

# The Charlottetown Guardian

Head Office at Charlottetown, Branch Offices at Summerside, Alberton, Souris and Montserrat.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1916.

## OUR PEAT BOGS

In view of the almost prohibitive price to which coal has climbed within the past two years, the current number of the Journal of the Canadian Peat Society gives some timely information relative to the peat deposits scattered over Canada. An idea of the extent and value of these deposits may be had from the statement that seven bogs in the Montreal district could furnish that city with 23,500,000 tons of fuel; five bogs convenient to the city of Quebec by water are estimated to be capable of supplying 16,250,000 tons of fuel and 5,750,000 tons of litter; Nova Scotia bogs in Yarmouth, Shelburne and Lunenburg Counties will produce 6,250,000 tons of fuel and 500,000 tons of peat litter; six bogs investigated in Prince Edward Island can furnish 1,250,000 tons of fuel and over 1,000,000 tons of litter.

The peat bogs investigated in Prince Edward Island are situated at Black Marsh, Portage, Miscoche, Muddy Creek, Mount Stewart, Black Banks and Mermaid. These are treated separately in bulletin eleven issued by the Mine's Branch of the Department of Mines. The bulletins are profusely illustrated and contain among other things plates illustrative of the botany of the bogs. Inset maps show the location of the bogs investigated, also appendices are given with copies of Canadian patents descriptive of machinery for the handling and manufacture of peat fuel.

With these enormous quantities of fuel lying untouched all over Canada, coal six to twelve dollars a ton, and the ingenuity of the Empire working overtime to develop our natural resources the time should not be far distant when our peat bogs are compelled to give up their latent wealth for man's necessities.

Development work has been in progress for some years past in the direction of utilizing our peat deposits and much has been accomplished. Just before the outbreak of the war several companies were organized in Ontario to develop peat bogs but unfortunately the tying up of capital incident to the war cut off most of the enterprises and but little effective work has been accomplished. Sufficient has been done however to demonstrate the value of peat as fuel. At Alfred, a place favourably located with regard to Ottawa and Montreal markets, peat fuel was sold last year at \$3.50 per ton f. o. b. Alfred or \$5.75 per ton delivered in Ottawa. About 900 tons were manufactured. No doubt further development work will be carried on now under pressure of present coal prices. In the meantime peat bogs are being utilized very profitably in many places in the production of blueberries and cranberries. In New Jersey, according to a bulletin recently issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (bulletin 334) experiments have been in progress for some years with a view to the commercial growing of blueberries in field plantations. A plantation of about two and a half acres was started in 1889 in a natural blueberry bog which was drained and set with unselected wild blueberries. The plantation was profitable from the first. For five years the average yield was 2,000 quarts of fruit per acre, yielding at an average price of 14 cents an annual profit of \$137 per acre.

We have in this province many acres of peat bog which pending the manufacture of peat into fuel might very profitably be used for the cultivation of blueberries or cranberries, the latter having been cultivated most successfully for many years, notably at Muddy Creek. Blueberry culture has not, so far as we know, been attempted. With a promise of a yield of \$100 or more per acre this undeveloped natural resource should receive some attention.

## A MAN OF HIS WORD

In a well-intentioned but far from satisfactory attempt to whitewash Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Naval Defence record, the Patriot has been serving up its view of what transpired during the critical days of 1912-13 when Sir Robert Borden tried in vain to get Sir Wilfrid Laurier to come to the assistance of the Empire and to stave off war. There are two sides to every question, and we have therefore pleasure in giving a summary of what took place, and our review will be unbiased and subject to verification from official records.

We have seen Sir Robert Borden and his party in opposition propose, instead of the ineffective and slow action of the Government, a practical programme. They believed that trouble was coming in Europe. They knew that Britain was straining every nerve to maintain the naval supremacy demanded by her vast Empire, her merchant fleet, and by the insignificance of her land forces compared with European states. Therefore they had proposed an immediate contribution by Canada of two Dreadnoughts. This was the first part of the programme; while the second was the development of a permanent and

comprehensive Canadian Naval policy, to be worked out in consultation with the Admiralty and the other Dominions, and to be ratified by the Canadian people.

