

# The Charlottetown Guardian

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1916.

## A JOY TURNED TO GLOOM

A country, any more than a man, lives not unto itself alone. Its actions and the course it pursues affect favourably or adversely the course and policy of other countries with which it comes in contact or with which it is related. This has been supremely manifested in the development of the British Empire. The inter-relationship of the different parts has been of vital importance, and just as the feeling swayed towards or away from the Mother Country, so the barometer of the Empire rose and fell.

In its yesterday's issue the Patriot endeavours to make out that the leading people in the Mother Country preferred the naval policy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to that of Sir Robert Borden. Our contemporary is woefully or wilfully mistaken on this point.

The Borden Naval Policy brought out a remarkable outburst of joy, gratitude and hope from the centre of the British Empire and made the enemies and rivals of Britain conscious that they had to reckon with all the British Dominions and not with the British Islands alone. When the Senate made its great refusal the news was a message of gloom and disappointment to the Mother Country while Germany was filled with exultation. Personal expressions of appreciation and praise were publicly made by Mr. H. H. Asquith, Earl Grey, Lord Lansdowne, Mr. Balfour, Earl Roberts, Earl Brassey, Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, Admiral Sir Edmund Fremantle, Mr. Herbert Samuel, Mr. J. A. Pease, Dr. MacNamara, Mr. W. H. Long, Mr. A. Lytton, Sir F. E. Smith, Mr. R. Yerburgh, M. Arthur Lee and Mr. T. L. O'Connor. "Tay Pay" who is a Radical stalwart and Home Ruler declared:

*"The general sense of relief at the end of continental tension was followed by a new and even greater source of English contentment in the announcement of Canada's present of Dreadnoughts to the British fleet. The first impression was almost stupefaction at the great size of Canada's offer, and the papers of all opinions welcomed this proposal as a striking demonstration to the friends, AND EVEN MORE TO THE FOES, of Britain of the solidarity and resources of the British Empire."*

Some of the views of the press, both Liberal and Conservative, on the Borden policy, may be given in contradiction of the Patriot's ill-founded claims:

The London Times said:—

"The gift of three Dreadnoughts, striking and significant as it would be at any time, will carry a yet greater significance in this moment of grave international strain. The world has not yet understood what the British Empire means but it is beginning to understand today that as a weight in the scales for peace its power and influence are unparalleled."

Another great English paper, the London Standard said:—

"If the Canadian Parliament accepts, as no doubt it will, Mr. Borden's propositions, we shall enter upon a new era of hope and security and can face the perils of the future with the confidence born of the knowledge that it is not the island kingdom, but the world Empire with which the adversaries or assailants of Britain will have to reckon."

Other acknowledgments of the British and Empire Press include these:—

London Advertiser:—

"It is a great example to set to the rest of the Empire."

London Graphic:—

"A thrill of pride will run through the veins of every Englishman as he reads this morning Mr. Borden's speech announcing the determination of his Government to ask Canada to give three fully equipped Super-Dreadnoughts to the Mother Country."

London Express:—

"Thus strengthened we are invincible."

London Daily News:—

"Three Dreadnoughts voluntarily provided by a Dominion are worth more to the Empire and the fleet than the same ships provided by the British taxpayer. . . . They prove in the most practical way. . . . that the base on which our naval strength is founded is not merely insular but Imperial."

Pall Mall Gazette:—

"We acknowledge with a full heart the splendor of the token of love and loyalty contained in Mr. Borden's proposals."

London News:—

"In all the history of the Empire there is no brighter page than that which is written in the story of Canada's loyalty and devotion. . . . Mr. Borden's scheme is the best that could have been devised for the meeting of the perils that confront us."

London Outlook:—

"Three Super-Dreadnoughts in themselves af-

fect the international balance of power on the waters. But they are still more important as an expression of the determination of the younger members of the Empire that, let the cost be what it may, the supremacy of Great Britain as a sea power shall be maintained against any odds."

Glasgow Herald:—

"Canada's splendid and unconditional offer of three Dreadnoughts to the British Navy has made a profound impression throughout the Empire. We might say throughout the world."

London World:—

"The effective power of the Empire has received an addition not only of seven million pounds but of seven million people."

Hundreds of these quotations might be given not only from the press of Great Britain but of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, but these should suffice. Surely in face of this our contemporary will not further maintain that Sir Wilfrid was right and Sir Robert wrong, for if it does it means that it believes that Sir Wilfrid is a better interpreter of British sentiment and British needs than all the British statesmen and press of both sides of politics.

## COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

"Teacher's" letter in this issue directs attention to an evil that has always been more or less in evidence, namely, irregularity in school attendance. It goes without saying that regularity of attendance is a prime factor in the success and usefulness of a school, that without such there can be no general success. The evil of course falls primarily upon those children who, through the fault of their parents, neglect to attend school, and, secondarily, upon the teacher whose well laid programme is nullified by such neglect. The province has made ample provision for the education of all its children and the intention of our school legislation is that all the children should share in this provision. Recent reports of school inspectors show that there has been a decided improvement in average attendance in recent years, a condition that may doubtless be attributed to the growing general interest in the schools on the part of the rate payers. This interest may in turn be attributed to the increase in the number of inspectors, the closer watch upon all the schools, the generally improved methods of teaching and the increasing co-operation of teachers and parents. Yet, notwithstanding the evident improvement, there is still room for greater regularity of attendance. This secured the success of the school is assured.

Attendance is a matter which the teacher can control to a very large extent. His business includes not only the education of the children but that of the parents, where such is needed—and it is certainly needed by those who neglect to send their children to school. His influence over the parents ought to be such as to ensure that the children should receive the full benefit of the school. There are of course incorrigible parents as well as incorrigible children but they are few and far between. Where they are found the only remedy is compulsion and the law as it exists at present provides the means. Section 90 of the School Act provides that "every person having under his control a child between the ages of eight and thirteen shall annually . . . send such child to some public school . . . at least twelve weeks . . . six weeks of which time shall be consecutive; and for every neglect of such duty the party offending shall forfeit to the use of the trustees. . . a sum not exceeding \$20."

Sections 15 and 16 provide that if the average attendance falls below fifty per cent of the children of school age in the district the teacher's salary shall be proportionately reduced, such reduction in salary to be made up by assessment from those "who have, by neglecting or refusing to send their children to school, caused the deficiency in the average attendance."

"Teacher" complains that there have been, and still are, many cases where the teacher's salary is endangered by non-attendance. In these cases the only remedy is to enforce the law. We do not see our correspondent's point in asking for a compulsory law. Compulsion is compulsion and any new compulsory law enacted would be subject to the same disadvantages as the present, such as compelling parents or guardians by law to send their children to school for twelve weeks in the year.

It is possible that the minimum attendance of fifty per cent and the compulsory attendance for twelve weeks are both too low. It is certainly a poor school when the attendance is but little above fifty per cent, certainly a poorly educated child who attends school only twelve weeks in the year, and it is an open question whether or not both requirements should be raised a little.

We shall gladly publish the views of our teachers on the subject, should they care to discuss it, and we have no doubt that a fair discussion would bring out some points that would be of advantage to the schools, the teachers and the ratepayers.

## NOTES

If the merchant steamship Marina was sunk without warning and the lives of Americans were lost or jeopardized the Government of the United States must pronounce the attack such a violation of law and of the pledges of Prussianism as President Wilson has said would mean a severance of diplomatic relations. If Mr. Wilson acts promptly and breaks off diplomatic relations he will almost certainly be re-elected. If Mr. Wilson hesitates and delays and resorts to more "note-writing" he will certainly not be re-elected.

