

The Charlottetown Guardian

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 27th, 1917

ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS SOCIETY

The annual meeting of the Anti-Tuberculosis Society takes place this evening in the Board of Trade Rooms. It would not perhaps be too much to say that this is the most important meeting of the year; important in the fact that the Society deals, as no other institution does, with matters of life and death, with the health of the City, with measures for the prevention of disease, for the comfort of the poor. It is preeminently the institution through which the supreme test of Christianity is being applied—the "inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, ye have done it unto Me."

Those who have read the report in yesterday morning's Guardian of the speech given in the legislature by Col. the Hon. S.R. Jenkins dealing with the whole question of tuberculosis, its deadly ravages and the preventative measures, not only possible but imperative, will realize the magnitude and the importance of the work undertaken by this society and the duty of every citizen to take his or her part in this war against the great white plague, a plague more deadly and claiming more victims than the war in Europe on which all eyes and all hearts are centred with horror today.

Col. Jenkins, from his own personal knowledge as a physician and after consultation with other physicians, stated, that at least a hundred deaths occur yearly from tuberculosis in this province. We shudder at the casualty lists as they come to us from the battlefields of Europe but read almost with indifference that other casualty list that is appearing in our newspapers under the heading "Deaths," every day, year after year and aggregating every year, from this one disease alone, a larger toll than the war exacts.

The White Plague is as preventable as the German peril; we have sent our sons, our fathers, our husbands to fight the latter and they will overcome it by sacrifice, by persistent effort and under wise and capable direction. Are we doing our duty by the former? The Anti-tuberculosis Society, working in conjunction with branches of the same society elsewhere throughout the world, has been waging war upon the plague for many years. They have succeeded in very materially lowering the death rate; they have brought comfort to the poor, have taught the principles of prevention and have driven the disease from many a home.

Tonight the society through its officers will give a report of the year's work and will outline its plans for the incoming year. Much has been done, as has been shown by former annual reports. Much yet remains to be done and in this every citizen will see his or her duty. There are homes still in the City which are not sanitary; food is still being consumed the healthfulness of which is in doubt; men and women and children are still dying of tuberculosis in some one of its almost infinite forms. The Society has made a study of these conditions and will have some recommendations to make, some advice to give. Every citizen who can do so should be present not only to hear but to help. The fight is everybody's.

With all that is now known of tuberculosis, with the means at hand to care for the sick, to nurse back to health those in the incipient stages of the disease, this plague should in a very few years be practically wiped out, but it will require the united efforts of all and the united help, financially, of all who are blessed with the means to give. The magnificent gift of the honourable Sir Charles Dalton towards this one cause alone stands as a splendid example to others. They cannot all give as munificently as he gave but if each gives what he can the sum total will enable the Society to work on a larger scale and to greatly extend its usefulness. The first duty is to attend tonight's meeting and get in touch with the Society.

"THE BIRTH OF A NATION"

Like all inventions the cinematograph met with considerable opposition at the outset; and it is not so very long since when the average citizen looked askance at the new form of entertainment. That day is now past and gone and the cinematograph in Charlottetown has entered into the life of the community. What we would do

without the Prince Edward or the People's Theatre is unthinkable. For the present popularity of these two theatres much credit is due to the policy pursued by Mr. C. J. Gallagher, the enterprising manager. Mr. Gallagher has been showing here some of the best legitimate dramas and picture productions staged on the continent. For this he deserves the generous support and patronage which it is pleasant to think is being steadily extended to him. The latest instance of his enterprise is in arranging for the production of the masterpiece, "The Birth of a Nation."

David W. Griffith's epoch-making spectacle, "The Birth of a Nation" following its record-breaking runs in New York, Chicago, Boston, San Francisco and Los Angeles, will be seen in one of its original productions at the Prince Edward on Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

This work, partly for the nature of the new art, partly from the opposition aroused, has excited keener curiosity than any other offering of the current season, and the extraordinary advance sale indicates that the theatre will not prove nearly large enough to accommodate the eager throngs.

