

The Charlottetown Guardian

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 1917.

PROVIDING FOR SOLDIERS

The first and most important piece of legislation was introduced into the legislature by way of resolution by Premier Mathieson on Tuesday night when he moved the following resolution:—

"Resolved that as one means of providing employment for returned soldiers, it is expedient to introduce a Bill for promoting the settlement of the unused lands and the development of other resources of this Province, providing:—

"1. For expropriation of lands in certain cases by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

"2. Fitting for settlement such of said lands as are suitable for Agriculture, and providing for development of heretofore unused natural resources in other lands to be acquired.

"3. Empowering the Governor in Council to issue debentures for the purposes of the Act."

The Premier explained that this was the usual preliminary notice and that when the bill was introduced he hoped there would be a full and free discussion, and invited the Opposition to make any suggestions and proposals they might have to offer when the bill was before the House. The House went into committee with Mr. Paton in the chair when Mr. Bell initiated a short discussion on the pretext of bringing out additional information although only the principle of aiding the returned soldiers was involved in the adoption of the resolution.

It was soon manifest that Mr. Bell and his friends were out to kill the bill and to prevent the Government, if they could, doing anything for the returned soldiers.

The Premier in introducing the resolution said that several members had assumed that it was intended to offer poor and undeveloped land to the returned soldiers. Nothing was farther from the case, and consideration of the bill must be approached by first putting that assumption to one side. The House would be asked in a most free and untrammelled way to approach the consideration of the bill. The opinion of all the members would be invited and their suggestions, if acceptable to the House, would find a place in the bill. It was not intended to place before the House a cut-and-dry measure. What the Government wished to do was to take lands that were now unprofitable, or of little profit, and so to treat them that they may be brought into a condition that might yield profit and provide a livelihood for those who locate on them. The Government wished to acquire such lands on a basis of values as defined by the bill, and to invite the members to discuss the question with a view to evolving a measure which would be in the best interests of the returned soldiers and the Province. The financing of the bill would provide for a condition of affairs which may be claimed as permanent, and therefore the borrowing of money on the security of the province would be a proper and legitimate procedure. The intention of the government was to issue debentures for the purpose. In reply to Mr. Bell and Mr. Johnston who, wanted to know details, the Premier said the intention would be to give employment to soldiers who might be capable of doing such work. Other provinces are all taking such schemes into consideration but no scheme has been worked out. The objects in view are to give employment to soldiers and also to bring unused lands into cultivation and of reclaiming low lands requiring drainage. He also referred to the possibilities of developing peat areas under the provisions of the resolution.

The resolution was formally adopted, and yesterday the Premier introduced a bill "To Promote the Settlement of Unused Lands and Develop other Resources of Prince Edward Island," and was met with concerted opposition on the part of Mr. Bell and his friends. It seems inconceivable that the whole Liberal party would go on record in the House as being utterly opposed to doing anything for returned soldiers, but this is actually what happened yesterday.

THE WAR

Although the news from the war zones is meagre and evidently closely censored, what is coming through is satisfactory—satisfactory in knowing that whatever the price we are paying we are driving the enemy back.

In discussing the war and its progress we may be misled in our opinions by "the will being father to the thought." We believe our optimistic reports, first because we want to and, secondly, because we have the fullest confidence that all the British and French official reports are true to the letter. Notwithstanding this it is always refreshing to get an outside view of the situation. These outside views are fully as optimistic as our own. The New York Times, the other day, in discussing the operations on the Western front said "The Battle of the Somme is won."

It will be remembered that the Battle of the Somme began last Dominion Day and has practically never ceased in all these long eight months. In all that time the object of the Allies remained the same; in all that time the object of the Germans remained the same. The Allies were fighting to regain French territory occupied two years previously by the Germans; the Germans were fighting to retain that territory; they tried to make the Allies' effort so costly that the attempt would be abandoned. They have failed; the

cost was the other way. The Allies fought for Bapaume and Peronne. The Germans fought with desperation to hold these and they failed. The two towns and some three hundred other towns and villages were taken from them. This after eight months of fierce fighting interrupted only by winter conditions during which desultory raids and artillery actions on a small scale only were possible. That the Germans fought hard for the ground they have since abandoned goes without saying and is evident in our casualty lists. What they suffered, between the first of July and the middle of October when winter conditions interrupted the fighting we can only surmise from the fact that they have given up and retired. They appear to have managed their retirement well; they may have withdrawn their heavy guns long before the retirement became apparent to the Allies; they may have fixed up their positions on what is now known as the Hindenburg line, but our latest reports indicate that this line also has been dented. Whether the Hindenburg line will be so well defended as to cause another prolonged stalemate is doubtful. Whatever preparation they may have made, whatever forts they may have prepared along this long line it is doubtful if it is as strongly fortified as the position they have been driven out of.

