

The Charlottetown Guardian

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1917.

ABOUT POTATOES.

We publish with pleasure another letter from Mr. James Hutt, Glengarry, and note with equal pleasure his statement that the loss from rot in the potato crop was on the whole less than had been feared during the early marketing and the too early harvesting of the crop. His comparison with the conditions in the other provinces, notably in Ontario, is borne out by press comments in the different provinces and this is gratifying if not wholly satisfactory.

The point, however, which The Guardian endeavored to make and which it is always insisting upon, was that our loss through rot in the potato crop is much greater than it ought to be and much greater than it would be if we exercised more care during the growing of the crop. Our experimental farms both in this and sister provinces have worked this problem out with most satisfactory results. The departments of agriculture both federal and provincial are sending out literature for the asking dealing with this subject, which if acted upon by our farmers would assuredly both reduce the loss and increase the yield.

In one test at the Experimental Farm here for instance, it was found that on January 12th, 1.7 per cent of Green Mountains, which had been sprayed during the growing period, had rotted as against 43.3 per cent of rot in unsprayed potatoes. In other words this meant a loss of 85 bushels per acre or about seven times as much as it would have cost to spray them while growing.

An experiment on another white variety showed an increase of 65 bushels per acre when the crop was harvested, due to spraying, but the loss through rot spraying was even greater than this as it was found that the latter rotted in storage to the extent of 60 bushels per acre. Allowing for shrinkage in storage, spraying in this case added 119 bushels per acre of sound marketable potatoes, valued at \$71.40 or about 1,000 per cent interest on the cost of spraying.

Such results as these may not be possible every year but spraying insures the farmer as far as possible against bad years, giving him at least an average crop when prices are highest. In the second place it allows the farmer to store his potatoes till spring without fear of loss, and so get the advantage of the generally higher prices then ruling. Moreover, this insurance against rot, will allow the farmer to grow any variety he pleases, blue or white or red as spraying is equally effective in all cases. Last but not least, this treatment of potatoes during the growing period is necessary to build up a reputation for our potatoes. If our potatoes become known for their keeping qualities we would have no difficulty in getting a market for them as the keeping quality is one of the main factors the markets are looking for.

As to the relative values of the different varieties of potatoes, our farmers must act upon their own judgment and experience. Those who claim that the feeding qualities of the blue varieties are superior to those of the white, and that the greater part of the crop in normal years is used in feeding stock, will doubtless continue to grow the blues, even if the whites are worth from five to fifteen cents more per bushel. Much will depend upon the purpose for which potatoes are grown. When prices reach the abnormal figures of last fall, every potato that can be spared will naturally be rushed to market. When, by reason of good crops elsewhere, prices are below a certain figure, say 30 cents, it will pay best to feed them on the farm. This is one of the gambles in potato growing and one in which to gamble successfully the farmer would require to be a prophet rather than a financier or a good farmer.

Next spring farmers, when planting their potatoes, can have no idea of what the prices are going to be in the fall. Some, remembering the prices of last fall, will be tempted to exceed their usual limit; others will follow the prudent middle course and, be the prices what they may, they will neither lose nor profit heavily. Present and prospective conditions, however, with the almost certainty of high prices on practically everything raised on the farm would suggest that there can be no risk in growing much larger quantities of potatoes than formerly. If last year's prices for potatoes are not realized the probability is that equally high prices will be realized on pork and beef, and in the making of these the potato crop can be very profitably utilized. The thing is to so care for the growing crops as to insure a minimum of loss through rot or blight.

Keeping tab on the markets from day to day would doubtless be of great benefit to our farmers. It is well known that last year, and it was pointed out by The Guardian at the time, the prices received by farmers here during the early shipping seasons were far below the prices paid in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario. This question was discussed at a meeting of the Central Farmers' Executive and commented upon by The Guardian at the time, and The Guardian, notwithstanding the subsequent comments of the then President of the Central Institute, claims some credit for the improvement in prices which followed. As to the soaring of prices to the figures reached later in

the fall, neither the Guardian, the dealers nor the farmers had any idea, nor could have. Prices soar or drop through causes controllable or uncontrollable which are as impossible to forecast as the rise or fall of the mercury. The prudent farmer, however, will watch the markets closely and will also as Mr. Hutt has done give the benefit of his observations to others.