"The Birth of a Nation" tells by film and music the story of a nation re-born through the storm and stress of internecine strife. Instead of the four to six scenes of the conventional play, its technique permits of filming literally thousands of scenes and covering a wide range of history and characters. Slavery, the prime cause of the War; Lincoln's call for troops to subdue the Southern States; the ball on the eve of Bull Run, and the first triumph of Confederate arms; the devastation wrought by Sherman's march and the awful ordeal of the Siege of Petersburg; Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomattox; the assassination of the Federal President; the harsh Radical policy to the stricken South; the uprising of the Ku Klux Klan, and the overthrow of the carpet-bagger regime—these great factors and events pass in review before the thrilled spectator.

The love interest of the play is based on the friendships between the Camerons of South Carolina and the Stonemans of Pennsylvania, two families involved in the struggle. Ben Cameron, the gallant clansman of the Dixon stories, appears in the role of romantic hero; the piquant Northern girl Elsie Stoneman, as the heroine. Mr. Griffith took most of the scenes in the great out-of-doors where Nature painted the backgrounds and army men directed the battle campaigns. The notable indoor scenes, like Ford's Theatre on the night of the Lincoln tragedy, the peace at Appomattox, and the South Carolina legislature of 1870, are exact fac-similes of the originals. Altogether it is the first time in art-production that History in the large has been presented in living pictures. To do this, many times the amount of the time, energy and expense usually devoted to amusement enterprises had to be used. Eighteen thousand people and 3,000 horses appear in the picture, which cost approximately \$500,000 to produce.

Among the distinguished principals are Henry B. Walthall, the distinguished Alabama actor whose family is historically connected with the story, in the role of the clansman; Lillian Gish as Elsie Stoneman; Mae Marsh and Miriam Cooper as Flora and Margaret; Ralph Lewis as Congressman Stoneman; Joseph Henabery, Howard Caye and Donald Crisp as Lincoln, Lee and Grant respectively; George Seigman as the mulatto Lieutenant-Governor of South Carolina, Walter Long as the renegade Cus; Raoul Walsh as Wilkes Booth; Mary Alden as the Octoroon house-keeper Lydia; John McGlynn and Ernest Campbell as the good negroes, Nelse and Jake, Elmer Clifton and Robert Marron as the young soldiers; Spottiswoode Aiken and Josephine Crowell as Dr. and Mrs. Cameron and many others.

The production to be seen here is identical in all respects with those of New York and Chicago with the exception of the Orchestra.

It is hoped Mr. Gallagher's enterprise will be rewarded with overflowing houses.

TOOL OF THE TRUSTS

"The Borden Government is the tool of the trusts," shriek the Liberal press from day to day. Yet the Borden Government has just had occasion to compel the Paper Trust to reduce its price of newsprint to two and a half cents to these very newspapers. Of all the manufactured nonsense that has been recklessly used by the Liberal party to discredit the Borden Government during the past five years, this cry that it was the puppet of the trusts was the most nonsensical of all.

NOTES

Since the Kaiser promoted the Crown Prince after Verdun, he cannot decently ask Herr Zimmerman to resign.

IRELAND INTERNATIONALLY

By M. Marlowe

The influence of the European War on the future position of the Irish among the peoples of the world and the prospects of bringing forward Ireland's case for self-government at the Peace Conference that concludes the war, are rapidly becoming dominating questions among large sections of Irish Nationalists. The whole of what Mr. Hilaire Belloc would call the "free Press" of Ireland is now occupied almost exclusively with assertions of Ireland's international status and with repudiations of the Home Rule Act, which has rested upon the Statute Book since September, 1914. There are, however, some Nationalists, including a considerable proportion of Mr. Redmond's followers, who pin their hopes less upon a decision of the Peace Conference than upon the decision of the Colonial Premiers. The common ground for agreement is that Ireland has ceased to be a domestic issue within the British Isles. Even prominent Irish Unionists have of late expressed the hope that their country will receive a place worthy of her in whatever plan of imperial organization may be accomplished after the war. We may prophesy then that the old dividing line of Irish parties will gradually disappear. While there must always remain a goodly number of absolute Unionists in Ireland, men with a vested interest in the prevailing system, having though will concentrate itself upon the opposition to which I have just drawn attention, Ireland is to be regarded as an international or an imperial problem of politics?