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Sir.—At the last Teachers' Convention the question of compulsory attendance in the schools of the province was discussed and a committee appointed to wait upon the Government to ask that compulsory attendance be enforced. That this is a step in the right direction, no one who is familiar with our school system will attempt to deny as irregularity of attendance is the greatest hindrance to progress in the schools of Prince Edward Island. I have had an experience of twenty-four teaching in the ungraded schools of the province and hence know whereof I speak. I have had an opportunity of reading the annual School Report from 1877 when the present school act was passed down to the present time and in every one of them I find irregularity of attendance complained of as being the greatest drawback in our schools and compulsory attendance advocated as the remedy. To make a very simple comparison: if there were not a law compelling people to pay their debts, how many would pay them? The same remark holds good in regard to the attendance of pupils. For while the conscientious parent will always endeavor to send his children to school there are unfortunately too many whom no amount of persuasion will cause to do their duty in this respect. I could not in the limits of this letter enumerate all the disadvantages under which teachers labor under the present voluntary system; suffice it to say that it leaves the best teachers at the mercy of careless, indifferent and in many cases hostile parents, who frequently for some imaginary grievance keep their children at home on purpose to injure the teacher. Were our school system thoroughly investigated by an independent commission some startling facts would be brought to light particularly in regard to the attendance. The evil is greatest in the rural schools owing to the lack of co-operation on the part of the trustees and ratepayers, and in many of these schools the teachers have the utmost difficulty in securing the required attendance of 50 per cent, which enables them to receive their full salary from the Government, while for every pupil of school age absent from school throughout the year the teacher loses \$2 bonus for attendance and should the average attendance fall below 50 per cent a proportionate sum is deducted from the teacher's salary. This latter provision is altogether unjust and unfair to the teacher who is thereby made to suffer for the neglect and indifference of others, no matter how faithfully he may have done his part. True, provision is made for reimbursing the teacher, but what teacher wishes to go to law with the ratepayers of the district in which he is teaching? Thus the evil continues from year to year and in many county districts interest in school matters has reached the vanishing point and in several, inspectors have threatened to have the schools closed unless a change is made. A proper compulsory law would cure those evils and it should not be beyond the bounds of statesmanship to frame such a law. The present Government in our school system are known and admitted by all. Among these might be enumerated better pay for teachers, a uniform system of vacation, monthly payment of teachers, school hours of equal length, winter and summer, pensions for teachers in recognition of services, and many other changes equally beneficial. For these the Mathematics Government will receive due credit from every fair-minded individual. The greatest problem, however, remains to be dealt with, viz, irregularity of attendance. The teachers are asking for this most necessary reform and I venture to say, without fear of contradiction, that three-fourths of the ratepayers are in accord with them. Let us hope that in the near future we shall have a proper compulsory law enacted and enforced and this most crying evil of our school system removed.

I am, sir, etc,

"TEACHER."

## DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

### KING AND COUNTRY NEED YOU.

Listen, young heroes, your country is calling. Time strikes the hour for the brave and the true. Now, while the foremost are fighting and falling, Fill up the ranks that have opened for you.

You whom the fathers made free and defended, Stain not the scroll that emblazons their fame: You whose fair heritage spotless descended, Leave not your children a birth-right of shame.

Stay not for questions while Freedom stands gasping, Wait not till Honor lies wrapped in his pall. Brief the lips' meeting be, swift the hands clasping, "Off for the wars," is enough for them all.

From the hot plains where they perish outnumbered, Furrowed and ridged by the battle-field's plough, Comes the loud summons; too long you have slumbered, Hear the last Angel-trump—Never or Now.

W. O. W. HOLMES.

## CANADIAN SICK AND WOUNDED HORSES IN FRANCE

Sir.—I shall be greatly obliged if you will kindly allow me, through the medium of your influential paper, to appeal to the Canadian Public for immediate financial help and assistance.

At the beginning of hostilities in August 1914, the Army Veterinary Service, with its fully equipped chain of mobile and base Hospitals, was admirably organized, and able from the first to take its part in succouring the Sick and Wounded British and Canadian Horses at the front. With the growth of the work, however, the Army Authorities decided to accept the co-operation of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, established in the year 1824.

Already \$45,000.00 have been expended by the Society in connection with the Canadian Army Horses Hospitals in France, and at least another \$100,000.00 are urgently required. There is no charitable effort now before the public which is more deserving of support. The R. S. P. C. A. Fund is helping the Army Veterinary Corps to minimize the sufferings of the horses, and to restore them to the effective fighting force.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is the only Society recognized and authorized by the Army Council to collect funds for the provision of comforts for horses in veterinary hospitals. The expenditure of the money thus collected is under the direction of the War Office. Field Marshal Viscount French in a message to the Duke of Portland, Chairman of the Fund, stated that he had "received most satisfactory reports of the work done by the Society."

Cheques small or great will be gratefully received and acknowledged by

I am Sir, etc,  
 MONTAGUE FOWLER,  
 Hon. Secretary.

105 Jermyn Street,  
 London, S. W.  
 England.

## Powers Enter Armament Race

PARIS, Nov. 7.—The war's final phase, inaugurated this week, is in the form of the most dramatic armament race the world has ever known. Mr. von Stein has announced that Germany, surprised on the Somme by the Entente Allies' superior output, began at once to increase hugely her supplies of guns and shells. "Every particle of the country's energy must be devoted to the production of munitions," said Marshal von Hindenburg, commander-in-chief. "I've come straight from the Somme," said Gen. von Stein. "We must do everything in our power to surpass the enemy's gun and shell output. I'm going to apply myself to this task."

Last March the Allies began their greatest munitions effort and this month they are taking up Germany's workshop challenge. So that the worldwar in this coming Winter will be fought principally in European munitions plants. Victory next Spring will go to the side able to project the largest and deadliest shell series.