ECONOMY AND THRIFT.

The Empire Club of Canada, following the lead of both the British and Canadian governments, has issued an appeal to Canadian municipal councils urging the advocacy and practice of thrift and economy and a campaign against the needless use of luxuries.

When the tremendous waste in connection with the carrying on of the war and the fact that this waste must be made good is taken into account the need of economy and thrift and the folly of making needless expenditures will be admitted by all. The country will require every dollar it can make for many years to come to overtake present expenditures.

And yet economy is a sort of two edged sword that cuts both ways. When we economize, say on dress, we deprive the dressmaker and the tailor and the milliner of their means of livelihood. When we cut down our meat bill or our grocery bill, the butcher and the grocer must cut down their staff of employees, the farmer's market for meats and other products is cut off by so much. Canada's tremendous expenditures today are incurred in the manufacture of munitions, equipment, the paying of soldiers wages, pensions, separation allowances and what not. The munitions and equipment are perishable things and will be absolutely wasted as far as material is concerned, and yet, in their manufacture millions of dollars are being put in circulation, thousands of men and women are being employed at wages hitherto unprecedented in Canada, so that in feeding the fire, in piling up costly fuel to be consumed, we are making a fat living. The money the government is expending so lavishly is being circulated among our people in quantities never before dreamed of. And because of this lavish circulation of money, because of the high wages, the abnormally high prices paid to the producers of foodstuffs, there is no doubt a great deal of extravagance and needless expenditure on luxuries and pleasures.

After all, the situation resolves itself into what it was in the normal days before the war. Extravagance and the needless use of luxuries are the safe sins, today that they have always been. The abundance of money in circulation no doubt tends to extravagance and wastefulness but does not excuse it. The thrifty, will, out of their surplus, save something for the rainy days that are sure to follow the present abundance, the others will spend as they go—and will want for umbrellas when the rain comes.

It is gratifying to observe that in our extravagance, and our pleasure seeking we are not forgetful of the claims of the poor; that neither our soldiers nor their dependents are forgotten and that out of the proceeds of most of our pleasuring we lay by a moiety for the different war funds. And yet, even this we do with a peculiar sort of extravagance. Some of the most generous contributions made to the war funds, for instance, have been the proceeds of "pink teas" or other functions gotten up at considerable cost on the part of some of our generous citizens. Those generous citizens would not think of asking their neighbors for a contribution to a war or any other fund without offering a quid pro quo in the shape of a tea or entertainment, and even if they should muster up the courage to do so they would be very generally refused. Throw in the tea or entertainment, however, and the response is general and generous. We give away the cost of the entertainment, but we receive a generous contribution for the fund. We lose sight of the fact that the quid costs about as much as the quo. If both quid and quo were thrown into the fund together the result would be more satisfactory from the point of view of the fund, but we should be deprived of the pleasure of mingling with our friends.

All these things aside, the appeal sent out by the Empire Club, by the Premier of Canada, by the Finance Minister and in fact by all those in a position to know the trend of events and the awful price we are paying for the war, should be carefully heeded. Economy and thrift have always been virtues; they will shine more brightly amid the shadows of the war than in the sunny days of prosperity; the needless use of luxuries is always a sin and doubly so when the victims of the war are calling for the bare necessities of life.

