

The Charlottetown Guardian

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Saturday, May 18th, 1918.

THE EXHIBITION

The directors of the Provincial Exhibition Association are to be congratulated on the success attending their efforts to continue the exhibition this year, notwithstanding the withdrawal of the subsidy hitherto given by the Provincial Government. The merchants and others interested in the welfare of the City have risen to the occasion and offered to provide more than was actually considered necessary by the directors of the Exhibition to "carry on" as usual. It would have been a sad reflection upon the public spirit of the citizens of Charlottetown if, for the sake of a few hundred dollars they had allowed the Exhibition to go by default. It is in the interests of everyone in the City that the exhibition should be held and we feel assured that nothing will be left undone to make it one of the most successful in the history of the Association.

We regret to note that the Patriot is attempting to make political capital out of this enterprise on the part of the citizens of Charlottetown and in doing so has misrepresented the attitude of the government at the recent session. The Premier explained during the debates on the subject that the Provincial Government in common with other provincial governments, in the interests of economy had decided to make no grants for exhibitions this year. This did not apply to Charlottetown only but to the exhibitions in the other two counties as well. An attempt was made by the Opposition to get an exception in the case of Charlottetown, but the Premier explained that it would be unfair to deprive the other two counties of grants and to continue to subsidize the one in the wealthy city of Charlottetown. The country members thoroughly endorsed his attitude and not a single protest has been received from the country, notwithstanding the fact that the intentions of the government were announced and published in every newspaper in the province fully a month before the House met.

The Patriot states that the government misrepresented in the House that there would be no dominion grant allowed this year. This is absolutely contrary to fact. The Premier stated explicitly that the government had applied to the Dominion for a larger grant in view of the fact that there would be no exhibitions in other provinces this year and that the dominion government had replied that there would not only be no increase in the grant but that the special grant previously given would be reduced. In view of this, which is within the Patriot's knowledge, why should it for petty political purposes seek to traduce Premier Arsenault? The exhibition has not been "in politics" and everyone will deplore the fact that the Patriot is endeavouring to make a political machine of it for the consequences would be disastrous. Our contemporary enumerates the many advantages an exhibition has for any community and especially an agricultural community; such as this is, but surely it is not altogether with an altruistic object that the merchants of Charlottetown have stepped in to the breach and provided the sinews with which to enable the directors to carry on. Who are to benefit most by the holding of an exhibition? Is it not in the first place the citizens of Charlottetown, and subsequently the farmers who benefit from the holding of the annual exhibition? No one need attempt to disguise this, and to argue otherwise is mere camouflage. We hope we have heard the last of this political engineering on the part of our contemporary. It must be borne in mind that the Directorate of the Exhibition is constituted entirely independent of politics but, as a matter of fact, the majority are friendly disposed to Mr. Arsenault's administration as the following list indicates—President, Mr. F. R. Hartz, Vice-President Mr. James Paton, M.L.A., Directors—Mr. J. J. Davies, Hon. John McLean, Mr. George E. Hughes, M.L.A., Mr. Frank P. Bell and Mr. Hammond Kelly.

THE FARMER'S DELEGATION

Last week, as intimated in our Ottawa despatches, some 4,000 farmers visited Ottawa and waited upon the government to protest against the amendments to the Military Service Act under which farmers' sons may be drafted for military service. The delegation is said to have been the largest that ever waited upon any government at Ottawa. Their protest was sympathetically heard and firmly refused. To refuse the request of such a representative delegation as this, to point out to such a delegation why their request could not be granted, to utterly ignore the voting value of such a delegation, is perhaps something new in the political history of Canada and it is doubtful if any one-party government could at any time afford to take such a stand. The stand, however, was taken. Sir Robert Borden, as spokesman for the government, voiced the sentiments not only of the government but of every right thinking man and woman in the dominion when he firmly and absolutely refused the request.

The need of men on the farms and of increased production figured very largely in the framing of the original Military Service Act. Provision was made for the exemption of bona fide farmers, of farmers' sons and employees whose services on the farms were absolutely necessary to the maintenance of the former rate of production and if possible to increase it. By its provisions every man who was actually needed on the farm was exempt from military duty. How shamefully these provisions were abused is now common knowledge in every province in Canada.

