

The Charlottetown Guardian

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18th, 1918

INCREASED HOG PRODUCTION

The campaign for increased hog production is now general throughout Canada and is going with a swing that spells both prosperity to the farmers and the dominion generally and a very considerable relief to the food situation.

The campaign in the other provinces is somewhat similar to that in this province. The provincial governments are purchasing the hogs wherever they can get them, keeping them on the government farms and selling them to the farmers at actual cost. Recent reports show that there is a very marked increase in the number of hogs in the different provinces; the farmers and all farmer organizations are co-operating heartily with the governments and there is a general feeling of optimism over the whole situation. There is no doubt that as a result of this campaign Canada will figure very largely in the markets henceforth and will be a more successful competitor than ever with those countries which heretofore have held the front of the stage and commanded the highest prices for hog products.

In this province hog production has never taken the stand among our farmers that it should have taken. In recent years the price obtained for pork would have justified the feeding of very many more hogs than we have been producing. There are few farms, that could not, with necessary and possible preparation, feed from twelve to thirty hogs in the run of a season, and many of them could even exceed those figures. Milk, grain, potatoes and other roots can be produced as cheaply here as anywhere and there are few more profitable ways of disposing of these than feeding them to hogs, especially when hogs are bringing the prices they have been bringing during the past few years.

The recent move by the Department of Agriculture in furnishing hogs at cost has already given the business a great impetus. Many farmers who had thought they had reached the limit of their feeding capacity in hogs have discovered that they can by a little extra effort keep a few more and the result is going to be a very large increase in our hog population.

It is the little extra effort that is going to count in these strenuous times; we have none of us reached our limit in doing and helping, in doing for ourselves or in helping others and the probability is that we shall never reach it, although during our continuous busy moments we may imagine that we are walking right on the outer edge of our capacity. There is always a reserve to draw upon and few have drawn upon their last reserves.

In assuming a little more burden in hog raising there is the satisfaction of knowing that there is no speculation or uncertainty about it, that the burden will pay for itself. One thing our farmers will have learned, that is, that no matter how high the price of pork may be it will not pay to kill off the breeding sows; nor will it pay to ignore the opportunity now given by the Department of Agriculture in providing hogs at cost.

PEAT FUEL POSSIBILITIES

With coal ranging in price from eight to fifteen dollars a ton and millions of tons of good fuel lying in bogs in every province of the dominion it is not surprising that the ingenious promoter is casting longing eyes at the possibilities of exploitation. Nor would it be surprising that many persons could easily be induced to invest in an enterprise that could so plausibly undertake to convert these millions of tons of peat into gold. To prevent such a possibility the Dominion government has issued the following timely warning:

PITFALLS IN PEAT FUEL MANUFACTURE.

The fuel famine has aroused interest in the manufacture of peat fuel and has also stimulated the organization of companies to develop the large areas of peat bogs which Canada possesses. It is, therefore, of interest to the general public to know that the Dominion Government, through the Mines Branch of the Department of Mines, thoroughly investigated the manufacture of peat fuel some years ago. The investigation proved that, as the water in peat is in what is called the "colloidal" form, it CANNOT BE EXPELLED BY PRESSURE. Similarly, processes for expelling the moisture by the application of ARTIFICIAL HEAT will inevitably fail on account of EXCESSIVE COST. It is because such methods

of manufacture have been stubbornly adhered to in the past that so much money has been lost in attempts to create a peat fuel industry in Canada.

Raw peat contains from 86 to 90 per cent. of water. Pressure will not reduce this to less than 80 per cent. The only economical method of expelling the moisture is by the action of the sun and wind. The chemical properties of the raw peat freedom to failure any process of manufacture utilizing pressure to reduce the moisture content.

The Commission of Conservation at Ottawa has issued a pamphlet, "Peat as a Source of Fuel," of which copies can be obtained on application.

This does not by any means detract from the value of peat as fuel; that question has been set at rest by actual experience right here in this province. As previously intimated in the Guardian peat fuel, sundried at the expense only of digging, spreading out under the weather until dried, then housed for winter use, has been tested and proved. Many households are using it as their only fuel and in preference to either wood or coal. It was tested last autumn in Charlottetown with most satisfactory results, proving the equal of coal or wood both in kitchen ranges and open grates.