The idea of Irish representation at the Peace Conference in America, and at a big meeting held in New York last March, one Judge Goff was appointed (rather prematurely!) as delegate of the Gaelic-American race. There followed the Insurrection of April in Dublin, a "move" that has been justified on the grounds that Pease and his comrades, while knowing well that they could not establish a Republic by force of arms, aimed at making such a demonstration as would place Ireland before the world in the category of "oppressed small nations," such as Bohemia, Poland, etc. But the demand that Ireland shall go to the Peace Conference is today by no means confined to the "sedition" elements of Nationalist opinion. Thus the Cork County Council, the Cork Corporation and other public bodies recently passed a resolution in favor of the new policy. The Bishop of Cork was asked to transmit the request to the Peace Conference, and the Ambassador the request to President Wilson. In these bodies are many loyal Nationalists and Redmondites, such as the Lord Mayor of Cork, who lately welcomed the Irish Canadians on their recruiting visit to the South. At the Roscommon election the victorious Nationalist, Mr. Plunkett, an old adherent of Parnell and the father of the executed poet, Joseph Plunkett, stood chiefly for the principle of Irish representation at the Peace Conference. "The Irish problem," says a leader of the Suffragist movement in Dublin, Mr. Bennett, "constitutes a world problem, involving an idea of vital importance to civilization. Hitherto it has been practically isolated by its inclusion in the category of British politics. But the effects of the war upon small nations have linked Ireland with the nations of Europe and America in particular, and added to her individual need a moral obligation to the cause of civilization. It is, therefore, on the basis of a general principle, as a world problem, that her case should be presented."

The acceptance of this "general principle" by England would not necessarily lead to a demand from Ireland for total separation. What is asked rather is that Ireland should, like Bohemia and Poland, be a topic of discussion at the Peace Conference. In the reply to the Allies to President Wilson's note on Peace, the Lusitania was made to the liberation of many of the smaller races in Central Europe now suffering under Austro-German or Magyar control. The question was taken up by the Nation, Manchester Guardian and other English journals, which inquired whether this word "liberation" implied in the connection Home Rule or total independence. Professor Masaryk, the Bohemian patriot, very definitely declared that the rights of nationality, where the Czechs are concerned, cannot be attained by internal-Home Rule. "As far as Bohemia is concerned, the Bohemian program does not only claim the right of nationality, but also of independence." Mr. Noel Buxton, in reply to the Professor, raised the analogy of Ireland. "We British Home Rulers," he said, "who intend to grant them (the rights of nationality) to

Ireland think they are enough. We deny that the Irish, whose position at the heart of a larger State is similar to that of Bohemia, have the "right" to an independent army, with power to attack its neighbors or invite a rival Great Power to utilize its government." In Bohemia, too, as in Ireland, there is a minority hostile to change, Imperialist, and describing itself as alien to the mass of the people. But against Professor Masaryk, on the one hand, and against Mr. Buxton on the other, an Irishman might point out that there are several intermediate stages between Home Rule and total independence. The amount of self-government which Ireland would have been allowed by Mr. Asquith's measure is scarcely greater than the autonomy "enjoyed" by the Czechs under the Hapsburgs. The Home Rule Act would have given Ireland no control over her finance, her Customs and Excise, her land or her Churches. There are alternatives to this plan which would be more agreeable to Nationalist feeling, as, for instance, the solution of colonial self-government, or again, that of an independent sovereign Parliament such as existed in Ireland from 1872 to 1890, the year of the Union. Is not the position of Hungary under the Hapsburgs a case in point? Professor Masaryk has spoken elsewhere of Bohemia having the same right to independence as Hungary.

Against Ireland's presence at the Peace Conference Englishmen might urge two arguments. There is the argument of Unionism, of which the Times is an excellent representative. The Times will not even allow that Ireland is an Imperial question, though it will ratify any settlement along the lines of local government upon which Irishmen may agree. Queen Victoria once wrote to her Prime Minister urging him to restrain his sympathy for some small oppressed nationality, or other "Remembrance," she said, "that we ourselves are holding Ireland by force." It is hardly open for English Unionists to profess a theoretical sympathy for small nationalities, but those of them who want Bohemia to be independent may take the line, of course, that whereas the British Empire has been a benefit to the world the Austrian has been the reverse.

