

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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"THE MIRAGE OF THE MAP"

One of the reasons, or rather the excuses, advanced for Germany's naval preparation, in addition to the need of protecting her commerce from imaginary dangers, is her need of colonial possessions.

While Europe was watching with bated breath the diplomatic conflict between Germany, France and England, some months ago, and while on the strength of the war talk resulting, vast commercial interests were embarrassed, fortunes were lost and won on the bourses, banks suspended payment and thousands were ruined, Robert Angell, author of The Great Illusion, published an article in one of the London dailies entitled The Mirage of the Map in which he showed what a foolish mirage Europe is pursuing.

After pointing out the international bitterness and suspicion created and the immense burdens laid upon the two or three hundred millions of people in Europe in the shape of taxation for armaments, labor wars, high prices and unsolved social difficulties, Mr. Angell proceeds to show that the conflict about Morocco was a perfectly futile matter. "To the vast majority of these 250,000,000 people," he says, "it does not matter two straws whether Morocco or some vague African swamp near the Equator is administered by German, French, Italian or Turkish officials, so long as it is well administered."

He even goes further and asserts that the nation which wins in a contest for territory of this sort has added a wealth-draining incubus. How, then, one is inclined to ask, is provision to be made for the future expansion of the race? Of the party desiring to take its place among world powers?

Mr. Angell, arguing that the accession of Morocco by France is of no benefit to France but rather the reverse, says: "Let us assume that she makes the same success of Morocco that she has made of her other possessions, of, say, Tunis, which represents one of the most successful of those operations of Colonial expansion which have marked her history during the last forty years. What has been the precise effect on French prosperity?"

He proceeds to show that in thirty years, at the cost of many millions, France has founded in Tunis a colony in which there are today about 25,000 genuine French Colonists, just about the number by which the French population in the real France is diminishing every year. And the value of Tunis as a market does not even amount to the direct cost of occupation, to say nothing of the indirect.

rect addition to military burdens. In other words France loses every year in her home population a colony equivalent to Tunis. "And yet," concludes Mr. Angell, "if once in a generation her rulers and diplomats can point to 25,000 Frenchmen living artificially and erotically under conditions which must in the long run be inimical to their race, it is pointed to as 'expansion' and as an evidence that France is maintaining her position as a Great Power."

A few years hence, Mr. Angell argues, unless there is some complete change of tendencies, the French race as we know it will have ceased to exist—swamped, without the firing of a single shot, by the Germans, Belgians, English, Italians and Jews. There are today in France more Germans than there are Frenchmen in all the Colonies that France has acquired in the last half century, and German trade with France outweighs the trade of France with all French Colonies. France is therefore a better Colony for the Germans than they could make of any which France has gained since 1871.

And what of Germany, "throttled" and "cramped" as she is supposed to have been all these years and needing "expansion" so much that she must fight for it? She has neither been throttled nor cramped, Mr. Angell argues. On the contrary, her expansion has been the wonder of the world. Practically without the aid of Colonies she has added 20,000,000 to her population, one half the present population of France, during a period in which the French population has actually diminished. Of all the nations in Europe she has cut the biggest swath in the development of world-commerce, industry and influence. Despite the fact that she has hardly expanded at all in the sense of mere political dominion, a proportion of her population equivalent to the white population of the whole Colonial British Empire make their living, or the best part of it, from the development and exploitation of territory outside her borders.

Germany has a few Colonies. Her trade with them is microscopic. If the 20,000,000 people added to her population since the war had to depend on their country's political conquests they would have had to starve. What feeds them are the countries that Germany never owned and never hopes to own, Brazil, Argentina, United States, India, Australia, Canada, Russia, France and England. These are her real Colonies.

Mr. Angell concludes that all the diplomatic and military conflict and rivalry and the waste of wealth are for things which both sides to the quarrel could sacrifice not merely without loss but with profit and that it is time the man in the street insisted that the experts in high places should acquire some sense of the reality of things.

SCHOOL AND SCHOOL MASTERS.