This policy was set forth in the Borden amendment to the Naval resolution of 1910. It was the policy announced by the Conservative leader in the election campaign. It was the policy which he came into power pledged to carry out, the policy which the Conservative party at once took up when it obtained office. The first half was embodied in the Naval Aid Bill of 1912, which the Commons, obedient to the mandate of the people, adopted, and which the Senate, obedient to the mandate of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, by whom the majority were appointed, has destroyed.

The Borden Government took office in October, 1911. The session of Parliament began next month. At its close the Premier went to England, conferred with Imperial Ministers and Admiralty authorities, obtaining public and confidential information as to the most pressing requirements of Naval Defence. Later in the year he sought from the Admiralty a statement of the naval situation, so far as it affected the question of Canadian assistance. Especially the First Lord of the Admiralty was asked in what form any immediate aid that Canada might give would be most effective. The reply was the comprehensive and instructive memorandum which Sir Robert Borden read to the House on introducing his Naval Aid Bill. This remarkable paper, with which the public is now quite familiar, gives a striking account of the rapid growth of the German Navy, and of the difficulty thus imposed upon Britain. It closed with this definite and distinct recommendation.

*"The Prime Minister of the Dominion having inquired in what form any immediate aid that Canada might give would be most effective, we have no hesitation in answering, after a prolonged consideration of the circumstances, that it is desirable that such aid should include the provision of a certain number of the largest and strongest ships of war which science can build or money supply."*

This document was received early in November, 1912. Parliament met November 21. The debate on the address closed December 3, and two days later Sir Robert Borden introduced this Bill, which may be compared with the Admiralty recommendation quoted above.

*"From and out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada there may be paid and applied a sum not exceeding thirty-five million dollars for the purpose of immediately increasing the effective naval forces of the Empire."*

*The said sum shall be used and applied under the direction of the Governor-in-Council in the construction and equipment of battleships or armoured cruisers of the most modern and powerful type."*

*The said ships when constructed and equipped shall be placed by the Governor-in-Council AT THE DISPOSAL OF HIS MAJESTY FOR THE COMMON DEFENCE OF THE EMPIRE."*

*The said sum shall be paid, used and applied and the said ships shall be constructed and placed at the disposal of His Majesty subject to such terms, conditions and arrangements as may be agreed upon between the Governor-in-Council and His Majesty's Government."*

The conditions and arrangements agreed upon between the Imperial and Federal Governments are not all set forth in this Bill. It was stated by Sir Robert Borden, as one of the conditions, that in the event of Canada establishing a navy of her own, these ships would be transferred to the Dominion after reasonable notice. It was also agreed or understood that in the development of the Imperial ship-building programme, a number of the unarmoured British vessels would be constructed in Canadian dockyards.

## IS THE PATRIOT PATRIOTIC?

Our Liberal evening contemporary describes patriotism as the last refuge of a scoundrel. As our contemporary glories in the name of Patriot it should know whereof it speaks. But we are not sure whether it really does know what patriotism means. It persists in its belief that Sir Wilfrid was right and Sir Robert wrong in the naval emergency vote notwithstanding the tragic sequel to the Admiralty's warning and memorandum (which was issued as a supplement to Sir Robert's address, notwithstanding the quibbling of our contemporary). In this we suppose the Patriot stands alone, not excepting the Toronto Globe which has deserted Sir Wilfrid on his latest great refusal. The Witness, The Montreal Herald, The Montreal Telegraph, The Manitoba Free Press, The St. John Telegraph and The St. John Globe all expressed the conviction that Sir Robert's Naval policy should be accepted rather than that Canada's participation in Imperial Naval Defence should be prevented or delayed unduly. But Sir Wilfrid spurned this advice, just as he spurned the advice of the Globe and the leaders of English Liberals in the matter of the present recruiting appeal. And the Patriot is one among the few Liberal newspapers that commend Sir Wilfrid for his refusal. Would the Patriot prefer the alternative of scoundrel?