That the race already has begun is clear from the absolute famine in steel for commercial purposes. All over the world every available ton is going to military and naval purposes. It isn't permissible to indicate the stupendous dimensions of the effort being made in France, England, Russia and Italy in addition to the American output, but I possess positive information showing a desperate counter-move by the Central empires has begun. It includes withdrawal this week of 17,000 troops from the eastern front for munitions factories and means remodeling of the whole army organization.

In the summer of 1915 Mackensen's gun phalanx struck a successful blow in Galicia. This summer Germany made a similar munitions effort to meet the Valhalla menace and effectively carry on the Rumanian campaign. To do this she had to create new divisions, most of which do not represent fresh effectives, but old troops gleaned from old divisions.

What is new about them, however, is the enormous war material which, in Galicia, they have been furnished. Every fresh division represents one hundred guns added to the German artillery total. The success of both von Falkenhayn and von Mackensen in Rumania were won by the colossal concentration of brand new heavy guns.

While the scales in man-power are tipping more and more heavily in the Allies' favor, German shops are feverishly engaged in order to fulfill Hindenburg's plan of making good the shortage of men by a plethora of munitions. Countless millions of lathes, therefore, are waging unseen and secret war in every town of belligerent Europe.

### PUT IT AWAY.

When through with an implement, machine, or small tool, put it away. Rust is a glutton for iron and steel. Decay consumes more quickly than most people realize, and wooden parts left out unpainted and unprotected, soon disintegrate. Carelessness is costly—is a time waster, for things not put where they belong are very often lost and some hours of needless "hunting" wasted in search before



## Remember the Boys in the Trenches this Christmas

They deserve the best present you can afford. Make it something comfortable and warm. Months ago we were watching the market for such articles as would give them pleasure and comfort.

Here are a few articles:

- 1 pr. of Khaki Woolen Gloves 85c
- 1 " " " Braces 50c
- Good large size Khaki Silk H'd'k. 75c
- 1-2 dozen Khaki Excelda H'd'k. 75c

\$2.85 for the lot

All regulation colors and styles for \$2.85. We will box the above Xmas goods for you and look after the mailing. Here is something warm and comfortable. Great big Military Sweater Coat, Cardigan Knit, Khaki Color, all sizes good value at today's price \$5.00. Our price \$4.25.

Here are some feet warmers. 100 Pairs Heavy Ribbed Knit Khaki Wool Socks, all sizes 60c pr or 3 prs. for \$1.50 Good warm lined Khaki Gloves, Mocha or Dogskin, \$1.00 pr. Fur Lined Mocha Gloves at \$2.25.

8 only Heavy Trench Flannel Shirts worth 2.25 for 1.75 each. Snug Ear Comforts, just the thing for the boys 40c each. Body Belts all wool, all sizes, just the thing to keep the Boys well 80c each.

Officers Neck Ties in Khaki Silk Regulation, also in Silk Crochet 50c, 60c and 75c.

Fringed Cravats, made either from Eiderdown, Angora and Mercerised Fibre in Pure Silk, Khaki Color in regulation style. Prices from \$1.00, 1.25, 1.85 to 2.00. We also carry them in a pretty light fawn. Also a useful line of Pyjamas, good warm underclothing, ties, wristlets, gloves, mitts, socks and all other accessories suitable for the Boys away from home. So help the Boys at the Front by helping yourself. We will mail any, of the above goods to your friend, you will have no bother, just drop in and order the goods and we will do the rest.

35 pairs Soldiers' Breeches on hand at the old prices, these make of breeches are the best made in Canada. Today's value \$7.50, Paton's price 5.70.

## Patons, Limited

they are found. It is autumn again and the usual "bad" weather for implements and machinery outside is at hand. How long have you had these implements and machinery? Are they wearing out or rusting? Can you afford now to replace them? When they should be still capable of earning you dividends on the money invested in them? This is a good time to economize on machinery, money and time. Save the machinery, save time, save money by putting the binder, the mower, rake, plows, cultivators, harrows, drills, rollers, scufflers away in their proper place for the winter. Also have a place for the farm tools and put them away each time when finished using them. —Farmer's Advocate.

Better see about having your water pipes fixed up now—before the cold weather comes to freeze them up.

Fred H. Trainor  
 Plumber  
 80 Grafton St.  
 Phone 393 J

## For Men, Women, Boys Girls and Children Heavy Boots

for mud and wet, made by the Wry Standard Boot factory of Sackville. Solid Leather sold by

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