WILL NOT BETRAY OUR DEAD

Harry Lauder, the great Scotch comedian, is more than a mere singer of comic songs, he is a man and a poet. Recently instead of his weekly letter in the London Sunday Herald, he wrote an excuse—his only child, Captain John Lauder, had been killed in action. "You must excuse me this week," he says, "I am in no mood for spinning phrases." He finishes his letter with the following fine touch: "Britain has made great sacrifices in this war—greater than ever in her history. She has given of her best—her best blood, minds, her best characters. The flower of our race has fallen. It is a heavy sacrifice. It seems hard sometimes that the young should die for the old. But at least we will make certain that the sacrifice is not in vain. My son's death and your son's death, old father, old mother, and your husband's death, poor young wife, shall be avenged. We have paid the price of victory, and victory we will have. Peace! There shall be no peace till victory, absolute victory, has been gained. We will not betray our dead. We do not want to hear the German terms, we will not consider them, there can be no terms but complete surrender. And so when the blows fall hard upon us we just man grit our teeth and fight on."

KEEPING TAB ON MARKETS

Now this is the last letter I am going to write about this affair. My money is deposited. Cover it or shut up about Fairplay.

I call on him to give up his name and not be groping around through the columns of the papers "a la submarine Allemande." He is probably not worth writing about but if he owns any horse that can race I will race him at any time for a side bet of any amount, and agree to give the money to the Patriotic Fund, but he must first give his name in print, so that the public may know who has been the "nigger in the woodpile."

Regarding C. C. whose euphonious piece of poetry sounds more like "Walt Mason" than like any of our local bards, if my money is covered and the race with Semicolton matures, he may then pursue at his ease the following: Bertie had a purple monkey climbing on a yellow stick, and when he sucked the paint all off it made him deathly sick; but in his latest hours he clasped that monkey in his hands, and bidding good-bye to horse-racing went into another land.

I am, Sir, etc. B. CHRISTOPHER. Tignish, February 13, 1917. (This correspondence is now closed.—Ed. G.)

WITNESS TO GIRL'S MURDER GIVES HIMSELF UP.

(Canadian Press Despatch.) MONTREAL, Feb. 13.—Frederick J. Farrell, who enlisted with the Canadian army last July at Valcartier, and deserted in September, gave himself up to the police here today as a witness of the murder of Maizie Gilbert, the model, who was killed in Philadelphia in December, shortly after the death of Lewis, who committed suicide in Atlantic City shortly after the discovery of the Philadelphia tragedy, Farrell says he was present when Lewis killed the girl in her apartment.

An officer from Philadelphia is expected in Montreal tomorrow in connection with the matter.

ENTERED NEUTRAL HARBOR TO SINK STEAMER.

NEW YORK, February 14.—A German submarine entered the neutral Spanish harbor of Las Palmas, Canary Islands, on December 6 and sank the Greek steamship Spyros, according to two of the freighter's seamen who arrived here today on the steamship Morocco Castle. Recent maritime records told of the Spyros being towed to a Spanish port after being torpedoed. Sailors arriving here said the ship put into Las Palmas on her voyage from Buenos Aires, carrying grain from Hull.

ENTERPRISE QUESTIONED

Sir.—The following conversation took place in a Halifax Hotel between an European emigrant, a Nova Scotian and a Prince Edward Islander. The three happened to meet at the same table in the dining room. The European appeared quite talkative, presumably with the object of obtaining information concerning existing conditions in Maritime Canada.

After some discussion on war topics the conversation drifted to peacetime problems and the comparative attractions of the three maritime provinces to the immigrant. The Nova Scotian naturally was eloquent on the advantages of Nova Scotia. Its picturesque beauty, its mineral wealth and agricultural advantages. The writer felt it incumbent upon him to call the attention of the home seeker, who claimed to be a farmer to the unequalled attractions of the Garden Prince of Canada. The European appeared interested in the Nova Scotian casually remarked with a broad grin "that's the place where autos are not allowed to run." The stranger appeared perplexed, dismayed. He gave me a questioning look and I was compelled to confirm the other's statement. His next question was "would it be advisable for an enterprising immigrant to go there?" I asked him what he meant, and he inquired if the people were progressive. In spite of my humiliation I could not help smiling, and assured the stranger that the inhabitants of the Island were perfectly up to date in most respects. I assured him that Prince Edward Island farmers were quite as intelligent and quite as comfortable as farmers in other provinces; and although a primitive piece of legislation was engineered by a few, it did not represent the views of the farmers as a body.