## LETTER FROM WOUNDED SOLDIER

Miss Melvina Nicholson, of Victoria Cross, has received the following letter from her brother, Sergeant S. D. Nicholson of the 13th Royal Highland Canadians now in France. Sergt. Nicholson enlisted with the 56th Battalion:

No. 8 Red Cross Hospital  
France  
Oct. 12, 1916

Dear Sister:—Just a few lines to let you know that I am getting along as good as can be expected. I got wounded the 10th of October on the left leg in five different places. The first time I got hit was with a bomb, just as we were going to Fritz's trench so that put a stop to me, but the rest of the boys they took the trench on him, so I got my wound fixed up, as best I could, and started back for the dressing station, when a shell exploded along side of me, killed a wounded fellow that was coming out with me. And I got four more wounds, one near the hip, two above the knee and one in the knee, but I made the dressing station and got my wounds attended too and from their with the help of a German prisoner I made the motor cars, and then the Hospital. My leg is very painful so far, they got it in splints, but I cannot complain as it might have been worse. Well I have no news of interest to you all. Excuse writing as I got to write in bed. Good bye I will write you soon again. I remain as ever your  
Loving Brother  
SIMON

## ISLANDER WOUNDED

Mr. Edward Buchanan, Eldon, received the following telegram from his son, Sincerely regret to inform you No. 69048 Corp. Wm. S. Buchanan, Infantry, officially reported admitted to No. 3 Ten Hospital at Boulogne, Oct. 19, 1916. Gun shot wound in wrist slight, will send further particulars when received.

Signed  
Officer in Charge of Record Office  
Ottawa

Corp. Buchanan is a son of Mr. William Buchanan, Eldon, and was one of the first of our young men to respond to the call of duty. He belongs to the famous fighting 26 New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Battalion and has been in the fighting zone for the last fourteen months, his many friends wish him a speedy recovery from his wound.

## Many States To vote On Liquor Question

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 3.—The country goes next Tuesday to the stiffest test which has been made up to date between the liquor interests and the anti-liquor forces. As a result of the balloting on that day half a dozen states may be added to the dry column, which will mean that the dawn of a new year will find the saloons ousted from more than half the Commonwealths that make up the Union. Of the remaining States, those that still may be classed as "wet," large "dry" areas, in some cases amounting to considerably more than half the state will exist as a result of the county or local option laws.

The States in which the straight-out question of Statewide prohibition is to be decided Tuesday are all west of the Mississippi river, with the single exception of the State of Michigan. The Southern States will not figure in the contests for the reason that virtually all of the South has already barred the saloons. The question is a live issue in some of the eastern States, and is expected to decide the fate of more than one candidate for public office, although the main question of Statewide prohibition will not be voted on.

The main strength of the liquor interests and of the dry forces has been brought to bear on Michigan, where the question of Statewide prohibition is to be submitted to the voters. Both sides, of course, claim victory, but the analytical outcome of the referendum is in doubt. Detroit is the center of the contest, both factions having headquarters in that city from which the State has been covered with literature. In their State platforms neither the Republicans nor the Democrats made mention of the issue. A large part of the State is ready dry as a result of local option.

California will vote on two amendments to the constitution, one providing for partial prohibition in 1918 and the other for total prohibition in 1920. Both measures have been put forward and endorsed by the prohibition forces. Heretofore the vast wine-producing interests of California have been a satisfactory objection to prohibition in that State. Now it is claimed a satisfactory solution of this problem has been found and that ground no longer exists for objection to prohibition because it might wipe out one of the chief industries of the State. The campaign in behalf of the prohibition amendments is being pushed vigorously and the leaders appear confident of success.

