will of the people being carried out.

As to where the blame lies for the corruption that too often disgraces our elections there are different opinions. Some blame the politicians, others the electors. One thing is certain however, no man can be corrupted against his will, the honest elector will cast his ballot regardless of offered bribes and the professional politician will not part with his money unless he finds it necessary to do so. There are two parties to the crime and one is as guilty as the other.

The amended bill has the appearance of completeness and an honest desire to make corrupt practices too risky to be undertaken either by candidate or elector.

ALCOHOL AND THE WAR

When Lloyd-George launched a patriotic temperance movement in England, by announcing that the curse of drink is delaying British ships, arresting the manufacture of arms, impairing the efficiency of British soldiers, and thus lowering the chances of British victory, he made that frank confession of a serious truth which must precede the remedy.

The future student of social science will point to the World War of 1914 as having taught humanity that excess

drinking is the root of much of its evil. Everyone knew it before, but only subconsciously. The war has forced statesmen to admit it, and having once admitted that alcohol is handicapping a people which is sacrificing its most precious blood to realize national ideals, the molders of national destiny must either remove the handicap or stand convicted of treason.

There is a firm in France which bullfights its alcoholic products all over the signboards of that nation. It is called Pernod Fils. Someone translated that firm name to read "perd nos fils" (wreck our sons), and when the war came the French nation resolved that the particular product, absinthe, for which the firm of Pernod Fils is notorious, should no longer be sold to the sons of France.

Everyone who has ever studied social conditions in Russia declares that the illiteracy of the majority, the brutality of the educated minority, the violence of racial hatreds, the moral obliquity of most officials, are due primarily to vodka. At the beginning of this war the production of vodka was forbidden by imperial ukase. Russia is a despotism and the Czar's will is the will of God. Russia ceased to drink vodka. The efficiency of the Russian laborer increased 30 per cent. The state savings bank deposits for February of this year total \$25,250,000, as against \$400,000 last year. Crime of all kinds fell off or disappeared.

Whatever evils the great war may bring in its train, and they will be numerous and serious, it has at least brought this much of good. It has given the temperance movement an honest impetus that will more than offset the hypocrisy that so often accompanies the too common variety of intemperate and job hunting temperance.

THE UNSPEAKABLE

The United States press is becoming more and more outspoken in its condemnation of German methods of warfare. Our despatches yesterday morning told of the Washington Government demanding indemnity of Germany for the sinking of an American ship. They have yet to secure an explanation for the murder of an American citizen who perished when the steamer in which he was a passenger was sunk by a German mine. The Brooklyn Eagle under the caption "More of the Unspeakable" thus expresses its candid opinion:

"Incidental to the effort to obtain or to retain a place in the sun, two steamers were sent to the bottom yesterday. Each was a merchantman, and, according to accounts, each was sunk without warning. One of them foundered in three minutes, but two of the crew being saved, the fate of the other being almost as tragic. What was said of the sinking of the Falaba and Aquila, therefore, will bear repetition. The Tribune called this not war, but murder. The Herald, a reversion to barbarism. The Press, that which damns the Von Tirpitz admiralty in the eyes of civilization. The Sun, a wanton destruction of human life. As one condition precedent to the service of a submarine commander transcends all other—obedience to orders—there may be some dispute as to the category in which he shall be placed, but what of those who issue the orders he obeys. That which as the Press says damns these in the eyes of civilization. Butchers are at work."

PRAYING STORIES

The other week the "British Weekly" told a good story of a minister's wife who remonstrated with a soldier's wife for speaking too bitterly about the Kaiser, and urged that as a Christian she should pray for her enemies. "So I do," was the reply. "And what do you say?" "Oh just like this. Almighty God, keep your eye on that loon the Keyser. Saften his heart, an' damp his poutner."

The late Frank T. Bullen was the raciest of story-tellers, and one of his best yarns was of an old woman in a country church "praying at" a wealthy miser. The man was oblivious until a large piece of plaster fell from the ceiling plump on his head. "Lord, Lord," he roared, jumping up. "I'll give five pounds!" The old woman in tones of disgust, lifted up her voice in appeal once more—"Hit him again, Lord; 'tain't enough; hit him again!"