While this was going on in Canada, the Allied armies, and with them the Canadians, were fighting with their backs to the wall and over the whole war situation, as pointed out by Premier Borden, was the possibility that the whole world was tremblingly watching, "if that line breaks"! If the Germans get to the Channel cities, if they obtain a footing in Calais from which they can shell London! Something had to be done to provide men; great as was the need of producing food stuffs the need of holding that line was still greater. There was nothing for it but to cancel all exemptions of a given age and the ages 20 to 23 were selected. It was recognized by the government that this would necessarily entail hardship in some quarters; that it might take an only son; that it might take the only help off the farm in some rare cases, but these could be dealt with individually. In the meantime "if that line breaks" was the only consideration and it was grappled with fearlessly and firmly.

The history of this delegation, its inception and its attitude towards the government shows that it was partly, and very largely a political move and partly action without a full knowledge of the situation. It required courage and statesmanship and patriotism to refuse the request of such a delegation and we feel sure that even those who could not see eye to eye with Sir Robert could not fail to be impressed with the seriousness of a situation that demanded such drastic action. He promised that cases of individual hardship would be given every possible consideration and we have no doubt that means will be adopted to mitigate such as far as possible. In the meantime this is the law and the necessity and we must abide by it knowing that at the worst it is still much less drastic than conditions in England or France.

NOTES

There are now nineteen countries that are officially foes of Germany. After the war the Huns who desire to emigrate will experience some difficulty in finding a congenial place in which to alight.

England, having doubled the tax on liquor, has now fixed the price of whiskey gin and brandy to the consumer at a figure below that previously prevailing. The English theory seems to be that consumers of liquor, like other consumers, are entitled to protection against profiteering.—New York World.

Much has man done in the conquest of nature in harnessing her laws for his purposes. But with all his intellect and discoveries, he still cannot comprehend all or even a small portion, of God's great universe. In the study of nature, in particular, from the tiniest green shoot to the giant redwoods of the West there are still delightful, still profitable fields for investigation and recreation. And no days are more inviting than now.

We have the distinguished privilege and supreme satisfaction of announcing that the problem of locating the exact position of a submarine from a ship, at a distance which for obvious reasons cannot be mentioned, has been solved by American inventive genius. This is not a guess based upon experiment. It is a fact demonstrated by actual experience. While the contrivance does not presage the complete extermination of the pest, it does virtually guarantee its ultimate elimination as a material force in piratical warfare.—North American Review.

IMPERIAL COLLECTION OF WAR TROPHIES

Throughout all ages war trophies have been regarded as the fit appurtenances of a successful campaign. In Roman times the captives themselves took part in the triumph, and the exhibition of trophies was part of the festival that celebrated victory. Today our ideas have changed; captives, so far as the Allies are concerned, are honorably treated and not made part of a "show"; but the public interest in the captured machines and actual material of war remains unabated. Londoners are just as keen to see the German guns at the Imperial War Exhibition as were the Romans centuries ago to view the captured British war chariots. Apart from all the wonderful mechanism of war, as manifested in weapons, airplanes and the thousand and one implements and missiles of warfare, this exhibition is a marvelous advance upon all war collections and military museums of the past, by virtue of its marvellous photographs, writes Capt. H. B. C. Polard from London, as reported in the Pittsburg Gazette-Times. The photographs which line the walls are vast enlargements some 20 feet long, and the figures are life-size. They have been taken in the very press of action, and are not mere poses collected in safety miles behind the lines.

Overseas Trophies There

The Canadian, New Zealand and Australian authorities have all collaborated with the Imperial War Museum management; War Office, Admiralty and Air Ministry, all have contributed their finest photographs and most interesting trophies of the war, so that the whole display is genuinely representative of the nation. But even more interesting than the exhibits was the crowd of spectators that attended Lord French's opening of the exhibition a few days ago. The audience was indeed representative of Great Britain and the Empire. Soldiers, of course, predominated, and they came from all the corners of the earth. This khaki element was not there to grace a society function but was keen to review old scenes and refresh old memories. The audience walked and moved stiffly with the sore restraint born of

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson

SOMETIME

Sometime, when all life's lessons have been learned, And sun and moon forevermore have set, The things which our weak judgment here have spurned, The things o'er which we have grieved with lashes wet, Will flash before us out of life's dark night, As stars shine most in deeper tints of blue And we shall see how all God's plans were right, And how what seemed reproof was love most true.

