

THE Charlottetown Guardian

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MONDAY APRIL 12, 1915.

THE PROHIBITION DEBATE

In pleasing contrast to the recent campaign against the Government on its prohibition record was the debate in the Legislature on Friday on the amendments to the Prohibition Act. All the members who spoke, including the Leader of the Opposition, deprecated the introduction of politics so far as this vital question is concerned, and the unanimous opinion was expressed that the amendments would greatly strengthen the enforcement of the Act. It is the desire of the great majority of right-thinking people here that our Prohibition Law, which is the best of its kind in Canada or anywhere else, should be made as effective as possible, and regret was expressed by more than one member that measures could not be adopted which would totally prevent the importation of liquor except for medicinal purposes. The Hon. Charles Dalton and the Hon. J. H. Myers both dealt specifically with the great hindrance to temperance resulting from the ease with which liquor can be imported by those who care to send their orders abroad. Mr. Myers cited instances where groups of young fellows club together and send their orders for whisky to Halifax and St. John, and nothing the local Legislature may do can prevent them. In this connection he deplored the fact that the mails were used by whisky firms to distribute broadcast throughout the Island circulars advertising their wares. In many instances these circulars fall into the hands of very young people, who think it a fine thing to subscribe sufficient to order a case of whisky and then recoup themselves in part by selling a proportion of their importation to other young people. Some means should be obtained to put a stop to this traffic, but in order to do so the Dominion Legislature will require to move in the matter. Apart from this, the amendments introduced should make prohibition more effective than ever in Prince Edward Island. As the Premier pointed out in order to make the observance of any law practicable, there must be sound public opinion behind it. In the matter of Prohibition the public as a whole are sound on the principle, but it is necessary that an educative propaganda should be maintained throughout the Province to convince the rising generation of the blessed heritage they are heirs to. Not much benefit will be derived from making, as Mr. Prowse put it, a political football of Prohibition. The Prohibition Act was carried by the unanimous vote of the Legislature, and every amendment for the purpose of strengthening it has likewise been carried by the unanimous vote of members of both parties in the House. This being realized, and further the fact that the present Government has been more zealous than any of its predecessors in enforcing the observance of the principle, there should be no further excuse for any newspaper or speakers attempting to raise up strife and ill-will by spreading reports and accusations that laxity of any kind would be tolerated. The Government ever since it came into power has shaped its course in the direction of strengthening the Prohibition Law; it has done more, it has put on the statute book an election law which for the first time in history, makes treating at an election a serious offence which will land anyone guilty of contravention in "durance vile." All the services the Government has rendered to the temperance cause were being minimized and misrepresented as the result of "the break" which one or two officials of the Alliance made with the Government, but the recent discussions have cleared the air, and now everyone who is not blinded by political partisanship or personal spite, sees that Prohibition never had better friends than it has in the present administration. From every part of the country come reports that never was there less illicit selling of liquor, and it has been proved beyond question that wherever the leaders in any community desired assistance to clear out a rum hole they received it from the Government without stint. This is admitted even in the case of Murray River to which so much attention has been directed. The Rev. Mr. McNeill wrote to the Hon. Mr. McKinnon that "the Government and its officials have done for us thus far, all that, as far as I know, has been asked of them in any way, as far as the enforcement of the Prohibition Act." The same has to be recorded of Cardigan, Georgetown, Dundas, Morell, and every place where the leaders of the people have set their face against the drink evil, and have tried in the right and only satisfactory manner, to make prohibition something more than a dead letter. We are pleased to be able to report this healthy state of affairs, for not only will it help the temperance cause here, but will do much to encourage temperance reformers elsewhere in their advocacy of prohibition. It is a glorious thing for Prince Edward Island to have the privilege of being in the van of temperance reform in Canada, and it is sincerely to be hoped from henceforth that we shall hear no more aspersions cast upon the acts and intentions of the Government in the administration and enforcement of the law.

VOTES FOR SOLDIERS

With between 30,000 and 50,000 Canadian electors now in active service in Europe and elsewhere the question has naturally arisen, should these men be accorded their rightful privilege of having a voice in the Government of the country of which they are citizens and in which they, if they return, will resume the duties of citizenship?

The question, as indicated by our despatches in Saturday morning's Guardian, has been brought up in the House of Commons. The Government proposed a bill providing that Canadians who had volunteered for military service during the war shall not be deprived of their right to exercise their franchise.

The Opposition, scenting a possible election in the new bill, opposed it tooth and nail. Hon. Frank Oliver made a violent speech charging that the proposal to give the soldiers a vote indicated an intention to hold an election this year.

Sir Robert Borden's reply to this was characteristic: "The question of a general election will stand on its own merit when the time comes. There has been no decision either to hold or not to hold an election. We have been too busy with other things."