The question of preparing in considerable quantities for commercial purposes is admittedly a very difficult one. The season for sun drying is necessarily short, July, August and the first half of September being probably the limit. Four to six weeks will be required for the process. The area required for the sun drying would necessarily be very large if the business were extensively carried on.

The question of manufacturing on an extensive scale being set at rest by the authoritative statement issued by the government it only remains for private or even company enterprise to take up the undertaking with the somewhat cumbersome sun-drying process. With coal selling at the present exorbitant figures it would appear that a very profitable business could be carried on by those who own bogs, either in preparing the peat themselves or in leasing them to those who can work them. There is certainly an opening for a lucrative business for any enterprising man who takes hold of it. The peat can be procured practically for the labour of digging and drying and there is a wide open market for all that can be offered. Even by private enterprise on all the bogs in the province some thousands of tons could be made available for next winter's consumption and this would very greatly relieve the pressure on the coal supply.

We trust steps will be taken at once to utilize this great undeveloped source of wealth. It should yield a very substantial revenue for those who undertake it and would certainly relieve the now tense coal situation here and elsewhere.

HARBINGER OF VICTORY?

A bird lover of Meadowbrook saw a flock of large white birds near her home a few days ago. Upon noticing them she immediately recalled an item in a Boston newspaper of recent date saying that flock of birds answering the description of the one she saw, had been seen in the vicinity of Boston. It was reported that the last time anyone had seen these white birds was just before the close of the Civil War, and it seemed a coincidence that they should arrive again during this world war. Let us hope that for the second time this may be a forerunner of peace.—Maine Ex.

DIFFERENCES OF OPINION

It is the general opinion, says an exchange, that the speeches in the House of Lords against woman suffrage, at the session which witnessed the victory of the women's cause, certainly did not err on the side of originality, whatever high level they reached in the matter of eloquence. Lord Loreburn spoke of "a leap in the dark," one of The Morning Post's favorite expressions; Lord Curzon of the "opening of floodgates." It was curious how prominent a part was taken in the debate by no less than five chancellors, past and present. Two were in favor, Lord Haldane and Lord Buckmaster, and three against, Lord Finlay, Lord Halsbury and Lord Loreburn. Division of opinion among heads of the legal profession is no new thing on the question of women's enfranchisement. A story is recalled of how, many years ago, the then Attorney-General, afterward "Lord Chief", Sir John Coleridge remarked that women possessed many qualities fitting them to be judges, but was brought up with a growl from Serjeant Dowse that "because so many judges are old women that's no reason for making old women judges."

OUR OTTAWA LETTER

(From our own Correspondent) OTTAWA, Feb. 11.—The conference between the Government and representatives of labor and agricultural interests being over the Government will now give its attention to the farming of its programme, having in view more particularly the necessity for increased production. In view of difficulties encountered, however, it may be some time before the Government announces its programme. Labor men and agricultural representatives were in accord as to the necessity of Government control of agriculture during the war; and it is not improbable that their joint representations will have considerable weight with the Government. The securing of the labor necessary to secure increased production is one of the most difficult matters engaging the attention of the administration more particularly in view of the determination of the labor men to oppose the introduction of alien labor other than farm help from the United States. In view of the attitude of labor in regard to the proposal of compulsory service of farm workers it is unlikely that a policy of conscription will be adopted. Provision will doubtless be made for a preliminary census of the workers of the Dominion in order that there may be a proper distribution of labor.

While promised official figures respecting operation of The Military Service Act have not been given out by the Government, it is learned that thus far the draft has put approximately 16,000 men in khaki. This does not include a large number of men who have voluntarily enlisted in various units since the draft law went into effect. As regards the proportion of men supplied under the policy of conscription under the provisions of several districts and provinces there is no authoritative information. It is generally understood, however, that a fair balance is being struck as between the various districts. In the first weeks of the draft law circumstances were such as to lead many to believe that the Act would not work out fairly, and that the burden would fall heaviest upon districts that had already contributed generously under the volunteer system. For example it was reported that up to a very short time ago only 57 men had been secured by the draft in the entire Quebec district, which includes all that part of the province of Quebec east of Quebec city. It is now generally stated that while at the beginning in some quarters was as great as might have been expected, the situation is rapidly changing for the better. In the Montreal district, for instance, little difficulty is being experienced; the men are coming forward in encouraging numbers, and in the case of desertions they are being promptly returned to the ranks. The military authorities have made and are still making wholesale appeals against exemption decisions of local tribunals, and in the opinion of competent observers, when all the cases have been decided the number of men required for the first draft will have been more than secured.