At the time of the boom in fox stock a canny farmer visited his nephew and asked him to back a note for \$1,000 to pay for a share in a syndicate. Four months later he returned and announced that his \$1,000 note had realized just \$15,000 cash. "Now," said the nephew, who is a religious man, "what share of this good fortune are you to set aside for the furtherance of God's work?" "Eh!" exclaimed the farmer in surprise. Now hesitatingly—"I-I don't think the Lord would approve of money so easily gotten." He departed, only to return half-an-hour later with the joyful announcement: "I say nephew, although I don't think it would be right to offer a tithe to the Church there can be no harm in giving \$5 to the Y. M. C. A."

REVIVING BUSINESS

Henry Clews & Co.'s financial review for the week ending April 3rd, says: "All signs indicate that we have entered a period of permanent recovery from the war. The first effects of that cataclysm were panic, followed by paralysis, then a period of vacillation between fear and confidence. Through all of these phases, the process of financial and commercial readjustment has been progressing with remarkable steadiness, until fear has now almost totally disappeared and buoyancy is taking its place. Trade and finance, at least so far as concerns the United States, have been completely adjusted to war conditions; and the tendency now is to discount in advance the coming of peace. Confidence has been further strengthened by progress of the war itself. While it would be unwise to indulge in premature optimism, the hope of an early end is based upon the belief that preparedness on one side and exhaustion on the other can only bring one result. The general opinion is that peace will come during the autumn. Be that as it may, there is a universal presentiment in favour of early peace that must have some foundation greater than the mere wish. War is the very essence of uncertainty, however, and setbacks must be expected, although the outlook is clearer than at any time since the struggle began."

NOTES

Test the value to you of ad-reading in the buying of that next pair of shoes—and the test may make of you a regular reader of the ads.

The Boston Herald makes this distinction: The Allies recognise and protect neutral rights, by recognised legal methods, so far as they can consistently with the end in view to cut off the enemy's trade. Germany practically launches destruction, not only of property, but of alike, alike against neutrals as against her enemy, since her mines have no eyes and her submarines cannot or will not see.

The London Chronicle says: There is something in the Russian genius peculiarly sympathetic to the English; few foreign masters have ever struck so easily home to our appreciation as Tolstoy and Tchaikovsky; and it is significant that in Russia few foreign authors are more appreciated than Dickens. The English and Russian temperaments have much in common, and also much in which the one is complimentary to the other; and there are few consummations more to be desired than the levelling of the old artificial barriers to their full mutual understanding.

SPAIN IS ALERT TO HER OPPORTUNITIES.

MADRID, April 4.—Let it not be imagined that if Spain has indeed become restless in her neutrality, that if she is apprehensive of difficulties and dangers and her vision of a golden age, a prosperous beyond the possibility of the old peace time, is somewhat dimmed, she has to any extent abandoned her hope of doing well in the commercial and national sense as an outcome of the European cataclysm—assuming that she is able to maintain her neutrality. By no means. Almost every day there is some new evidence of the keenness of her desires and her alertness.

Just now she is suddenly made to wonder, and is stimulated in her fancies that great changes, which may be for the benefit of Spain, are pending, by the strange phenomenon that the British sovereign at last is expected to Spain at a discount! Never has this occurred until now, but at last the sovereign, regarded as the best and safest coin in the world, has been quoted in the bourse operations here at 24 pesetas 32 centimes. It is, of course, merely a temporary state of exchange, due to special causes, but it makes an impression. Then Spain becomes alert in reference to the Panama exhibition, and looks to make some impression there. The United States steamship Jason has been to Barcelona at last in quest of the Spanish exhibitors. She has also an exhibition of her own of some considerable importance to consider, for in April there will begin at Seville the great festivities to commemorate the centenary of the discovery of the Pacific Ocean by Nunez de Balboa. There will be an interesting exhibition on this occasion of documents bearing on the early history of America, and all this will be a prelude to the Hispano-American exhibition of 1916, for which preparations are already being actively made.