The law to be submitted to the voters in Montana prohibits the sale, manufacture or introduction into the State of any intoxicating liquors, but exempts denatured alcohol, wine for sacramental purposes and alcohol intended for scientific or manufacturing purposes. In event it carries the law submitted to the legislature will become effective Dec. 31, 1918.

In no State has the fight over the liquor question been waged with greater intensity than in Nebraska, where a prohibition constitutional amendment has been submitted to the voters. The question has split the ranks of both the Democrats and Republicans, and it is expected to have a deciding influence in the contests for many of the important State offices. Foremost among the supporters of the proposed amendment is William J. Bryan, who has stamped the State from end to end in its behalf.

Missouri is another leading State where the question of Statewide prohibition is to be submitted to the voters next Tuesday. Of late years the growth of prohibition sentiment in Missouri has been remarkably strong, more than one-half the population now being in territory that prohibits

# 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'dkfs. 75c
- 1-2 dozen Khaki Excelda H'dkfs. 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 todays price \$5.00. Our price \$4.25

Here are some feet warmers. 10 Pairs Heavy Ribbed Knit Khaki Wool Socks, all sizes 60c per pair or 3 pairs 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 ea.

Snug Ear Comforts, just the thing for the boys 40c ea.

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 Mercherised Fibre or 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.

## PATONS, LIMITED

### REMOVE GERMAN PRINCES FROM THE PEERAGE.

LONDON, Nov. 3.—Premier Asquith told the House of Commons in reply to a question from Arthur Lynch that the government would introduce a bill providing for the removal from the peerage of "those members of the House of Lords, for instance, German Princes who are now in arms against the Allies."

SANTIAGO, Chile, November 3.—The British Government, it is announced, will turn over to Chile five American-built submarines as compensation on account of the delay in

the delivery of dreadnoughts which were contracted for in England by Chile.

The battleships Almirante Latorre and Almirante Cochrane, which were laid down prior to 1914 in British yards for Chile, were taken over by the British government because of the war. A number of submarines which had been constructed in the United States for Great Britain were refused delivery by the American government until after the end of the war. These submarines have been guarded by American naval officers, and the possibility of their removal from this country to the possession of a belligerent during the present war might be eliminated.

### A DANGER ZONE FOR GREEK VESSELS.

LONDON, Nov. 3.—Telegraphing from Athens, Reuters correspondent says the Greek Government has sent reinforcements of infantry and artillery to Katerina. The correspondent adds that Admiral Dufournet, commander of the Allied fleet in the Mediterranean, has sent notice to the Greek harbor authorities, indicating a danger zone for vessels entering or leaving Piraeus harbor.

"Certain circles in Athens," the correspondent continues, "interpret this notice as meaning that Admiral Du Fourne has hitherto neglected to inform the Greek authorities of the precautionary measures taken such as the laying of mines and it is even insinuated that the Greek steamers Angheliki and Kiki Issalas, which were sunk recently were struck by mines laid by the Entente Allies."

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

Prices right for your pocket **GOFF BROS.**

### TOO WET TO THRASH OR PLOW IN THE WEST.

REGINA Sask. Nov. 3.—A report regarding the thrashing situation in Saskatchewan was issued by the Department of Agriculture. Practically no thrashing has been done in the Province during the past two weeks. The weather has been wet and snow generally and it is doubtful if

(the thrashing will be resumed before November 6.

As to the question of harvest labor the majority of the laborers from the east and from the United States have returned to their homes and farmers are depending upon home labor to carry them through their thrashing when it commences. Wages are high and \$4 per day being asked.

It would appear to be the general opinion that owing to the high price of grain is advisable to thrash as soon as possible and ship the grain to the terminal elevators for treatment rather than to risk further inclement weather.

On account of the wetness of the land little or no fall plowing has been done.