While in the past I did not support the automobile law, I did not oppose it; but I cannot home resolve the disadvantage in which the Island is placed on account of the present law. I am, Sir, etc. FARMER.

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED.

Sir.—Replying to B. A. Foley's letter of the 3rd inst. in your issue of the 10th:— I still insist that I did not hit Semicolton with my whip nor interfere with him in any way in the race. Out of 300 spectators on the ice Foley and H. McCue make a contrary statement, and statements like those from persons who seldom if ever saw an active horse race before are more a cause for sympathy than serious thought and therefore should be taken with the proverbial pinch of salt. The judges who are competent horsemen, some of whom have been in horse racing from their youth, decided that Frisco was entitled to second place and if he had run as Foley says from the first quarter they would surely have placed him out of the position in which he came in.

Foley offered to race any horse I own for from \$50.00 to \$100.00. I accept the \$100.00 challenge, and I have deposited \$100.00 with J. A. Johnston, M. D., Tignish, to race Semicolton. I will give Semicolton's owner or followers ten days in which to cover the amount, and I will race him in any ice course in Prince County or if ice is not satisfactory, then, on any regulation race track, at any time they may desire. Semicolton, of course, to bring his own boots and fittings.

MUSIC WRITING MACHINES—ATTEMPTS AT THEIR INVENTION

Ever since the invention of the pianoforte, man has endeavored to devise some means for recording music as it was improvised on piano or organ. In 1447 an English clergyman proposed a machine "to record down extempore voluntaries as fast as ye master shall play it." But the machine, if ever built, was evidently not a success. Hohlfield in 1752 constructed an apparatus that was very simple and which is the pattern after which many succeeding inventors copied.

In 1831 Herr J. Focher exhibited at the Stuttgart exposition of that year an apparatus that combined many points of excellence and others subsequently designed patterned after his ideas.

The latest invention in a type, writer that actually prints music, and we understand from the company controlling the patents is a practical success, and will soon be placed on the market.

It is safe to say, however, that not one of the composers of the four hundred songs in "Heart Songs" ever felt the need of a music-writing machine. These wonderful gems of melody were spontaneous and came directly from the fountains of inspiration. No hook of song was ever gathered into one volume that can compare to this most unique of song treasures. We feel that the readers of this paper are to be congratulated on the means we offer them to obtain this volume almost as a gift. The coupon we publish daily fully explains the terms and the books we have contracted for are rapidly diminishing.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson, DOMESTICS. (By Walt Mason.)

We've had a thousand maids who worked for us for wages; they cleaned the floors and window shades, and cooked, by easy stages. And ever and anon they'd quit; their time had come to marry; and Grace would wed her smiling Kit, and Jane would wed her Harry. And I felt sorry for the groom, whose wife was a wedding when matrimony lost its bloom, he'd find some rocky sledding. Of all the thousand girls we've hired, not one was truly saving; economy would make them tired, and sometimes set them raving. It was the same with Beryl Maud, with Susan and with Sally; they'd roll things up into a wad and throw them into the alley. They wasted succotash and steak, as good as you have tasted! they wasted pudding, pie and cake, and all that could be wasted. They wasted soap, they wasted soap, and did it all with jesting, and didn't seem to care a whoop for walling or protesting. So when they go away to wed, I weep for the old maids who are left. I weep for them, Stephen, Fred, Adolphus, James and Harry.

ALL ABOUT THE MILITIA

SIR THOMAS WHITE, MINISTER OF FINANCE TELLS AN INTERESTING STORY ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MILITIA DEPARTMENT UNDER SIR SAM HUGHES.

AFTER RECESS.

