

# The Charlottetown Guardian

Head Office at Charlottetown, Branch Office at Summerside, Alberton, Souris and Montserrat.

Morning Daily (founded 1891), \$3.50 per year, (Daily) in advance; \$2.50 per year (mailed) in advance, in Canada, and \$3.00 for U. S. A.

Evening Daily (founded 1907) \$2.00 (delivered or by Mail in Canada, and \$2.50 for U. S. A.

Saturday Weekly (founded 1887) \$1.50 per annum by mail in Canada or U. S. A.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 7th 1917

## THE POTATO SITUATION

While the potato situation is still serious and while it is evident that it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to get our whole surplus stock across the Strait before shipping closes on account of frost, it is gratifying to know that the authorities are doing everything possible to afford relief. The local Board of Trade, the Premier, the local and federal railway management, are all working together on this grave problem and with, so far, good results. Following up the telegrams, already published, forwarded by the Premier, the President of the Board of Trade, Hon. Murdoch Kennedy and Mr. J. A. Messervey to the federal authorities, Mr. Hillson, President of the Board of Trade yesterday received from Hon. J. D. Reid, Minister of Railways a telegram stating that General Manager Hayes was giving every attention to the question of transportation of potatoes, that arrangements had been made for the immediate delivery of twenty-five C. P. R. lined potato cars, and that further assistance from the same source would be forthcoming next week. The Minister further assured Mr. Hillson that he would "do everything in power to prevent congestion and handle potato shipments promptly."

A telegram, dated Nov. 3, was also received from Sir H. L. Drayton, Chairman of the Railway Commissioners, Ottawa asking how many cars would be required daily and to what points generally shipments were to be made. To this telegram Mr. Hillson replied that the daily average shipments had up to the present time been twenty-five standard (equal to fifty P. E. I.) cars and that the shipping points were principally in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and New England.

It will be seen that the requirements are considerable, but the provision made and the despatch that will be given at destination points will very greatly relieve the situation. No chances will be taken with frost this year and it is not probable that there shall be any losses from this source as unfortunately happened last year. The worst that can happen, and it is liable to happen, will be that more potatoes must be stored over winter than had been anticipated. In this there will be no loss to our farmers although there may in some cases be disappointment and inconvenience. The potato crop this year was much larger than ordinary but the requirements for feeding and general home consumption will also be greater, and feeding pays.

It is evident from the experience of this and of recent past seasons that if our farmers are going to raise potatoes for export better provision must be made for handling them than heretofore. The low prices of several years ago cut down the exportable surplus of potatoes almost to the vanishing point. The war and famine prices of last year and the call of the past season for increased production, together with the general disjuncting of transportation facilities, have resulted in the present congestion. It is quite probable that there shall be for at least a few years to come a similar combination of causes, necessity for increased production stimulated by prospects of big prices, and, if not provided against in time, difficulty of transportation. It will be up to the authorities to make provision for the latter. For the present time there is urgent need of lined cars for February and March shipments and the railway authorities should at once set the necessary machinery going to provide them for it is evident now that the bulk of our potatoes will be shipped during the latter part of the winter.

## AT THE FRONT AND HERE

"We are back from the lines for a few days and are billeted in an old barn with half the roof and nearly all one end missing. It is pretty cold at times and wet all the time, but we should worry! I guess the war is not going to end this winter, so we must make the best of it."

The above is an extract from a letter received in Charlottetown yesterday from a boy who has been a year at the front, a boy who is only one of many thousands of other boys from Canadian homes. The pathos of earth will matter."

it is in its unnatural cheerfulness. "Back from the lines for a few days," from the lines where death is, to "an old barn with half the roof and nearly all one end missing," where it is "cold at times and wet all the time!" This is what our boys are enduring at the front, enduring or succumbing to one after another.