That the Department of Militia is losing no time in transporting men drafted under the Military Service Act overseas is indicated by the official announcement from one Chief Press Censor that a draft from the 1st Depot Battalion, 1st Central Ontario Regiment, Toronto, has arrived safely in England. It is also stated that though this draft was probably not made up solely of men secured under the Military Service Act it is certain that a number of the men composing it were draftees. These men will have to undergo a course of training in England, while in reserve, before they are to proceed to the front. It is understood that the men will ultimately be attached to fighting units from the locality in which they enlisted. It is possible that drafted men from Districts other than Toronto have also arrived in England. The Censor's announcement in addition to the statement with regard to the arrival of the 1st Depot Battalion draft says that Infantry drafts from Eastern Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia have also arrived safely.

An order has just been issued by the Militia Department the object of which is to facilitate the release of men who have been drafted under the Military Service Act to the detriment of agricultural production. There are, it would appear, a number of such cases. Many men in consequence of being drafted into the army have been compelled to abandon cultivated farms. These men in some cases either through ignorance of the law or reluctance to appear unwilling to offer themselves for military service

did not apply for exemption. In order to deal with the problem thus created the Militia Department has provided for Leave of Absence Boards in each Military District to pay special attention to applications for leave of absence made in behalf of bona fide farmers and farm laborers. An agricultural representative will be appointed in each District by the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, to act as an adviser to the Board in such cases.

Everyone who knows him is highly pleased to hear the news which reached Ottawa a day or two ago to the effect that Captain Maurice Pope, of the Canadian Engineers, has won the Military Cross for gallantry in action. Captain Pope is the son of Sir Joseph and Lady Pope, of Ottawa. He was educated at the Ottawa Collegiate Institute and McGill University, later entering the service of the Canadian Pacific Railway. When war broke out he joined the Canadian Engineers. Later he was promoted to Intelligence Officer in General Odlin's staff in the 11th Infantry Brigade. Captain Pope has been on active service for over two-and-a-half years. A week or two ago he was mentioned in the despatches.

Canada has established a war mission at Washington. Mr. Lloyd Harris has been associated with the British War Mission there for several months, will act as chairman. The Canadian War Mission, it is announced, will act in the closest connection with the British War Mission at Washington, as well as with the British Embassy. It will act on behalf of the various departments of the Canadian Government in respect of negotiations relating to purely Canadian affairs, and will exercise general supervision and direction over all officers of the Government of Canada stationed in the United States in respect of matters connected with or incident to prosecution of the war. Mr. Harris, further stated has accepted this position on the understanding that he receive no salary.

It is said that certain big interests are asking for the dismissal of Mr. W. F. O'Connor the Halifax lawyer, who something like a year ago was called to Ottawa to fill the position of Chief of Living Commission, but through a not likely to be completed with. While Mr. O'Connor's declarations from facts at his disposal may not have always been accurate the least he has had the effect of keeping live and active public opinion. Fear of exposure is an excellent deterrent and Mr. O'Connor's courageous comments have probably been of greater value than even the public appreciates. The source of the demand for Mr. O'Connor's dismissal would seem to be a strong tribute to his usefulness.

By order of the Fuel Controller the stores and industrial establishments in Ottawa were closed tight on Saturday and Monday, an exception being made in the case of grocers and meat dealers who were permitted to keep their places of business open or the forenoons of these days to supply the immediate wants of the public. Many of the Government offices were also closed, as was also City Hall. The closing of so many public offices and places of business on two busy working days made Ottawa look like a deserted village.

Major H.W. Bowie, for years deputy sergeant-at-arms of the House of Commons, and at present overseas, having enlisted with the 8th Ottawa Battalion, is likely to succeed the late Col. Henry Smith as sergeant-at-arms of the House. Dr. Flint, whose poor eyesight last year prompted him to ask that he be relieved of his position as Clerk of the House, has undergone a successful operation and will in all likelihood be able to resume his duties.