There is one notable exception to the general rule that wages are higher in Canada than in the Old Country. The exception is in the case of school teachers whose salaries are considerably higher than in this country. And, by the way, this fact may be very near to the root of the reason why we Canadians still look to the Old Country for so many of our college professors and why we hold in such veneration the professional of any class who has been "educated in the Old Country." This is specially true of that expression "educated in the Scottish Universities."

There is at present in Canada a party of forty-three Scottish teachers, mostly from the rural part of that country. They are touring Canada, as one of them expressed it in Montreal, on arrival last Monday night, "for a holiday and the pleasure of the trip, and at the same time we want to learn all we can about agricultural conditions in Canada, so as to be better able to answer the inquiries that are constantly made to us by the people of our districts—for the teacher is supposed to know everything."

From interviews given by these visiting teachers we gather the following facts regarding Scottish schools and school teachers:

The rural schools in Scotland are quite different from those in this country. They usually have more than one room, and, almost invariably, there is one male teacher. Practically all the male teachers are university graduates. In the town and city schools the female teachers are graduates also.

Now as to salaries. The minimum salary for a lady teacher in a rural school is £65 or \$325, while the minimum for men is £105, or \$525. If he is principal he gets about \$600

besides a free house.

In the large public schools of Edinburgh and Glasgow the principals receive \$1,750 to \$2,250, while the lady principals of infant departments receive from \$1,000 to \$1,500. These salaries would, of course, represent a good deal more money in this country and are quite liberal in comparison with those paid any where in Canada; they are princely as compared with salaries in Prince Edward Island.

Notwithstanding the fairly generous salaries there is a growing scarcity of male teachers even in Scotland. They leave the profession, as our teachers do in Canada to take up other lines of work that offer better opportunities. Yet they make it a point and seldom fail to have one male teacher in every school.

There is a suggestiveness that comes like a breath from an earlier period in our own Prince Edward Island history; in the expression above quoted, "for the teacher is supposed to know everything." Time was when the Prince Edward Island school was the centre of the district and the teacher, then always a man, was also supposed to know everything. He was the authority in all controversy, the judge and the giant in the debating club and the final authority in all disputes. He is gone and his place is taken by the young lady teacher or the school boy on his way to college. Neither the girl nor the boy is taken seriously; they are learning no more than the servant girl or the farm hand and the social standing is, unfortunately, in our practical commercial age, adjusted to the earning capacity. The school is no longer the centre of the district but is viewed rather as the guilty cause of an extra tax on the tax burdened (?) ratepayers. The teacher is a temporary servant, often filling the position, either until a cheaper servant can be procured or until he or she succeeds in securing a better position. Boy or girl they are on their way to something better and the school has lost its place as a permanent, fixed, unalterable authority in the district.

There are exceptions; there are many good and faithful teachers and some schools that are a credit to the communities of which they are the centre, but the schools which will restore Prince Edward Island even to its own former educational status will have more of the quality of permanence and stability than at present. Our schools, like our churches, should provide a residence for their teachers and they must, as all respectable institutions do, pay their teachers such salaries as will enable them to live as they ought to live among their equals.

Prince Edward Island is proudly called by its loyal sons and daughters "the garden of the gulf," "the million acre farm" and other

endearing and boastful pet names. A stranger visiting us naturally wonders why such a magnificent garden, such a fertile farm is unable to provide itself with its own garden and farm stuffs. What proportion of flour used in this "garden" is grown here? what proportion of oatmeal and rolled oats? of peas, beans, onions, canned meats, canned fish? Prince Edward Island should not import a barrel of flour, a barrel of rolled oats or a pound of the vegetables or fish mentioned. Until we are self-sustaining in garden stuff our boast as "the gardeners of the Gulf" is an empty one. Farmers, gardeners, think this over and ask yourselves, what is the matter?

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business. While it is creditable to our thrifty farmers to have amassed this money, the fact that it is lying idle as far as they are concerned, is not creditable to their business shrewdness. A small proportion of the millions on deposit if invested in an enterprise of some kind would bring the investors a much larger return directly and would also help them indirectly in creating a home market and home employment. There is abundance of money in this province waiting for investment in some rational enterprise. All that is needed is a shrewd capable and reliable promoter to set the ball rolling. There are scores of industries which could be started here if some one would set about it in the right way. Prince Edward Island is simply waiting for an invitation to invest its money.

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