One Liberal, Col. H. H. McLean, of Queens-Sunbury,

N. B., from the outset approved the proposal. The Government's position was that men who were risking their lives for the cause of human freedom should not be denied the right of franchise. It was pointed out that New Zealand had a similar arrangement, her soldiers on service anywhere having the privilege of voting.

The second day of discussion brought a modified attitude on the part of the Opposition. The one thing that they feared evidently was an election although, during the earlier stages of the session they openly flaunted their desire to appeal to the country.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier during the discussion of the soldiers' franchise, ventured the opinion that "dissolution would not be justified unless some new cause other than existed at the present time would arise." The fear of an impending avalanche in the shape of a general election appears to have been the principal motive for the opposition to the bill, which became less rabid as the discussion proceeded. Several clauses of the bill have been discussed and before the House closes to-morrow no doubt provision will be made that the men who are "risking their lives in defence of human freedom", although absent from the home land, shall be given a voice in the Government of that homeland, and their votes will not be cast any the less sincerely and conscientiously because cast amid the gruesome surroundings of the battlefield.

DIMINISHING FIRE LOSSES

Although there have been some destructive fires in our province during the past year, notably the one in Tignish a few days ago and the Bruce Stewart & Co. fire some days previously, figures compiled for the two months January and February show a loss of \$2,498,884, as compared with \$5,717,061 for the corresponding period of 1914. This is a drop of nearly 60 per cent., surely quite a remarkable showing considering the extravagant carelessness shown in former years.

For many years Canada has been heading the list of nations in respect of fire losses per capita. Its urban average has been about \$2.75, or considerably more than the average of 302 United States cities. Our losses were from three to fifteen times greater than those of the cities of the Old World. The principal cities of England have an average loss of 54 cents, of France 84 cents, of Germany 20 cents. Our urban average of nearly \$3 is a striking example of our inattention to the rules of fire prevention as practised in European building construction. Of the 581 Canadian fires in February, 364 were house fires, the majority being easily preventable. But a drop of about 60 per cent. from previous years is something worth noting. It may be that since we take losses much more to heart now than we did when every third man felt like a millionaire, the eye on fire risks is much more vigilant.

TRADE CHANGES

The war has made some noteworthy changes in Canada's exports and imports to and from Great Britain. Trade returns for February show large increases in our export to Britain of wheat, wheat meal and flour as compared with February 1914. The greatest increases are shown in oats, bacon, hams and cheese, the figures for February 1915 and 1914 being respectively, hams \$64,098 and \$12,066; bacon, \$304,710 and \$73,775; cheese, \$90,506 and \$57,981.

The import of spirits from Britain fell off from \$47,814 in February 1914 to \$40,028 in 1915. Notwithstanding the great demand for wool in Great Britain on account of the war we imported in February this year \$21,105 worth as compared with \$7,505 in the same month a year ago. There was also a very large falling off in our imports of pig iron, galvanized sheets, tinned plates, steel bars, cutlery and hardware.

THE KING'S EXAMPLE

Under the caption, "The King's Example," the Toronto Mail and Empire well says:

No anti-liquor bill to which the King might give his assent in the ordinary course of legislation would be so effective for temperance as his letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer will be. Written on His Majesty's own initiative and communicated to the public by Mr. Lloyd George, that letter will have a deterrent authority for hosts of people who would not scruple to evade the provisions of an Act of Parliament for curtailing the liquor traffic.

We say in our haste that the King reigns, but does not rule. There are spheres of political influence in which the King does rule. The people will always be behind him when he stands forth as their trustee and refuses to be a party to any infringement of their rights. Like his father before him, King George lives up to the right conception of the Royal office. He recognizes that his powers and duties are those of the head of a democratic State. He acts on the advice of his Ministers, but there is nothing in the constitution to prevent his making suggestions to the Ministers and originating policies. His letter on the subject of drinking was written undoubtedly of his own motion, but not until one of his constitutional advisers had broached to the public the idea of taking action to check the evils of the liquor traffic. From the statements before him of employers and of the admiralty and the War Office, His Majesty could not but conclude that it is largely because of drink that the manufacture of war material is delayed and the forwarding of army supplies awaiting shipment is held back. To set an example, the King is prepared to give up all alcoholic liquors himself and to issue orders against the consumption of alcoholic liquors in his households. Earl Kitchener has adopted the same rule for himself and his domestic establishment. Other men high in the service of the State and in the public and social life of the United Kingdom will do likewise, and the example set by the King will become the fashion for the nation, for Greater Britain and for some countries not under the British flag.

