

THE Charlottetown Guardian

Advertising Phone 132-3
Subscription Phone 132-2
News and Edit., Day Phone 133
News and Edit., Night Phones 132 & 133

Head Office at Charlottetown Branch Office at Summerside, Alberton, Souris and Montague.
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THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1915.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

The article, elsewhere in this issue, on instruction in Elementary Agriculture, by Mr R. H. Campbell, Superintendent of Education, will, we feel sure, be read with pleasure and profit. Prince Edward Island has won a name for itself in the fact that it is the first of the Canadian provinces to successfully solve the hitherto difficult problem of co-ordinating agricultural and primary school education.

THE SMALL COMMUNITY

It has been said, and with some show of reason, that little communities grow little people, little, not in stature but in their perspective and in their outlook on life.

There are many reasons why we should look for extremes in little communities; there is the close relationship, socially and industrially there is the common acquaintanceship, and there is what a certain French writer described as the "moutonnier" tendency of the human race—that is, the sheeplike tendency to follow a "bell wether" or leader.

These can easily be verified in many communities throughout this province. Some one sets the example of neatness about the home, the farm and the farm buildings, and in a few years the whole community is transformed into neatness.

In those sections which show little evidence of thrift or progress it will generally be discovered that there is no leader. The flock has no "bell wether" and it goes grazing, content with what it can subsist on.

The same is true of the city, the town or the village. Some one paints his residence, others follow and the city or town becomes luminous with paint in a season.

The great curse of the small community is the man with the "yellow streak," who ignores leadership because he envies the leader. The success of others is a thorn in his flesh; he belittles the efforts of others; he "knocks" where he can and, like Samson would willingly pull down the pillars supporting the community and perish in the ruins for the satisfaction of involving others in the smash up.

The British Government has always considered the use of British colours by a foreign vessel legitimate for the purpose of escaping capture. Such a practice not only involves no breach of international law, but is specifically recognised by the law of this country.

As we have in practice not objected to foreign merchant vessels using the British merchant flag as a ruse for the purpose of evading capture at sea at the hands of a belligerent, so we should maintain that in the converse case a British merchant vessel committed no breach of international law in assuming neutral colours for a similar purpose if she thought fit to do so.

NEUTRAL'S RIGHTS

The Boston Daily Advertiser in an excellent editorial reply to the question "What are our rights," expresses the belief not only that the United States, as a neutral nation, has rights that the "frenzied war lords of Europe" must respect, but that the United States should make it plain that she "shall not forgo these rights."

Today it is not the Kings, who are fighting this is the War of the Nations. It is the first war of the kind the world has ever seen.

Being a war of Nations, it is plain that it is the war of national resources. The people, who can last the longest without danger of national extinction, will win.

tion is involved wholly, absolutely; its industries, its food, its people. The industries are necessary to keep the armies supplied, to keep up enough trade to enable the people to live, by exchange with other nations or with one another.

All this leads to one conclusion. In treating all supplies, of any vitally important nature, as contraband of war, the Nations are justified by the new rules and conditions of war. We think that no neutral Nation has the right to deliver supplies of any kind to a combatant, if an opponent has the war machinery to intercept and to condemn those supplies.

So far, then, the Advertiser, finds no such quality in neutrality as will give the neutral nation the rights to claim absolute immunity of shipments of any kind from seizure by a belligerent, either for its own use, or to prevent an enemy from using them.

The neutral has this right," says the Advertiser, "the right to be treated under the dictates of common humanity. The neutral may be intercepted, detained, tried in the prize court and compelled to produce proof of the destination of the cargo. The cargo may be taken, under some arrangement which provides for adequate compensation.

If the press of the United States, the principal part of which holds similar views to those expressed by the Advertiser, can persuade the United States Government to see it that way, the American notes to Britain and Germany will acquire a new tone in the very near future.

HOUSE TO HOUSE CANVASS

If you have goods to sell, you have a business proposition to make to a more or less limited number of people—to those who need just such goods as you offer, or who would buy them if the inducement were strong enough.

But no such man is to be found. For no such information is available to any one.

Yet, measurably, you can accomplish the same result through the use of the advertising columns. For every man or woman who is thinking of buying is a reader of the advertisements. Thus the advertisement of your goods automatically, through "natural selection," canvasses for you, and focuses upon your offer the interested attention of every man or woman to whom your goods could possibly appeal.

To make your advertising effective, therefore, you should make it fully informing.