And if sometimes commingled with life's wine, We find the wormwood and rebel and shrink, Be sure a wiser hand than yours or mine Pours out this portion for our lips to drink: And if some friend we love is lying low, Where human kisses cannot reach his face, O do not blame your loving Father so, But wear your crown of sorrow with obedient race.

And you shall shortly know that lengthened breath, Is not the sweetest gift God sends his friend, And that sometimes the sable pall of death Conceals the fairest boon his love can send. If we could push ajar the gates of life And stand within and all God's workings see We could interpret all this doubt and strife, And for each mystery could find a key.

But not to-day, Then be content poor heart; God's plans like lilies pure and white unfold, We must not tear the close shut leaves apart; Time will reveal the calyxes of gold; And if through patient toil we reach the land Where tired feet with sandals loose may rest, When we shall clearly know and understand, I feel that we shall say, "God knew the best."

wounds and the rheumatic mists of the Flanders lowlands. The mechanisms of war that attracted the civilian element were familiar to them and weighed but little with them in comparison with the scale models of battlefields.

Models of Battlefields

Round the model of the City of Ypres both khaki and the older folk who proudly bore their mourning garments were thickly gathered. The scale of the model was large enough to show a tree the size of a match, a window in a ruined house, and almost every detail. Men pointed reminiscently to miniature ruins that marked the sites of dugouts, shelters, or were even billets in the early days. The soldiers, too, came in for a great deal of quiet cross-examination from the poor black-clad parents. "Where was Sanctuary Wood?"—"Please," asked an old lady plaintively—"can you show me which is the Menin road?" "Englishmen, Canadians, all ranks, from general to subaltern, were swift and soft-spoken in their explanations; keen to expound and knowledgeable in sympathy, for they, too, had left memories of sacrifice in the city of the end.

Memoirs of Vimy

There was somehow more than a bond of chance-met acquaintance about the exhibition. The trophies were too poignant, too intimate—the audience too acutely "en rapport." People who in the ordinary way would not have spoken a word to one another felt the implicit but silent partnership that these battered relics conferred upon them, and somehow or other as soon as the opening speeches were over little groups were going round. Here a New Zealander was conveying a group of English ladies, there an Australian was talking halting French to distinguished visitors. Khaki was telling his personal reminiscences of Vimy Ridge and the Butte de Warlencourt. Machine-guns, snipers' marks, trench mortars and what not came in for a personal explanation, and all social differences were laid aside.

"They Shall Not Pass

The Allies and all that the alliance means found expression in the little case that held relics of impregnable Verdun, presented by its commandant. The board that carried the motto of the troops, "Ils ne passeront pas"—a simple signboard, meant more to the visitors than a mere museum exhibit. British and French alike, we know what Verdun meant, and the memory of its immortal glory transformed that simple case of exhibits into a radiant shrine. So it is with all things in this first temporary exhibition of the Imperial War-Museum. The objects all speak of heroism, endurance and self-sacrifice. Many of the exhibits are made all or in part by women's labor patriotically and ungrudgingly given, and all bespeak the national will to conquer and to achieve a lasting and victorious peace. These models, too, made by wounded men, the shells and engines made by women's labor, are no less trophies of war than are the shattered gondolas of Zeppelins or the mortars and field guns captured from the enemy.

YOUR PROBLEMS SOLVED

BY REV. T.S. LINSKOTT, D. D. (All rights reserved)

Dr. Linscott in this column will help you solve your heart problems religious, natural, social, financial and every other anxious care that perplexes you. If a personal answer is required enclose a five cent stamp. No names will be published; if you prefer, sign your initials only; or use a pseudonym.

INTERMARRIAGE:—"One in Doubt" asks, "Should a Protestant marry a Catholic?" Without saying anything against either the Catholic or the Protestant faith I would advise from what I have known of such marriages, that they should not be entered into. The more conscientious the contracting parties are to their faith, the more unhappy such a marriage generally is. If contemplating such a thing my advice is do not do it.