But in the matters of production, trade and commerce, efforts are still seen in most directions, despite the difficulties that have increased, and they would be much keener if it were not for the labor troubles that have become acute in many centres, and the rises that have occurred in the price of foods. General assemblies and special meetings of agricultural and commercial societies are being held all over the country, and it might be added that there has also lately been held at Barcelona a congress of the press (exclusively of the daily papers) at which, for the good of the country, various forms of change and some governmental assistance were strenuously advocated.

There has lately been held under the presidency of the Count of Torre Velez, a meeting of the proprietors of visitors' resorts in different parts of the country, with the object of pressing upon visitors who made regular pilgrimages to the other places on the continent that are now closed to them through the war, the claims of the Spanish towns which have hitherto been entirely ignored.

LASHED TO MAST WITHOUT FOOD FOR 36 HOURS

Charleston, S. C., April 5.—The City Lines steamer Lenape brought into port today Captain Murphy and the six members of the crew of the American schooner Alice. Murphy rescued yesterday in a violent storm near the Diamond Shoals Lightship off the North Carolina coast. When the Lenape sighted the water-logged schooner, captain and crew were lashed to the mast and crew had been without food for thirty-six hours. The schooner Alice Murphy was of 45 gross tons and hailed from Rockland, Maine.

ROD AND GUN.

"The Steelhead" the Great Gamy Trout that comes out of the Ocean, is the subject of an article by the well known writer Bonny-castle Dale in the April issue of Rod and Gun in Canada published by W. J. Taylor, Limited, Woodstock, Ont. "The Wise Fish" by Wilfrid Hubbard, is a humorous ichthyological dialogue in which Sol Pike Perch, Johnny Roach, Tim Gudgeon, Jimmy Grayling and others of their ilk take part. The Forest Fire Problem in Algonquin Park is dealt with by Mr. W. L. Wiseman, the fishing department and Guns and Ammunition department are of special interest this month. In addition to those named there are many other stories and articles of interest to the readers of an outdoor magazine.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR READERS OF THE GUARDIAN

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

GIVING WHAT WE HAVE.

One of the most useful men in the world is the man who gives a word of encouragement to every one he meets. His life is a perpetual benediction. He does not do anything great yet he makes every one he meets a little braver, stronger and happier, and that is worth while that is angel work. Also how often our best thoughts and actions are after thoughts, that come, too late.

If I can live
To make some pale face brighter, and
to give
A second lustre to some tear-dimmed eye,
Or e'en impart
One throb of comfort to an aching heart
Or cheer some wayworn soul in passing by;

If I can lend
A strong hand to the fallen, or defend
The right against a single envious strain,
My life, though bare,
Perhaps, of much that seemeth dear
and fair
To us on earth, will not have been
in vain.

The purest joy,
Most near to heaven, far from earth's alloy
Is bidding clouds give way to sun
and shine,
And will be well
If on that day of days the angels tell
Of me: "I did the best for one of
thine."

THE TRUE STORY OF PRZEMYSL'S FALL: BEFORE AND AFTER

LONDON, April 5.—The London Times, under date of Przemysl, March 30, publishes a dispatch from Stanley Washburn, its special correspondent with the Russian army, who, by courtesy of the Russian high commander, is the first foreigner to visit the great Galician fortress since its fall:

"Przemysl," he says, "is a story of an impregnable fortress two or three times over, garrisoned with patient, hardy soldiers, starving in trenches, and sleek faultlessly-dressed officers, living off the fat of the land in fashionable hotels and restaurants. "The siege started with a total population within the lines of investment of approximately 200,000. Experts estimate that the fortress could have held with 60,000 to 60,000 men against any force the Russians might bring against it. It is probable that such supplies as there were were uneconomically expended, with the result that when the push came the situation was at once acute, and the suffering of all classes, save the officers, became general. First the cavalry and transport horses were consumed. Then everything available. Cats were sold at eight shillings and fair-sized dogs at a sovereign. "While the garrison became thin and half starved, the mode of life of the officers in the town remained unchanged. The Cafe Saber was constantly well filled with dilettante officers, who gossiped and played cards and billiards and led the life to which they were accustomed in Vienna. Apparently very few shared any of the hardships of their men or made any effort to relieve their condition. At the Hotel Royal, until the last day, the officers had their three meals a day, with fresh meat, cigars, cigarettes, wines and every luxury, while as a waiter has informed me, their own orderlies and servants begged for a slice of bread.