The House resumed at eight o'clock Sir THOMAS WHITE (resuming): Mr. Speaker, when the House rose at six o'clock, I had placed before it certain letters which I had addressed to the Prime Minister, during the years 1914, 1915 and 1916, with respect to safeguarding the war expenditure of the Dominion. I may say that in the suggestions which I made to the Prime Minister I had always his entire approval and the support of the House. The letter of August 27, 1914, which I read first, referred to instructions received from the Prime Minister himself; and the suggestions which were made to the Prime Minister in the letter of August 27, 1914, were acted upon. That is to say, all orders which had been given without the express authority of the Government since the outbreak of the war had been cancelled, and the first contingent, were ratified by Order in Council, and all subsequent orders were sanctioned by the Government in Council before being given. These letters embodied the principles which have actuated myself as Minister of Finance, and actuated the Government since the outbreak of this war. I spoke in one of the letters of the matter of equipment. I stated that, having regard to the large expenditure which the Government was making and to the general financial position, it was advisable, in my opinion, that all purchases of equipment, unless clearly indispensable, should be scrutinized closely. I do not mean to suggest for the moment that the then Minister of Militia was bringing forward or was about to bring forward any proposals for the purchase of equipment, which he did not regard as desirable. On the contrary, I believe this, that in the case of no belligerent in this war or in any other war has there been less waste in the administration of the war than there has been in connection with the administration of this Government since the war broke out. War makes demands upon governments and governments must act quickly. The real question is whether the Government has acted, on the whole, with good judgment and in good faith. The real question is whether the Government has acted, on the whole, with good judgment and in good faith. The real question is whether the Government has acted, on the whole, with good judgment and in good faith.

Reference has been made also to General Turner. I was in England during the month of November, and it was during that month that the retirement of the Minister of Militia occurred. Sir George Perley consulted with me a good deal about the situation existing in Great Britain. He reached the conclusion, I think soundly, that a Commander in Chief was needed in Great Britain with an Adjutant General, Quartermaster General, and other officers of a General Staff. It was necessary, not only from the standpoint of the efficiency of the Canadian forces in the United Kingdom, but in the interest of the United Kingdom, and in the judgment of the Government, in order that the work of the forces in the United Kingdom and on the Continent might be properly co-ordinated. The problem over there is to train the contingents that are sent from here, first in England, and after they have been trained sufficiently, to send them forward to reinforce the troops at the front. Reinforcements have been required on a scale undreamed of at the outbreak of the war, because the casualties have been so heavy, and if there is anything that appears clearly to me it is that, having regard to the extent of the forces in Great Britain and on the Continent at the present time, it is desirable that there should be a staff with a Commander in Chief, a man who knows the situation in Great Britain and on the Continent, and who will assist in co-ordinating the British situation with the continental situation. That is precisely what the commander in chief who has been appointed in Great Britain will help to do. In selecting that man, regard was had to the troops at the front, and so far as I know, no more popular appointment could possibly have been made, no better man could possibly have been appointed than General Turner. I was surprised and delighted on my visit to the front in talking with the brigadiers and colonels, to find the high esteem in which every divisional commander was held by all men at the front—General Turner, General Currie and General Lipsett. I was delighted to find the high esteem in which they were held by all the officers and men with whom I had the privilege of talking while I was there. General Turner is a man who won the Victoria Cross. He is a man of the highest standing, and is loved by his division, and as far as I could ascertain, by all the other commanders, brigadiers and officers in France; and so far as I am concerned, I have no hesitation in saying that I do not believe that any better appointment could have been made. General Turner was not desirous of leaving the front, but he was asked to do so by all men at the front. I was asked to accept the position, which was deemed of great importance, the position of commander in chief in Great Britain. I induced him to leave the front. I think it is only fair to General Turner as a gallant officer and a man who would much rather have remained at the front than have returned to England to assume duties, and important duties they are, of commander in chief of the Canadian forces in Great Britain, that that explanation should be made in this House.