We are getting much news from the front, good news too, but we may safely assume that much is being left untold. Sir Douglas Haig and General Nivelle evidently have the situation in hand. They had prepared for this retreat by the Germans. They had great cavalry forces waiting for it and during the retreat kept in constant touch with the Germans, so constant and so close that the latter could not have had time to prepare for a stand anywhere. The stand they are apparently making on the Hindenburg line is probably one of desperation with a view to getting their heavy artillery out of the way of the pursuers. In any case the line is seriously threatened and some holes have been made in it. The railways feeding St. Quentin have been cut and St. Quentin is the most important point on the line. In all probability we shall, within the next day or two, be able to record the capture of this city and a further retirement of the enemy.

Of the internal conditions in Germany the reports are neither official nor reliable. That there is trouble, that revolution is threatening, that the Kaiser may abdicate, may or may not be true. We know there is shortage of food and we know too that a starving population is capable of anything, so we need not be surprised at anything we may hear from Germany.

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

In yesterday's Guardian a summary was given of the public accounts for the past year which showed that there was a net cash surplus of \$723,62 on the year's transactions and a net betterment in the finances of \$26,034.77.

As was to be expected the Patriot does not hail this achievement with any degree of pleasure or satisfaction, and the gist of its criticisms is that the total debt of the Province has been increased since the Liberals went out of power in 1911. This is absolutely contrary to fact, and the Patriot knows it is so.

The report of the Independent External Auditors, Messrs. Rossborough and Dench, one of them manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia, and the other manager of the Bank of Commerce, found that the debts and liabilities of the Province when the Mathieson Government assumed office was \$1,072,000. They found further that from the 30th September, 1911 to 31st December, 1911, when the present government took charge, the Palmer government had incurred an additional deficit of \$83,000. The auditors also found there were unpaid accounts of \$85,000 making \$168,000 additional debt incurred by the Liberals in the first two months after the close of their last financial year. The actual debt of the Province therefore assumed by the Mathieson Government was \$1,072,000 plus \$168,000 or \$1,240,000. The liabilities of the Province at December, 31st, 1916 were \$992,804, or a reduction of \$247,196, equivalent to an annual reduction of \$50,000, or half the additional annual subsidy, since the Mathieson Government came in.

These are patent facts and figures of which there can be no trustworthy contradiction, unless the Patriot seeks to impugn the integrity of two independent bankers, who discharged the duty of external auditors.

The Patriot unconsciously admits its chagrin at the magnificent showing of the Government's financing for the past year when it exclaims, "the financial situation may well be viewed with alarm by our people"—meaning thereby the Liberal Opposition. It would have suited their book if the public accounts had been less satisfactory to "all" the people.

CANADA'S PART IN THE WAR

"The Dominions of the British Empire will emerge from the war as important military powers. Canada, for instance, already has a much larger army of her own than Wellington commanded at Waterloo, and her name will be as surely associated throughout all time with the stemming of the German advance at Ypres as will those of Australia and New Zealand with Gallipoli or that of South Africa with the great campaigns of her own continent."—Manchester Guardian.

NOTES

The opinion in New York is that Germany showed very poor judgment in picking out the three states chosen by Zimmerman as bait for Mexico.

MR. TUPLIN AND AUTOS

Sir.—Permit me to write a few lines in connection with the running of autos on the Island. I am very much pleased to know that the press and people generally are turning in favor of them.

The farmer of P. E. Island, as a rule, is a cautious, careful, well-to-do man made up for the most part of Scotch, English, Irish and French blood; he has learned by experience that it pays to go slow in adopting new ideas, and rightly so. But he is isolated living out to sea away from the mainland, hence has not the same chance of seeing for himself what is going on in the outside world that the people on the mainland have.

I remember well my first trip in an auto on the mainland. It was made with a man by the name of J. D. Irving, a first class man of Buctoche, N. B., and I was fearful lest I should be killed, having formerly read in our Island papers about the accidents, etc., that befell many, but before I had gone ten miles I was thoroughly convinced that the auto, if properly handled, could be driven with safety on the same road with the horse. Sometime after this, I bought an auto which I have run a great deal both on the Island and on the mainland for the past three years, and I have not as yet had an accident and my experience has been, that if the driver of the auto will do his duty while meeting teams on the road, and the driver of the horse will not neglect his, they can get along very agreeably together. At my fox ranch in Michigan, I am sure two hundred autos pass daily, but they do not interfere with the hauling of heavy loads of hay, potatoes, fruits, etc. on this same road with horses and many of them come from twenty miles down the country, yet they do not mind it a particle and never seem to notice the autos. The auto driver when coming behind a horse and team, and the driver of the team pulls off giving him half the road, and when meeting, each gives half the road. The speed is not slackened any because they understand each other and the horses have become so accustomed to them so as not to mind them. I have seen them breaking heavy horses to auto there. The younger horses brought in from the country and hitched between two other horses well broken to autos. In this way, he is driven with strong reins a good bit, and good harness (for the most accidents occur through faulty harness) for the first few times, the weak rein breaks, hence the accident. They are driven right into the thick of auto traffic. In a short time, one horse is taken off and the new beginner is sent along with the other, and in a day or two he is made do the trick alone. There are men who make a business of this and the horse is sent home to his owner, a wiser and more valuable animal, and the cost is comparatively small. Of course I realize that some people here have the impression that the man with the auto is out to ride rough shod over them and drive them over the fences and into the woods, but they do not learn that this is not the case. Most autos will be owned by the farmers of this country when they are allowed to run, than by city men and there are strict regulations today regarding the running of autos and the public have recourse to the law.

