

# The Charlottetown Guardian

Head Office at Charlottetown, Branch Offices at Summerside, Alberton, Souris and Montague.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1916.

## REAL CONSERVATION

From one end of the country to the other conservation is being preached as never before and while there is probably some practice it is still out of proportion to the preaching. We are still wasting, still spending extravagantly, still far from the fringe of that sacrifice which we all like to preach about and to hold up as the ideal in the peculiar circumstances in which the war has placed us.

To go no farther than our own doors for examples of waste, there are in the City of Charlottetown alone many acres of land, in the shape of vacant lots, lying not only idle but unsightly and insanitary, seed beds for all kinds of noxious weeds to infest neighboring gardens, garbage heaps, eyesores, and dumping grounds for all kinds of refuse.

This is absolute waste and worse. In many of our Canadian cities the vacant lot problem has been taken up and handled most successfully. In Ottawa, Toronto, Pembroke and other cities that might be named these vacant lots have in some cases been handed over to clubs of school children, in others to patriotic clubs, in still others to children who undertake to work them for their own personal emolument. In every case, whether for demonstration work, for patriotic purposes, or for private enterprise one great object, namely conservation, is attained; these useless and hurtful lots have been redeemed from uselessness, they have become producers and so have added to the sum total of the country's food production.

Here in Charlottetown school gardening, as a theory largely, is part of the school curriculum. The theory could well be put into practice on many of those vacant lots the owners of which would no doubt be glad to have them cleaned up and transformed into useful and sightly garden plots. It would enhance the value of the lot as well as add to the food production of the province. And there could be no better time than the present to make a beginning. School gardening is being taught, we have teachers who are in sympathy with the movement and we have also in Professor McLarty a man thoroughly informed on the subject and who, we have no doubt, would willingly supervise and direct such an undertaking. Vegetables suitable for our home market could be grown at a considerable profit and the proceeds used for such purposes, patriotic, school necessities, or charitable as might be agreed upon. The pupils would, in addition, have the advantage of practical demonstration in gardening and, even better than all, would relieve them of the necessity of expending their energies in wandering about the streets and getting into mischief in their off-hours.

We understand the teachers of our City schools are now conducting a bulb-growing contest among the pupils with the object in view of holding a flower show in the spring when prizes will be offered. The movement is an excellent one and cannot fail to benefit all the children who participate in it. It now remains for the vacant lot improvement movement and we trust some of our wide-awake teachers will look into the matter and arrange to take up the effort in the spring. Arrangements could be made now with the owners of some suitable lot or lots convenient to the school undertaking it and all plans could be completed during the winter to carry the undertaking to a practical issue.

## PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS

The November number of the Labour Gazette gives an interesting tabulation of the retail prices of foodstuffs in the different provinces during the month of October. While the range includes the whole dominion from the Atlantic to the Pacific there are only a few cases in which the difference in the prices is abnormal. Serloin steak, for example, averaged 24 cents in Nova Scotia, 20 cents in P. E. Island, 25.5 in New Brunswick, 23.3 in Quebec, 27.5 in Ontario, 27 in Manitoba, 26.8 in Saskatchewan, 25.1 in Alberta and 26.2 in British Columbia. The other cuts of beef maintain a like proportion.

Pork runs from 20 and 22 cents in the Maritime provinces and Quebec to 25 and 26 in Ontario, the western provinces being somewhat lower. Eggs, new laid, run from 50 cents in Sydney and an average of 40.6 in Nova Scotia, 32 in Charlottetown, 42.8 in Ontario, to 36, 48 and 56 in the western provinces.

In potatoes there is the usual discrepancy between Prince Edward Island prices and those of our sister provinces. The quotations given are for 90 pound bags, that is a bushel and a half. The quotations are Sydney \$1.00; Westville, N. S., \$1.20; Halifax, \$1.80 average for Nova Scotia \$1.22; Charlottetown 75 cents; New Brunswick, average, \$1.33; Quebec \$1.65; Ontario \$1.09; Saskatchewan \$1.18; Alberta \$1.14; British Columbia \$1.28. These differences are striking and emphasize some observations made in The Guardian some weeks ago. It is claimed by some of our farmers that it pays better to raise blue potatoes than white because they make better feed for stock. This may be but the comparison of prices above given is a year advertisement for Prince Edward Island. This year the potato business was abnormal. Be-

cause of shortage in the western provinces and in some sections of the United States prices were excessive. Owing to the risk incurred in shipping our merchants naturally cannot, under present transportation arrangements, pay such prices as are paid on the mainland and this will account in part for the difference between prices here and, say, Sydney, or Ontario points. When our car ferry gets underway this difficulty will be overcome; we shall be on the main line of railway and our produce will be shipped as advantageously as from any point in the Maritime provinces. While we may not expect such prices to rule next year or in fact at any time in the future, except under famine conditions, it will still remain true that if we are to command the highest prices we must produce what the market demands.