And here, what? Running an election the only real question involved in which it whether we shall or shall not send such help to the boys as they may require to enable them to endure to the end of the struggle whether we shall or shall not send the only help they need, more men, men not needed at home. It has already been announced that the men of the first contingent, the men who have stood this thing for over three years, cannot be allowed their furlough home as promised, because there are not enough men to take their places. And we are now about to ask the people of Canada, through a distracting election, whether we shall stand by a Union Government made up of the best elements in both parties and pledged to do everything possible to bring the war to a speedy and successful end, or return to power a party led by Sir Wilfrid Laurier who has promised that "if returned to power he will not proceed further under the provisions of the Military Service Act until the people have had an opportunity to pronounce upon its provisions by way of a referendum"—that is until Canada is driven through the turmoil of another election before the agitation of the present one has subsided or at some in definite date in the future.

The present Military Service Act does not propose to take a single man out of Canada who is needed at home, who has a right to remain at home. No valid argument has yet been advanced against the Military Service Act; on the contrary practically all the leading Liberals in Canada, all the former leading men in the Liberal party, have abandoned their leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier because of his opposition to it and to the Union Government. And yet we are to have an election on this one issue, absolutely this one, for all the other little side show policies and propositions and criticisms count for nothing and will not be taken any stock of in comparison with this.

## MR. R. N. COX'S ALLEGATIONS

At the Morell meeting Mr. R. N. Cox made the charge against Hon. Mr. McEwen, that with others he had received a large sum of money in connection with the building of the Midgell Wharf. Now, although at the time of the building of this wharf, Mr. McEwen was not a member of the house and was at perfect liberty to do any Government work, as a matter of fact there was absolutely no ground on which Mr. Cox could found the statement that Mr. McEwen had received any money in connection with this contract. Hon. Mr. McEwen was taken by surprise and on the spur of the moment could not explain why his name should appear as Mr. Cox said he had been named in the public accounts as having received some money. He denied that he had ever received one cent in connection with this work. The public accounts representing Mr. Cox's statement does not show that Hon. Mr. McEwen received one cent in connection with this work. Mr. Cox's statement was either a deliberate misrepresentation, or which is as bad, he does not understand public accounts and therefore should not undertake to enlighten the public concerning them.

What Mr. Cox evidently meant was that Hon. Mr. McEwen put in a tender along with a number of others, for the building of this wharf. His tender was not accepted and therefore he had nothing to do with it. Either Mr. Cox does not understand the difference between a tender and a contract or he wanted to deliberately mislead the public. Mr. Cox can sit on whichever horn of the dilemma he prefers. If he does not understand the difference between a tender and a contract, then he should not make speeches at public meetings and instruct the electors in matters which he himself does not understand. If, on the other hand, he does know the difference, then he was guilty of a deliberate misrepresentation. In either case Mr. Cox has put himself in a difficult position.

## NOTES

Canada must now set its face, determinedly, and forever, against any damned scoundrel, no matter under which party name he may be known, who would re-introduce patronage.—Winnipeg Tribune.

If in this struggle the democratic nations of the world fail to establish the force of right over the right of force, and Germany is victorious, "nothing else on God's earth will matter."

## PROHIBITION RELEASES

OTTAWA, Nov. 6.—There are some who profess to believe that there is a doubt as to the need for the reinforcements that will be raised by the drafting of men. There is no room whatever for any doubt. For, in addition to the direct assurances of General Sir Arthur Currie, in command of the Canadian forces at the front, official figures of enlistments and casualties prove conclusively that our armies on the firing line have been seriously reduced during 1917 and must be reformed or they will be unable to continue the part they have been so nobly taking in the way.

For the two first weeks of October the enlistments in Canada into combatant units, that is to say in artillery and infantry units totaled only 998 men. During the same period casualties and discharges totaled 1,887. So that in this one fortnight alone our fighting strength diminished to the extent of nearly a thousand men, or one full battalion.

This dwindling of our fighting forces has been going on for the past eight or nine months. A recent statement from the Department of Militia and Defence showed that for the seven months of the year ending with July 31, the enlistment in Canada numbered 44,690, whereas casualties and discharges for the same period were well over 50,000 men. Here are the figures:

ENLISTMENT, C.E.F., CANADA. Table with columns: All Others, Infantry, Total Enlistments. Rows: January, February, March, April, May, June, July.

## DISCHARGES AND CASUALTIES.

Table with columns: Discharged in Canada, Casualties Overseas. Rows: January, February, March, April, May, June, July.