Out the Government at the present session of the House will open up the roads to autos everywhere, and formulate laws that will protect men and women with teams so well that in a short time they will have forgotten the auto menace. In Michigan hundreds of farmers own and drive more autos than they buy every year. Not only do they buy the auto, but many of them buy light auto trucks for hauling all kinds of garden truck, eggs, potatoes, apples, etc. These light trucks have solid rubber tires which are made very broad so that they will not sink down in the soft soil. This truck will turn and back and load where no team can put it. At my ranch in Michigan, all of my boards, wire, posts, etc., were hauled right into the woods with auto trucks, and they turned among the stumps as neatly as a wheelbarrow. Of course the operators are on to their job, and what is done can be done here. Our horses are as tractable as other horses and will become just as used to them as other horses. The farmer will find the auto not a luxury as he supposed, but a time and labor saver. A few years ago, the farmers here were content with the horse power, and I am sure that the agent who first persuaded the farmer to discard it and buy a gasoline at a cost of from two to four hundred dollars to take its place, should receive a premium. Yet through time they bought them and today they could not get along very well without them.

The same will apply to autos and trucks. There will be thousands of them in the country after the people are allowed to use them. The Island is as good a bit of land as there is on God's footstool, and the people

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ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS SOCIETY'S MEETING

At the meeting of the Anti-tuberculosis Society held on Tuesday evening the report of which did not appear in full in yesterday's issue owing to the lack of space the Hon. Colonel Jenkins said the matter of inspection referred to had been brought up before the city council on various occasions and they had promised time and time again to secure the desired inspection of meat and milk. The trouble is, said he, that neither of the governments, provincial or municipal, seem to take these matters seriously enough. He was sorry, the speaker was so apathetic in the City Council. Medical inspection of meat and milk is the keynote of striking at the disease which they were trying to combat. Medical inspection of schools is also very necessary. Both governments should take these matters up.

Mr. W. F. Tidmarsh endorsed the remarks of the President and said it was up to the Provincial Government to employ a competent inspector for the Island and for the City. Time and again they had gone before the city council and were told they would receive consideration. It is for the citizens to go to work and elect a citizens league and elect a council that will give the people what they desire. They will not wait till election time but will organize next summer and get candidates to run who will carry out the expressed desire of the most influential citizens.

Canon Simpson suggested that it would be a good idea to display diseased meat in some central place where all could see it in order to bring about a realization of the awful conditions. Mr. F. J. Nash said the remedy lies in the hands of the people. The trouble has been that not enough public interest was taken by people to attend meetings pertaining to the public welfare. The thing to do is to bring about these requirements.

Mr. J. O. Hyndman in moving a vote of thanks to the President and the adoption of his report said the thing to do is to put in a young men's council and citizens will get all they require—motor busses and everything. (Applause.)

Mr. John McKenna seconded the vote saying the City Council was not altogether to blame for existing conditions. He declared that the citizens in different matters of public welfare do not speak out and seem to show a lack of interest. There were different instances of this. For example it was known that the Legislative grant of \$500 for inspection of schools was being withheld this year by the council. When the farmers objected to the decision that all meat instead of being exposed on the square for sale should be brought into the fish market, the citizens showed apathy in the matter and made no protest when the by-law was carried out.

Mr. Lundy in reference to meat inspection said there was one sure way of getting it and that was to only patronize the butcher who has his meat inspected and the others will follow suit.

Mr. Tidmarsh in reply to the statement of Mr. McKenna, said the market house was fitted up to sell meat in, instead of on the square. Why, he asked, did not the city see that their own ordinance was put in to effect and why didn't they put the \$500 in the estimates?

Mr. Tidmarsh thought the duty of the City Council is rather to lead public opinion than to follow it. He had heard no protest against medical inspection of progressive, and once they come to use the auto it will become part and parcel of them, and they will wonder how they ever got along without them.