And this principle of "natural selection" applies to all classifications of advertisements. The people with whom it would be possible for you to do business are sure to read your advertisement—for it is a line with their personal interests to do so. And so the "ads" do canvass the Province from house to house, in the interests of the man or woman who has goods to offer or a quest to pursue.

NEUTRAL FLAG FLYING

The following is the official statement issued by the Foreign Office on the question of the use of neutral flags:—

The use of the neutral flag is, with certain limitations well established in practice as a ruse de guerre. The only effect in the case of a merchantmen wearing a flag other than her national flag is to compel the enemy to follow the ordinary obligations of naval warfare, and to satisfy himself as to the nationality of the vessel and of the character of her cargo by examination before capturing her and taking her into a Prize Court for adjudication.

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As we have in practice not objected to foreign merchant vessels using the British merchant flag as a ruse for the purpose of evading capture at sea at the hands of a belligerent, so we should maintain that in the converse case a British merchant vessel committed no breach of international law in assuming neutral colours for a similar purpose if she thought fit to do so.

By the rules of International law, the customs of war, and the dictates of humanity it is obligatory upon a belligerent to ascertain the character of a merchant vessel and of her cargo before capture.

Germany has no right to disregard this obligation, to destroy ships, non-combatant crews and cargo, as Germany has announced her intention of doing. It is nothing less than an act of piracy on the high seas.

NOTES

The woman who reads the "ads" knows a "false bargain" as surely as she would know false qualities in goods.

INSTRUCTION IN ELEMENTARY AGRICULTURE

The following article by Mr R. H. Campbell, Superintendent of Education, which appears in the current issue of The Agricultural Gazette of Canada, gives an excellent idea of what the Government is doing for rural education in Prince Edward Island.

For many years past Prince Edward Island, like most of the other provinces of Canada, has had agriculture and botany on its school and college courses of study and fairly good work was done in these as in other subjects. But as taught and learned they lacked interest and force. They were taught and studied chiefly because a certain knowledge of them was required for matriculation examination and for teachers' licenses.

In the summer of 1913 the first attempt was made to broaden and deepen the course in elementary agriculture and nature study in the schools of the province. The Honourable the Commissioner of Agriculture became convinced that a part of the Dominion grant provided under The Agricultural Instruction Act might very profitably be spent in giving a wider education and a deeper sense of the value of "Rural Science" as a means of training the pupils for intelligent and useful citizenship in an agricultural community.

But that did not go far enough. Up to this time only adults or at any rate persons beyond school age were considered in the expenditure of the Dominion grant for the promotion of agricultural education. It began to be perceived, however, that the public schools formed an admirable agency for the profitable expenditure of part of that grant, that in fact there was no way in which a comparatively small expenditure of money could be made to produce such important results as the judicious encouragement of "Rural Science" study in the public schools.

Shortly after the Agricultural Instruction Conference held by the Minister of Agriculture in Ottawa last March and largely as a result of that conference, the government of Prince Edward Island decided to make "Rural Science" an important part of the ordinary school curriculum and to expend thereon a part of The Agricultural Instruction Act grant.

Instead of appointing one or more directors or inspectors to supervise the "Rural Science" work as distinct from the ordinary subjects of the course, it was decided to regard the new study not as something extraneous but as an essential and vital part of the ordinary school curriculum, standing on exactly the same footing as the other subjects and to be supervised by the ordinary inspectors, who continue to be under the control and direction of the Superintendent of Education. In order that this work of supervision should be well done, the number of inspectors was increased from five to ten and the Department of Agriculture provided a special six weeks' course for all inspectors to fit them more thoroughly for their duties.

To give a further impetus to "Rural Science" study, the Department of

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR READERS OF THE GUARDIAN

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

IDEAL HUSBANDS AND WIVES.

But the husband in his turn should find out certain laws to regulate his treatment of his wife, as one who entered the house of her husband to share his children and his life, and to leave him a progeny destined to bear the names of her husband's parents and her own. And what in the world could there be more wholly than these things? Or what is there about which a man in his sound sense could strive more earnestly than to best the children who shall hereafter nurse his declining years, from the best and most praiseworthy of wives; for they are to be, as it were, the best and most pious preservers of their father and mother, and guardians of the entire family. For it is probable that they will turn out good, if they have been reared uprightly by their parents in the habitual practice of what is just and holy; but if the contrary should be the case, they will suffer the loss themselves. For unless parents afford their children a fit pattern of life, they will leave them an obvious excuse to quote against themselves. And this is to be feared, that if they have not lived well, their sons will disregard them, and neglect them in their old age.