English Liberals may either take up the position of Mr. Buxton (that is, design an equal fate for Ireland, Bohemia and Poland) or they may argue that Bohemia and Poland are in a different category from Ireland, because a majority of Czechs and Poles desire a sovereign independence, whereas Ireland, through the mouth of her Parliamentary representation, has asked only for a subordinate Legislature. I do not know the facts as to Bohemia, nor what is the relative strength of the independence, Home Rule and Unionist parties there; the matter seems to be in dispute between Professor Masaryk and other authorities. But it is certainly true as regards Ireland that a few years ago, Mr. Redmond, then accredited leader in the name, described the Government of Ireland Bill, now the Home Rule Act, as "a readjustment of the terms of the Act of Union," and professed himself perfectly contented with it as a settlement. That, however, was in the House of Commons, and we know that no member of the Irish Party ventured to speak of Home Rule before an Irish audience as readjusted Unionism. The triumph of Count Plunkett at the Roscommon election is in this respect significant. Nevertheless, Englishmen are not to be blamed if, in face of past declarations of Irish leaders made in England, they tend to regard the Irish Question as a merely domestic issue.

The two foreign countries in which the fortunes of Ireland during the war have been most closely followed are the United States and Spain. But the vast Irish-American population split in August, 1914, into two sections. The one has believed that the cause of Ireland was that of the Allies, or, at least, that Ireland's best chance of autonomy would come of her identifying herself with that democratic opinion of the world which is hostile to Germany in the war. The other section, not exactly pro-German, favored a sort of watchful neutrality coupled with an agitation to force Ireland's name into the peace parliaments. In both quarters Mr. Wilson's Senate speech, with its championship of small peoples in general, found great favor; as regards the President's subsequent break with Germany, it is possible that the most anti-English of the Gaelic-Americans see even in this a situation not devoid of possibilities for Ireland. Some Anglo-Saxon Americans have preserved a traditional distrust of Irishmen; but in Spain, on the other hand, the cause of Ireland is universally respected. The associations of the two countries are ancient and romantic. Every name of the dispersed Gaelic chieftaincy appears in the Spanish aristocracy and on the roll of great Spanish generals and statesmen. The pro-Ally Spaniards view with the pro-German Spaniards in asserting Ireland's right to equality of treatment in the coming settlement of Europe.

PATIENCE, NOT PANIC, IN FOOD SITUATION

LONDON, March 23.—Speaking in the house of commons in behalf of the food-controller this afternoon, Charles Bathurst, member of parliament for the Wilton division of Wiltshire, said: "While the food situation and the outlook for the future are not wholly satisfactory, the poorer classes in this country are suffering less than those of any other belligerents. The greatest danger at the present is in arousing unnecessary panic." Admitting a shortage of potatoes, the speaker urged all patriots to use a substitute for this food article during the next two or three months. Everyone while practising the greatest possible economy, he added, should at the same time maintain a spirit of patience, which will carry the nation through what are bound to be the critical months ahead.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

Forty six dollars and fifty cents have been sent in, for the widow and seven children's fund mentioned in this corner of Guardian as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes entries for W. E. R. (\$38.50), S. McL. (2.00), J. R. (1.00), W. A. H. (1.00), Mrs. J. M. L. (1.00), A. G. D. (1.00), K. F. (1.00), and Total to date (\$46.50).

The opportunity of contributing to this most worthy cause, closes Good Friday, April 6th if you have been prompted to try and give a mite don't let it pass. Any amount sent will be acknowledged as above by addressing same to The Guardian, or W. S. Louson 35 Ambrose St., Charlottetown.

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when we urge everyone who reads this notice to lose no time but to clip the coupon in today's issue and bring or send to our office with the small distribution cost, thus obtaining a rare song-book with more than four hundred melodies that have been nation-wide in their popularity for over fifty years. In fact wherever the English language is spoken these songs have been sung with ever-increasing enjoyment. Many of them cannot be found in any other book and this fact alone has helped to sell over 100,000 copies at the publishers price of \$2.50 per volume. The work has been most carefully edited and many of the songs have been harmonized and pitched in a lower key for the average family. Our coupon appears in today's paper, but we cannot hold the opportunity open beyond Saturday of this week. We shall positively withdraw the offer on that date.

Advertisement for The Waltham Railroad Man's Timepiece. Includes an illustration of a man in a uniform and a pocket watch. Text: 'The Waltham "Vanguard" is to realize a time which most railroad men throughout the world time their movements with Waltham accuracy. It is improved such as the extra long main spring, the jewelled mainwheel, the winding indicator, as well as Waltham accuracy and endurance, that men like yourself, who do things on schedule, admire most in the Waltham. Come in and see the full range of Waltham Railroad standards. G. H. TAYLOR'.

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