With this mode of overcoming the evils of the liquor traffic there is no other comparable. Compulsory legislation cannot effect its purpose unless the compulsion is self-imposed. The individual citizen can establish total abstinence or temperance in the matter of liquor as a rule of life for himself, or the people collectively can by a large majority subject themselves to such a discipline. The majority must be large enough to make sure that public opinion is ready to maintain the law.

NOTES

The possibilities of economical buying are open to all housewives who study the "ads." And these possibilities are so great, considered across the stretch of a year of buying, that they should hold a peculiar lure for all prudent buyers.

In a recent issue we published a list of "Canada's Contributions—Some of the Principal Gifts" to the various patriotic and war funds. The list was reproduced from "Canada," one of the leading periodicals published in Great Britain and one to which we are often indebted for interesting items of information concerning the overseas dominions. "Canada" has frequently featured Prince Edward Island in its budget of Colonial news and has done much to bring this Province to the attention of the outside world.

THE EGG CIRCLE MOVEMENT.

Sir.—May we ask you a little space to make clear some points as regards the Egg Circle Movement which we can certainly claim is the most practical form of agricultural organization ever introduced into this province.

This movement is intended to benefit the consumer as well as the producer and for some of our merchants and wholesale egg buyers, this would have been accomplished. We as producers want to make more out of our eggs by doing away with waste-fulness and unnecessary handling which would enable us to place a better article on the market at even a lower price to the consumer. Under the old system the dealer took no share of the loss and it was immaterial to him how many eggs spoiled or how inferior the article was when given to the consumer. Our wholesalers have said in the past "Give us better quality and we will pay a better price." And now what do we see? They are doing all they can to undo the good work which has been and is being done. Their method has resulted in the loss of nearly 30 per cent. of the value of all eggs produced and the producer and consumer between them have to pay for this. We know that storekeepers have paid more for eggs than they could sell them for and the natural consequence is they make it up on the goods they sell. I am ashamed to say that we still have a few in this province who are dull enough to be bulldozed by this trick.

Now we see that in our neighborhood an attempt is being made by storekeepers to start opposition egg circles backed by a Charlottetown wholesaler who has been one of our most bitter opponents. Stamps and pads are to be given free, and if the farmers will buy their goods from the storekeeper he will run the business free and pay more than the circle price. We know that the circle has given us the best, really honest price that could be given, so what are these people trying to do with us? They are trying to buy up all the egg circles in this province as cheaply as they can and then they will do as they have done in the past, and say to the producer, "We will pay you so much for the eggs and no more," and to the consumer, "You must pay so much for eggs because we are organized and in solid co-operation." Are we men it will take such a clumsily laid bait as this? The very wholesale firm backing this opposition circle has already tried to make circle members sell their eggs away from the manager they employed and promised to support, with storekeepers to whom they have to give credit, and they are afraid to give the storekeeper credit unless he has a hold on the eggs, which in other words means, that the farmers are to be compelled to put up the security so that the wholesaler can give credit to the storekeeper; the farmer must take his eggs to the store and take the goods that the wholesaler sells to the storekeeper whether he wants to or not. Fortunately there are thousands of us who are intelligent enough to see through these tricks. Mr. Benson has said quite a lot about supporting our home storekeepers by buying their goods from them and we are quite willing to do so if they will give us value for our money, but the day has gone by when we no longer know values, and unless it is soon recognized that we have a right to have a say in our own business, we must go to a store further. We are waking up and the Kaiser-like attitude of wholesalers and merchants, since egg circles started, has done more to wake us up than anything else could have done. We do not want to put anyone out of business, but we want a say in our own business and we do not intend that our industries should be discredited as they have been by the methods adopted by those who have handled our eggs, particularly in the past. We want to do business with our island dealers if they will support this circle movement, which is absolutely clean and just, but if we are opposed by those who refuse to pay more for the good quality our Candling Station is putting out, and offer higher prices for eggs, good, bad and indifferent, as they have been doing, there are enough of us to resist such methods which will only help to prevent us regaining a hold on British markets which we lost by our own and our dealers' mistakes years ago. If we are forced to it we can show our strength.

We are, Sir, etc.
BROOKLYN EGG CIRCLE MEMBERS.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR READERS OF THE GUARDIAN

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

PERFECT THROUGH SUFFERING.

The best things of life come out of suffering. Wheat is crushed before it becomes bread. Incentive must be cast upon the fire before its odors are set free. The ground must be broken with the sharp plough before it is ready to receive the seed. It is the broken heart that pleases God. The sweetest joys in life are the fruits of sorrow. Human nature seems to need suffering to fit it for being a blessing to the world.

They tell me I must bruise
The rose's leaf,
Ere I can keep and use
Its fragrance brief.

They tell me I must break
The skylark's heart,
Ere her care song will make
The silent start.