There can be no question that ultimate surrender was due to the fact that the garrison was on the verge of starvation, while the officers' diet was merely threatened with curtailment. Witnesses state that private soldiers were actually seen to fall in the streets from lack of nourishment. The officers are reported to have retained their private thoroughbred riding horses until the day before the surrender, when 2,000 of them were killed to prevent them falling into the hands of the Russians. A Russian officer of high rank informed me that when he entered the town hundreds of these bodies of beautiful thoroughbred horses were to be seen with half-crazed Austrian and Hungarian soldiers tearing into the bodies with their faces and hands smeared red with blood as they devoured the raw flesh. "The Russians were actually amazed at the casual reception which they received. The Austrian officers showed not the slightest sign of being disconcerted or humiliated at the collapse of their fortress.

STARVED SOLDIERS FELL IN STREETS.

"The first Russian effort was at once to relieve the condition of the garrison and civilians. Owing to the destruction of the railway, this was delayed, but soon, with remarkable efficiency, distribution depots were opened everywhere and the most pressing needs were somewhat relieved. "The entire conduct of the siege on the part of the garrison seems wholly without explanation. The Austrians had throughout plenty of ammunition and they certainly grossly outnumbered the Russians, yet they made but one decent effort to break out, which occurred three days before the surrender. "Civilians informed me that they gladly welcomed the Russians and that the first troops who entered were greeted with cheers, while the garrison was frankly pleased that the siege was over and their troubles at an end. As an example of over officering it may be said that General Kusmanek had 75 officers on his staff, while General Artamonov, the acting Russian governor, has but four on his immediate staff.

"The removal of prisoners is proceeding with great efficiency. They are going out at the rate of about 10,000 a day. The docility of the captives is indicated by the fact that the Russian guards attached to the prisoners' column number about one for every hundred prisoners. They are all strung out for miles between the fortress and Lemberg. The prisoners are so eager to get out and see the last of the war that they follow the instructions of their captors like children. "All the civilians as well as prisoners I have talked with are unanimous in their praise of the Russian officers and soldiers, who have shown nothing but kindness and delicacy of feeling since their entrance into the fortress. This consideration strikes me as being utterly wasted on the captured officers, who treat the situation superciliously and are quite complacent in their relations with the Russians."

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IT'S A LONG WAY TO 7,000.

This is the version of famous "Tipperary" as they sing it in the high air, so a friend in the air service informs a correspondent of the Guardian. 7,000 feet above the earth seems a terrible dizzy position; to the giddy airman, apparently, it is the maximum of comfort. This is the verse taken from an English paper.

It's a long, long way to 7,000,
It's a long way to roam;
It's a long, long way to 7,000
On the 50 H. P. Gnome.
With the bullets buzzing round you
And the Germans down below,
It's a long, long way to 7,000,
But it's the safest place I know.

"Baby must be taken out in the fresh air and to do so you must have one of the New Up-to-Date Baby Carriages, new patterns, new constructions, new colours, about 30 different styles just opened and all ready to be shown. Drop in and see them, the quality carriages.—PATONE.
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Corset Talk

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Age, 18 to 45, Height 5 ft 3 in. Chest Measure 33 1-2
Men under 21 must have parents consent and married men their wives consent, IN WRITING.
Apply by letter or personally to
Capt. G. H. CAMPBELL,
or **Lieut. R. B. ROGERS,**
Summerside

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Housecleaning time is now here and you will need to be equipped with everything that will lighten your labor—the proper weapons with which to combat disease germs.

That's where we can help you. We have a complete stock of everything that will assist you to do the work quicker and better, with the least possible physical effort. Everything we sell in this line is better in quality, price considered, than you can purchase elsewhere. Better call in and get your supplies here.

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