ARISTOTLE.

WEED GATHERERS

Sir,—In reference to the communication of pupil in this morning's edition of your paper regarding the Southern Seed Fair and the prize for the best collection of weed seeds it is fair to state that the person to whom the prize was awarded was the representative of the Murray River school. The prize was given to the school for its benefit. Some person, if the school was to secure the prize would have to make an entry. If the matter had been left to the initiative of this "Pupil" who is so ready to rush into print the school would not today have the benefit of this prize. All these facts were known to "Pupil" and the necessity for her effusion is not apparent.

I am Sir, etc., FAIR PLAY. Murray River, March 3rd, 1915.

THE ORIGINS OF THE PRESENT WAR

(BY SIR VALENTINE CHIROLO, FORMER SIGNED EDITOR OF THE LONDON TIMES)

The British White Book has told fully and frankly the whole story of the final crisis; and the official memorandum and documents published by the German Government have disclosed the real objective which Germany had in view. The frightful rapidity with which events moved during that short fortnight from July 23 to August 4 reveals throughout the presence of a demonic will absolutely bent on war. Note the date of the Kaiser's return from Norway. The Ambassador in Vienna, Herr von Tschirschy, who enjoyed in a special measure the confidence of his Imperial master, had communicated to him beforehand the text of the Austrian ultimatum to Serbia.

The Emperor arrived in Berlin on July 25, the day when Austria rejected the Serbian reply, though it amounted to an almost complete surrender; and from that moment until the final catastrophe there was no breathing time. On July 27, the British proposal for an urgent conference, accepted in Paris and in Rome, was rejected in Berlin. Germany contended that the issue only affected Austria and Serbia, though in the apology subsequently published by the German Government, it is admitted that, with the approval of Germany, the Austrian blow, though directed ostensibly against Serbia, was in reality aimed over her head at Russia. Again, it was fresh from an audience at Potsdam that the German Chancellor made to Sir Edward Goschen the offer of a bargain for our neutrality, which Mr. Asquith has for ever pilloried as an infamous proposal. Whilst the Emperor was mulling the blessed word mediation in telegrams to the Tsar and to King George, and deploring the danger of Russian mobilization; whilst Austria herself, with perhaps great sincerity, was still, and for some days yet, carrying on direct conversations with Russia, Germany was already pushing on these preparations for war which, under the German system of military organization, can be carried out further than usual order for mobilization is issued.

How complete these measures had been, the events which followed the German declaration of war in St. Petersburg on July 31, and the simultaneous opening of hostilities against France without even a formal declaration of war abundantly showed. The neutral state of Luxembourg was already invaded and the Belgian Government summoned to give the German armies free passage, in violation of the neutrality which Germany herself had joined in guaranteeing; and the British Government still hoped against hope that this country might find some means of escape from actual war.

As Mr. Asquith said: "We persevered by every expedient that diplomacy could suggest, straining to almost breaking point our most cherished friendships and obligations. . . . Then, and only then, when we were at last compelled to realize that the choice lay between honour and dishonour, between treachery and good faith, and we had last reached the dividing line which makes or mars a nation worthy of the name, it was then, and only then, that we declared war."

When and what the end of the war will be none can venture to foretell, but the responsibility for it—a responsibility stretching back over a long space of years—already belongs to history. Again I must quote the words of the Prime Minister:—"With whom does the responsibility rest . . . for all the lamentable sufferings which now confront the world? One Power and one Power only, and that Power is Germany."

In vain does Germany protest against this verdict. In one quarter—and a vitally significant one—she has already allowed judgment to go by default against her. Italy, though the ally of the two Germanic Powers, remains neutral and she remains so on the ground that her treaty obligations do not oblige her to support them in a war of aggression. Neither Germany nor Austria-Hungary has ventured to challenge this plea.

VALENTINE CHIROLO.

Minard's Liniment Co., Limited.

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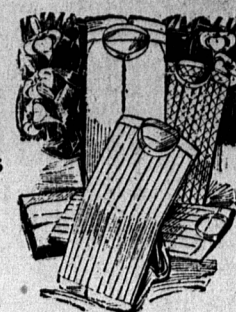
Yours, W. A. HUTCHINSON.

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FIRST OF THE NEW SUITING FABRICS THE BLACK AND WHITE

Black and white will overshadow the novelty colors for Spring, according to all Fashion authorities. France sets the pace of course; that may account for the choice.

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