There are two reasons to my mind why we did not have the auto running freely before today. The first is the rampant way in which they were run at one time when there was no restrictions on them, and the people fear a repetition of this, but I must say that day is gone never to return. The second is because too much politics has entered into this matter, and instead of some of our members of Parliament starting an educational auto campaign to enlighten those who cannot go abroad and see for themselves what is doing, they seem to be afraid to offend, and in some way we are progressing slowly. What a shame! Both parties should lay aside party politics in this matter and start a campaign of auto education. There is not a member in our House today who does not know that this is the motor age, motors in the fishing boat, motors for hauling, motors for pleasure, motors for threshing, and last but not least, motors in the air. In fact the motor today does the work. When you leave the shores of P. E. Island you are scarcely ever clear of the hum of motors. This is the day of get there, and I believe the people of the Island are progressive enough to adopt the auto. The physician should certainly be allowed to run his car daily everywhere, as well as the veterinary surgeon, for time means much to them.

Thanking you for your valuable space, I am, sir, etc., FRANK F. TUPLIN, Summerside.

HUN MINISTER LEAVES PEKING

PEKING, March 28.—The German minister, Admiral Von Hintze, and the staff of the legation left here today by special train for Shanghai. The German colony gave the departing diplomats a rousing farewell. From Shanghai the minister will proceed to San Francisco, and thence across the continent and then by steamer to Europe.

Think of the time that is passing. Think of the moments gone by. Think of the sad, sad awakenings. Drawing so hastily night! What are you doing, dear brother? Alas, and dear sister, too? Are you drifting dispassionately onward? Unhearing how Jesus wants you? Awaken! Awaken! Dear brother, Bestir yourself heartily now. For God is a God of great mercy. He is willing to show you just how. Do you think of your perishing kindred? For, oh, are we not all so classed? What answers will you make to Jesus? When He summons us all home at last? Sent in by Estella, P. E. I.

During the past week we have received many pretty lines of Ladies New Spring Footwear Medium and High cut. All kid, kid with cloth tops. Patent with cloth and kid tops.

First Class Repairing Done Here

GOFF BROS

We sell Silk and Lustre Hosiery with 3 and 6 Months Guarantee

schools, and this was the first he had heard of the \$500 not being granted. Dr. Fullerton said that at the last meeting of the Children's Aid Society that body had decided in conjunction with this society to fight this matter. He was amazed to hear that the inspection was not to be granted this year.

Canon Simpson said the Society could with the Children's Aid Society make a strong protest and go to the City Council and insist that the grant of \$500 be paid.

Mr. C. C. Moore said the City Council were hampered financially, and the great trouble is that citizens don't dip their hands in their pockets and pay out a little more in taxes.

Coun. Smith said he had come to listen and not to speak. He said in regard to the meat question there should be a public abattoir. As long as the country people do their own butchering conditions will be no better. In reference to the \$500 for inspection in the estimates, said he, these estimates have not been brought down yet. As far as he himself was concerned he was strongly in favor of granting it. One thing, however, which did not seem altogether consistent to him, was the passing of a bill to inspect City schools and letting the rural schools go clear.

Dr. McMillan said he was glad that there was at least one councillor who has promised that as far as he is concerned this vote for the sum of \$500 will be placed in the estimates. When they are in, it should have been given and that was all there should have been about it. He said the Board had authority to collect it whether the Council votes for it or not.

Dr. McMillan said that besides diseased meat being offered for sale in Charlottetown there was also diseased food and only the other day

he had seen four chickens with a local buyer which were not fit for human consumption. Dr. McMillan announced that they were going to stop up some of the loop-holes in the by-laws this session in reference to sewerage and the renting of houses unfit for habitation. The doctor expressed thanks to the Press for the many obligations rendered and had no doubt but that the excellent editorial of that day were responsible for the large gathering at this meeting.

The report of the President being unanimously adopted Mr. McCarey made a fitting acknowledgement.

Officers Elected.

On motion of Canon Simpson, chairman of the nominating committee, seconded by Mr. Tidmarsh, the report of the committee was adopted as follows, upon a ballot being cast:

Honorary President—Sir Charles Dallon. President—Joseph McCarey. 1st Vice-President—Col. the Hon. Dr. Jenkins. 2nd Vice-President—Dr. W. J. P. McMillan. Secretary and Treas.—Mrs. Bentley. Members of Executive—Canon Simpson, W. F. Tidmarsh, Mrs. Tidmarsh, Mrs. G. W. Hodgson, Mrs. S. R. Jenkins, Mrs. Austin C. McDonald, Mrs. S. C. Moore, Mrs. J. P. Gordon, Mrs. D. O'M. Reddin, Mrs. G. E. Pull, also the clergy of the City in charge of congregations.

A vote of thanks was tendered to the Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. Full for her untiring efforts and excellent services.

It was moved by Canon Simpson,