EDITORIAL CONSISTENCY:—"A Politician" sends this problem, "How can a true Christian edit at different times newspapers of opposing political faith?" doubt whether a Christian

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

"My mother-lips are cold, because they miss The youthful warmth of my boy-soldier's kiss. I've always missed him if he stayed away An extra minute at his school or play Or fretted at the clock because it ran While he was absent, making him a man And cheating me of that much of the good A mother finds in her boy's babyhood."

"Yet I was Spartan when he went afield, And told him to bring back his sacred shield, Or perish for it in the steadiest fight— The shield of Freedom's Faith, of Human Right. And as I looked upon his brave, bright face, And gave him to the saving of the race, I felt within me something of the glow They say a Martyr of the Faith must know."

"Yet do not pity me, or sympathize, Or else my love shall overflow my eyes And I shall shame you—I who would be strong And proud to pledge my all against the wrong. I hold my head on high and set my face Toward him and France as Mother of Our Race. But in my heart there beats a hidden moan Which still proclaims me Mother of My Own."

Last Sunday was Mother's day throughout Canada, and was generally observed in all the churches. Even in the front line of the trenches, Mother's Day came first, and each soldier was given sufficient time and required to write at least a few lines to the Mother at home and these letters are due to arrive here in June.

The Women's Club had a most successful Patriotic Bridge last Saturday afternoon in aid of their Prisoners of War Fund. A most agreeable afternoon was spent, and dainty prizes were awarded the highest scores. A cookery sale was another interesting feature, the financial results helping very materially in promoting the splendid work being accomplished by the members.

The members of the Golf Club are getting ready for their opening on Empire Day, May 24th, the links being in good condition owing to the bright sunshine and light winds of the past week. Tea will be served by the ladies in the afternoon and a delightful day's sport is anticipated.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Morris are leaving early next week on a visit to Montreal and Toronto.

of the highest degree will do such a thing. The issues between political parties do not generally involve moral questions; and on matters of political expediency per haps a true Christian man can take either side without inconsistency. Just as a good Christian lawyer may be able to act for either party in a lawsuit without compromising his principles, I know some pretty decent newspaper editors who have at different times edited newspapers of opposing political principles and it has not seemed to have injured their character.

Capt. J. C. Martin's patriotic lecture in St. James Hall was another pleasant event this week which was much appreciated by a large audience. A musical program under Prof. Watkins' guidance added interest to the occasion.

Announcements were received this week of the marriage in the Knox Presbyterian church, Calgary, at 5.30 p. m. on Saturday, May 11th, of Miss Ethel Gregor of this city to Mr. Percy Bryenton. After the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Bryenton left on a wedding trip to Revelstoke and Banff. Heartiest congratulations will follow them from their relatives and friends in this city. It is understood Mr. Bryenton is leaving shortly for overseas.

Mrs. (Rev.) J. C. Martin of Belle River spent a few days this week very pleasantly in the city.

Countess of Warwick, is one of the most indefatigable war workers of England, who despite having given a son to the cause, is herself devoting her time and money to the cause. One of the best equipped hospitals in the British Isles is Warwick Castle which she turned over to the Government early in the war.

Among the week end visitors was Mrs. Fred Lefurgey of Summerside who was the guest of her mother Mrs. Bearisto.

The white tailleur for street wear is in growing favor and tricolorine in its best material, with white serge and gaberdine running second.

The outstanding musical event of the week was Miss Edith Dodge Sinclair's recital in St. Peter's Hall, under the auspices of the Daughters of the Empire. Miss Sinclair who possesses a voice of marvellous range and sweetness combined with a winning personality, made many friends during her short visit here and all expressed the wish of a return visit. Miss Sinclair, and her talented accompanist Mrs. Irvine Malcolm were entertained in the afternoon by Mrs. Hodgson who invited the executive of the I. O. D. E. to afternoon tea and at the evening concert Miss Sinclair was presented with a lovely bouquet by little Miss Dorothy Aitken. The Daughters of the Empire are being congratulated on their success in securing Miss Sinclair's services in helping on their patriotic work.

Lady Elliott, writing to friends in Halifax from Bermuda, speaks of the

Continued on Page Seven

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