There is a movement on foot among the members of Parliament to have the seasonal allowance increased from \$2500 to \$3000. They claim that with the cost of living mounting skyward only men of wealth can afford to spend a session at Ottawa under the present stipend.

It is now thought that Parliament will not meet before the latter part of March. Delay in counting the soldiers vote overseas is given as the cause. It is not thought that the session will be a long one. But one can never tell.

It is understood that co-ordination between the various provinces with a view to securing maximum production will be one of the chief topics under discussion when the provincial premiers meet in conference here this week.

Velvet and fur is the warm fashionable combination. Gray organdie makes a charming collar on navy serge.

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Exemptions. Sir, I would like an explanation through The Guardian re exemption of fishermen as farmers. There are a great many exemption cases who farm a little and fish all the rest of the time. We would like to know through the press if persons who farm and fish together will be allowed to fish as usual. We understand that fish as well as other articles are required to fill the wants of food stuffs, so before preparing for fishing all who are concerned would wish to know. I am Sir, etc.

FARMER AND FISHERMAN. With reference to the above it may be said briefly that claims to exemption are based on the applicants' ability to produce food, either agricultural or fish. To quote from decisions given by the Central Appeal Judge, Mr. Justice Duff: "A competent person who has been habitually and effectively engaged in labour essential to the production of food ought not to be withdrawn from it." Also from the same authority: "It is not in the national interest that a man who has not proved himself a competent or experienced farmer should be exempt merely because he has purchased land." A man is given exemption either as a farmer or a fisherman or both, provided he shows that he is producing food in sufficient quantity to justify his exemption. A man exempted as a farmer may engage in fishing also and vice versa, provided he shows results. It may be noted that the appeal judges do not show any leniency towards men who have purchased or titles on land or engaged in fishing. The facts show that the intention as more to evade conscription than to produce food. The final test is the ability to produce food either from the land or the sea or both. Ed. G.

Austria is Celebrating The Collapse of Russia. AMSTERDAM, Feb. 14.—Flags are flying everywhere in Austria according to advice from Vienna, and banksgiving services are being arranged to celebrate the news of Trotsky's declaration that the war between the Central Powers and Russia is ended. The Vienna Official News Agency describes the reversal in the attitude of the Russian Government to the fact that peace was concluded between the Central Powers and Ukraine, and expresses the conviction that as a result of this peace there will be a strong reaction on the war in the west. The agency adds: "The termination of the war is at last obtained by the diplomacy of the Central Powers and there is no need to be discouraged by the form chosen by Russia for the announcement of peace." Referring to the economic agreements, the Austrian papers indicate that while exaggerated hopes are not justified it may be expected that of two years harvest, at least which could not be exported from Ukraine, there are still considerable stocks and that about one million tons will be available. In this connection, however the papers point out the difficulties of transport which must first be reckoned with.

MONTREAL, Que., Feb. 15.—The Dominion police last night with the Military Service Act, gathered in Alphonse Bernier, one of the prominent anti-conscriptivist speakers of last summer.

Proposed Amendment. LONDON, Feb. 14.—An amendment proposed by Richard Holt, Medical, expressing regret that "in accordance with the decisions of the Supreme War Council at Versailles, prosecution of the military effort is to be the only immediate task of the Government" was rejected by a vote of 159 to 20. The minority was composed mainly of pacifists. Lord Hugh Cecil had declared that the adoption of the amendment involved the resignation of the Government.

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Furnished by W. S. Louson,
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How shall we know it is the last good-bye?
The skies will not be darkened in that hour.
No sudden blight will fall on land or flower.
No single bird will hush its careless cry.
And you will hold my hands, and smile or sigh
Just as before. Perchance the sudden tears;
In your dear eyes will answer to my fears.
But there will come no voice of prophecy.
No voice to whisper "Now and not again."
Space for last words, last kisses, and last prayer.
For all the wild, unmitigated pain Of those who, parting, clasp hands with despair.
"Who knows?" we say, but doubt and fear remain.
Would any choose to part thus unaware
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