During these seven months, according to this official statement, there were 37,971 casualties overseas and 15,290 men discharged. In Canada, mostly, it is reasonable to suppose, after having been sent home. The heaviest casualties are in the infantry they are the most numerous, and in fact the main body of the army. The casualties of the seven months are shown to be nearly three times as many as the enlistments for this main body of the army. Not only so, but since July 31 recruiting has practically ceased, while casualties have been exceedingly heavy. On August 21, at Hill 70, the Canadian losses for one day were 2,300, and there are around Lens the casualties totaled something like 12,000.

## CARS SUPPLIED FOR POTATO SHIPMENTS

Premier Arsenault yesterday received the following important telegram re the Potato Situation: Ottawa, Nov. 5. Your wire 31st Oct. Have taken matter of car shortage for potato shipments up vigorously with General Manager Hayes and he advises me to make for immediate delivery to our lines by the Canadian Pacific of twenty-five of their lined potato cars and he expects additional assistance from same source next week. These will, I hope, naturally assist in preventing congestion. The General Manager is also instructed to use every possible means to handle potatoes offering.

## DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson, PEELING OF POTATOES

PEELING OF POTATOES. The old traits of women are sometimes facetiously commented upon by a man, who is usually silent as to his own.

I will not say women have no peculiarities, but I will say that they are not nearly so frequently subjects for derision as many men think.

Some of them are full of sadness. A woman can laugh with her lips and eyes to make a man think she is the very merriest creature alive; and all the time her heart is beating as if it would burst.

Another peculiarity is that she can scold and sulk with a man for some little fault, and yet will forgive a great wrong to herself—even a great sin—just at the moment.

A woman can laugh in a man's face and question his utility for anything serious, and the next minute will cry over the same man's shoulder, and feel thankful she has a man's help to rely upon.

Look how she can quiet a b-b-y with one or two reassuring pats and strokes after a man has trotted it up and down the room for an hour, nearly shaken it and himself to pieces, and given it a whole bottle of soothing syrup.

What cannot a woman do?

## THE NEED FOR REINFORCEMENTS

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## FRANCE FIRM TILL FINAL VICTORY.

Amidst all the glamour of Paris, and beneath the impeccable phrases of Parliamentary oratory, I have searched for the bed-rock of things; and on conversations with all kinds of people the question has ever been present: Will this nation endure to the end? All have given me the same answer, and never with greater surety than now. Statesmen, servants, literary men, artists—these last most hardly hit of all—say, "We are in it now, and have got to finish with the German menace." They do not speak lightly. Hardly one of them but has lost a brother, son, or cousin. Here is one I knew as messenger boy at a big hotel. He has dropped back into his old employment; he looks a little older and more staid. What has happened to him since? Needless to ask; he limps as he hurries along, and he wears the equipment of the Victoria Cross and D. C. M. Ask him what he thinks

## WAR MENUS

How to Save Wheat, Beef and Bacon from the Men at the front. Issued from the Office of the Food Controller for Canada.

### MENU FOR THURSDAY

- Breakfast: Cornmeal Porridge, Milk, Sugar, Baked Apples, Toast, Tea or Coffee. Luncheon: Fish Omelet, Stewed Figs, Brown Bread, Butter, Tea. Dinner: Macaroni and Cheese Baked Potatoes, Cabbage, Apple and Bread Crumb Pudding.

The recipe for Fish Omelet, mentioned above, is as follows:— Fish Omelet— 2 heaped tablespoons cooked fish 1 tablespoon grated cheese 1 egg 1 tablespoon butter Pinch of cayenne and salt. Beat the yolk of the egg, and add the cheese and seasonings. Fold in the white of the egg, whipped to a stiff froth, and put the mixture quickly into a frying-pan or omelet pan in which the butter has been melted. When the egg begins to set, stir in the fish and cook until the omelet is done. Serve immediately.

## John A. McDnald

(Commissioner, J. P., &c.) Provincial Land Surveyor Office and Residence... Hermanville Service Rates: \$4 (locally) and up according to the importance of the work, or a straight fee of \$5. "Out of pocket," or travelling expenses, extra.

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