I have spoken briefly with regard to the office of Overseas Minister. Some reflection has been cast upon Sir George Perley, who is not in the House. I have been desirous for a long time of paying what I regard as a much merited tribute to Sir George Perley. Sir George Perley went over to England in 1914 intending to stay as Acting High Commissioner for a few months only. But war broke out, and at a great inconvenience to himself, because he lives here, and his interests are here, he remained at his post. I wish to say that the services of Sir George Perley in the office of the Acting High Commissioner since the war broke out have been, in my judgment, simply invaluable to Canada. I do not think that anyone in this House, outside the members of the Government, have any idea of the extent of the negotiations that have taken place between the Government of this country and the Government of the United Kingdom since the outbreak of war, of the calling which necessarily takes place, of the financial and other transactions, cover enjoyed, a higher standing than that enjoyed by Sir George Perley as Acting High Commissioner of Canada in London.

Reference has been made also to General Turner. I was in England during the month of November, and it was during that month that the retirement of the Minister of Militia occurred. Sir George Perley consulted with me a good deal about the situation existing in Great Britain. He reached the conclusion, I think soundly, that a Commander in Chief was needed in Great Britain with an Adjutant General, Quartermaster General, and other officers of a General Staff. It was necessary, not only from the standpoint of the efficiency of the Canadian forces in the United Kingdom, but in the interest of the United Kingdom, and in the judgment of the Government, in order that the work of the forces in the United Kingdom and on the Continent might be properly co-ordinated. The problem over there is to train the contingents that are sent from here, first in England, and after they have been trained sufficiently, to send them forward to reinforce the troops at the front. Reinforcements have been required on a scale undreamed of at the outbreak of the war, because the casualties have been so heavy, and if there is anything that appears clearly to me it is that, having regard to the extent of the forces in Great Britain and on the Continent at the present time, it is desirable that there should be a staff with a Commander in Chief, a man who knows the situation in Great Britain and on the Continent, and who will assist in co-ordinating the British situation with the continental situation. That is precisely what the commander in chief who has been appointed in Great Britain will help to do. In selecting that man, regard was had to the troops at the front, and so far as I know, no more popular appointment could possibly have been made, no better man could possibly have been appointed than General Turner. I was surprised and delighted on my visit to the front in talking with the brigadiers and colonels, to find the high esteem in which every divisional commander was held by all men at the front—General Turner, General Currie and General Lipsett. I was delighted to find the high esteem in which they were held by all the officers and men with whom I had the privilege of talking while I was there. General Turner is a man who won the Victoria Cross. He is a man of the highest standing, and is loved by his division, and as far as I could ascertain, by all the other commanders, brigadiers and officers in France; and so far as I am concerned, I have no hesitation in saying that I do not believe that any better appointment could have been made. General Turner was not desirous of leaving the front, but he was asked to do so by all men at the front. I was asked to accept the position, which was deemed of great importance, the position of commander in chief in Great Britain. I induced him to leave the front. I think it is only fair to General Turner as a gallant officer and a man who would much rather have remained at the front than have returned to England to assume duties, and important duties they are, of commander in chief of the Canadian forces in Great Britain, that that explanation should be made in this House.

(To be continued.)

INDIAN SUMMER.

Indian Summer occurs in Europe as it does in this country after a touch of winter's cold, which may be accompanied by snow and biting winds. It is there called St. Martin's Summer. Across the sea it opens officially on Nov. 11th, the anniversary of the burial of the saint who was the patron of beggars, innkeepers and vine growers. In England, years ago, we are told, the time was given over to feasting about this time cattle were slaughtered for winter use, and the new wine was opened. It naturally followed that St. Martin was popular with the English, who were ever valiant trenchermen. At one time in London alone there were 200 churches named in his honor. St. Martin was, particularly honored by the children, and his day became, for another phase of it, a sort of juvenile orgy. It is not often that one saint is the patron of so many and different factors as St. Martin, who died in Hungary in 370 A. D. "So this saint, who inspired so many phases of life and its functions, from beggars' relief to children's joy, was blessed indeed. Even his 'day' comes at this beautiful time of the year, a golden time when the soft air waxes sensuous and yet carries a bracing quality of stimulation. There is the russet brow of earth, the blue soft smoke-like color in the air, the red sun shining through and flooding all with a soft light, a combination that brings fullness without satiety, soothes the senses without stupefying it."—Rochester Union and Advertiser.