They tell me love must bleed,
And friendship weep,
Ere in my deepest need
I touch that deep.

Must it be always slow
With precious things?
Must they be bruised and go
With beaten wings?

Ah, yes—By crushing days,
By caging nights, by scar
Of thorn and stony ways,
These blessings are!

SAMUEL W. DUFFIELD.

"The second episode of Runaway June. The man in the Black Vandyke at the People's today. . . . 9447-4-12M11

CORRECTED BUTTER TEST

Sir.—In a recent issue you give the record of a Holstein cow owned by Harry Best as making 13 pounds of butter, or nearly two pounds per day from 19.78 pounds of fat, and all other island papers copied this error. Any well informed person knows that a pound of butter fat makes more than one pound of butter, the same as one pound of soap grease makes more than one pound of soap. This varies with the skill of the maker, but is usually from 15 to 20 per cent. overrun so, this cow wonder makes considerably more than 2 pounds of butter per day in her official test.

I am Sir, etc.
W. M. LEA.
Victoria.

"CHEER" UP SOCIETY

Sir.—On behalf of the committee of the "Cheer-up Society" we beg to bring under your notice the objects and work of our Society, and trust that you will be kind enough to publish information before the public through the medium of your influential columns so that "Cheer-up" Societies might be established in various centres.

Briefly stated the "Cheer-up Society" was formed owing to the conditions which existed in military encampments. It was found that after the first excitement of the war, and the enthusiasm consequent upon the dispatch of the first section of the Australian Expeditionary Forces to the theatre of war, active public interest in the camp life of the soldiers being recruited, waned somewhat, or rather, any interest that existed was not shown to the same encouraging extent. Men willing to sacrifice themselves for the sake of the Empire, simply went into the camp and assumed the monotonous rounds of drill, and very ordinary fare, amid dust and the generally unpleasant conditions which must necessarily pertain to military encampments and hardly any further notice of them was taken.

A letter appeared in "The Register" pointing out the somewhat comparatively unfair public treatment being meted out to the soldiers in this connection, and suggested that something should be done to make their camp life brighter. "The Register" immediately took the matter up, and invited the public to take necessary action. Certain public spirited women of the community at once formed a Society and in a few days over one hundred ladies had banded together to collect money, cake, fruit, needlework, delicacies for the camp hospitals, etc., the whole to be utilized under the heading of camp comforts. There are now several hundred members enthusiastically engaged in the work. (The only qualification of membership is to work for or give to the Society.) After several months' work, the "Cheer-up Society" is acknowledged by military authorities in this State and by the soldiers themselves to have achieved a material and moral triumph in the direction desired. At the encampments near Adelaide, a concert is given on Friday evening and Sunday afternoon, after which light refreshments are dispensed to the soldiers by the members of the "Cheer-up Society." The result in concrete, is that the camp life is brightened up, the men are more contented with their lot and the fine moral influence of the girls who are, of course, of the very best type, is manifest. Letters of appreciation from the leaders of the movement have been received by the Hon. Secretary. Some few critics have objected to what they term "coddling" of the soldiers, but these have been effectively silenced by the overwhelming statement of public opinion that the soldiers deserve all the appreciation they can get in view of the splendid services which they will render to their country.

It was unanimously decided at the first quarterly meeting of the "Cheer-up Society," held in the Mayor's parlour, Adelaide, on the 8th Feb., that the influential press in the Commonwealth, New Zealand, Canada, Great Britain and the Continent, should be communicated with in view of placing our work before the public, and to request that public spirited people, particularly ladies, would take the matter up in connection with any of the Allied Troops, as it has been done here with such success. At any point where there are military camps of some degree of permanency, cheer-up work can be done. The cheer-up work is distinct and different from other forms of patriotic organization.

The public in this State are contributing generously to the "Cheer-up" Fund, and branches of the Society are being formed in the country towns. Musical and elocutionary artists readily lend their services to the cheer-up cause. It might be added that a bronze medal has been struck and is worn by members of the "Cheer-up Society" when attending camp, or any function in connection with their work.

Any further information required in the matter can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. A. Seager, 47-48 Royal Exchange, Adelaide, or from the President, W. J. Sowden, Esq., Editor, "The Register," Adelaide.

We trust that you will be good enough to give this matter every publicity, and we feel that wherever possible in the British Empire and the Allied countries, the splendid work of "Cheer-up" the soldiers will readily be taken up.

We are, Sir,
Yours sincerely,
F. J. MILLS, Chairman.
Mesdames A. Seager,
(Hon. Sec.)
C. F. Temple,
R. F. Wallington,
George Aldridge,
A. G. Miller.

"Cheer-up Society's" extension committee. Adelaide, South Australia, Feb 25, 1915.

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