The average price for cheese is not given for Charlottetown. For other points across the continent it ran an average of 25 to 27 cents.

Butter, creamery prints, ran from 38 cents in Charlottetown and 48 in Sydney, to 40 in New Brunswick, 27.3 in Quebec; 43 in Ontario; 41 in Saskatchewan, 44 in Alberta and 42 in British Columbia.

## TWO FORCES

The war which is now convulsing the world is not, as has so often been said, a war merely between countries, it is a struggle between two distinct and separate civilizations, between the principles embodied in the teachings of Christianity and those represented in the broken treaties, the inhuman cruelties and the outrages perpetrated through Germany's studied and propagated doctrine of frightfulness. Between the forces that originated and that have continued the war there can be no peace. One or the other must not only be beaten but must perish, there can be no compromise. Either civilization must trample this thing under its feet or it will itself be crushed out. Either the principles of Christianity, by which the rights of the weaker shall be guarded, will triumph or might alone will rule. This is what is at stake.

And as there are two contending forces at war there are two great forces that make for the continuance of the struggle. One is the firm resolve of the Allied Powers that the war must end in a way that will make its renewal impossible, that will assure the peace of Europe for a century. When they talk of "crushing Germany," the meaning is that the military power and the military ideals, the imperial arrogance of Germany, must be destroyed. In Germany the chief motive for continuing the struggle is the desperate need of the militarists and imperialists to save themselves the dread of what they know will happen to them when the war ends in their defeat. It is an interest separate and distinct from the interest of the German people. Could the people be made to see and understand that the dynasty and the military classes are fighting for themselves, not really for Germany or for German subjects, that the dreadful burdens they are bearing, the sacrifices they are compelled to make are not in their own behalf but to save the ruling classes from overthrow, there would come a day of reckoning in Germany that would very quickly end the fighting. There is among the German people, too, a feeling that must be considered, the feeling that they are fighting for the existence of the Fatherland. That nerves and sustains them for further suffering and sacrifice.

When the German people realize the true condition of affairs they will compel the military leaders to quit, the war will come to an end. They will not realize this in all its fulness until the Allies have driven them beyond the Rhine. That attained the end will come quickly. It is for that the call for men today resounds throughout the British Empire, for that our men—who are men—are donning the khaki. They want to be there at the finish and it will the most glorious thing that red-blooded men can ever hope to get into.

## PRICES AND WORLD CONDITIONS

Discussing food prices in the British House of Commons, Mr. Runciman said: "There is nothing more grossly unfair than to arouse public indignation on this subject of prices without giving the true explanation of a great many of the increases." This statement should be taken to heart by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and by Opposition journals which continually berate the Government for the high cost of living instead of telling the people that this unpleasant phenomenon springs largely from short crops, the removal of 40,000,000 men from the soil, and other war-time conditions. If Liberal newspapers and politicians care to be frank they will add that Canada is suffering less than other countries from a universal failure of world production to measure up with world consumption. Nor has any other Government anywhere done as much as the Borden Government to stimulate increased agricultural production since the war began.—Ex.

## NOTES

"You can't make omelets without breaking the eggs. Of course there are mistakes. Critics. Of course there are critics. The critics are ready-made. As for myself, I have no time at such a crisis for criticism. I am behind the clear-eyed purpose of the Premier of Canada and so are the people of Canada. The time now is to stand under the flag we love and to stand behind a Government whom history will record has done well. I am behind this Government, and I believe the people are behind this Government until the war is won beyond all doubt."—Dr. Michael Clark, Liberal member for Red Deer in the House of Commons, May 2, 1916.

# PATRIOTIC FUND APPEAL

Patriotic Headquarters,  
Royal Bank Building  
Charlottetown, P. E. I.  
Dec. 1st, 1916.

Dear Sir,—Prince Edward Island has fallen behind other provinces both in recruiting men for the war and in contributions to the Patriotic Fund, established for the support and relief of the dependents of the brave men who have gone to the front. We cannot believe that the patriotic people of this province will rest content to remain in that delinquent position, especially as they constitute a prosperous agricultural community in receipt of war prices for the farm products which under a benign Providence they have been able to produce so abundantly this year.

A movement has now begun under which a renewed appeal will be made both for recruits for the military and naval services, and for contributions to the Patriotic Fund. The appeal is made to every man of military age and fitness to enlist, and to every citizen to give in proportion to his ability to the Patriotic Fund, the claims of which will be formally presented to everyone.

In support of the statement that our province has fallen far short of its duty in its contributions to the Patriotic Fund, the following facts are stated in a letter from Sir Herbert Ames to Mr. H. W. Binning, the Treasurer of the Fund in this province under date of November 9.

The average contribution for the whole Dominion this year will be \$1.60 for every man, woman and child, in order to raise a total of \$12,000,000.

British Columbia has sent 10 per cent. of its white population, while P. E. Island has only contributed about 2 1/2 per cent. of its population to the military service of the Empire.

Ontario county councils raised by taxation for the support of the Patriotic Fund from \$50,000 to \$75,000 for each county in addition to the generous individual contributions.

Twenty small places in British Columbia with an aggregate population of only 75,000 souls are raising this year \$400,000, or more than twelve times the amount yet contributed by the much larger population of Prince Edward Island.

An earnest appeal is therefore made to every patriotic citizen to contribute to this worthy object to the utmost of his means, not only as a public duty but for the credit of the province at large that it may no longer remain at the bottom of the list and less generous than other sections of the Dominion.

The Patriotic Fund has undertaken to contribute by way of supplement to the support and relief of the dependents of soldiers at the front according to the following scale:

- Wife or widowed mother, \$5 per month.
- First and second child, \$3 each per month.
- Each other child, \$2 each per month.

A special appeal is hereby made to all clergymen, school inspectors and school teachers to bring this matter home to the people by energetic educational efforts among those with whom they have influence or are brought in contact.

Every citizen will be canvassed and a record of the canvass kept and published.

J. J. Macdonald,

Organizer P. E. Island Branch Patriotic Fund.  
(Island Press Please Copy.)

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## DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by  
W. S. Louison.

### STORY OF A HYMN.

The familiar hymn beginning "God moves in a mysterious way," known as "Cowper Hymn," had its origin as follows: Cowper was all his life the victim of melancholia, and more than once attempted suicide. One day, bent upon destroying himself, he got into a cab and ordered the driver to take him to a certain point on the river, where he intended to drown himself. The cabman, noticing his strange appearance and feeling that all might not be well with him, drove him about the city and finally stopped in front of the poets door. Stepping out and recognizing the old familiar surroundings and shocked at the thought of his narrow escape, Cowper exclaimed, "God moves in a mysterious way. His wonders to perform," and rushing in, immediately composed the immortal hymn.

God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants his footsteps on the sea,  
And rides upon the storm.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;  
The clouds ye so much dread  
Are big with mercy and shall break  
In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,  
But trust Him for his grace;  
Behind a frowning providence  
He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast,  
Unfolding every hour;  
The bud may have a bitter taste,  
But sweet will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to err,  
And scan his work in vain;  
God is His own interpreter,  
And he will make it plain. Amen.

### KAISER'S CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

GENEVA, Nov. 29.—via London.—Emperor William will send to President Wilson, as a Christmas present, a de luxe set of American authors specially prepared, printed and bound at the Royal Printing works in Berlin, according to the Budapest newspaper *Ay Est*. The German submarine *Deutschland*, the newspaper says will carry the gift to the United States on her next trip across the Atlantic.

Emperor William's Christmas gift to Pope Benedict will be a Bible, magnificently illuminated and bound.

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Your Boy can have a new Paton Overcoat that will keep him warm, at a very small price—PATONS Limited.

Women's Special Plush Coats \$20.00—PATONS Limited.

Clearance price on Coats and Suits from \$13.50 up. Odd lines of Misses Coats also Clearing a lot of Ladies Coats at less than half price—PATONS Limited.

Remarkable values in Ladies Warm Underwear—PATONS Limited.

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Boys \$9.00 10.00 and 11.00 Overcoats for \$7.90—PATONS Limited.

50 Boys Overcoats sizes up to 16 for \$5.90—PATONS Limited.

An attractive offering of Men's Tailored Suits at \$13.50 PATONS Limited.

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## Canada's Fire Loss Is Higher Than Any Other Country in the World

According to the Report of the Conservation Commission at Ottawa

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## SUGAR BEET MEAL

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You want to shorten your feeding period. You want to crowd the cattle, keeping their appetites keen, so they will make the most gain possible on every bushel of feed. You want them to have a finish and a "bloom" that will bring top prices. You can accomplish these results by using SUGAR BEET MEAL.

IF YOU RAISE HOGS OR SHEEP

You want to produce the most pork or the most mutton and wool in the shortest time at the lowest cost possible. And you want strong, vigorous animals that won't sicken and die and rob you of your profits. You can surely bring these conditions about by feeding SUGAR BEET MEAL.

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