

The Charlottetown Guardian

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1917.

THE OTTAWA DELEGATION

Our readers have no doubt read with pleasure, and we trust with profit, the report in yesterday's Guardian of the delegation to Ottawa. One of the lessons learned was the fact that through want of enterprise we had lost a great industrial opportunity. The delegation was told that, had the necessary steps been taken in time, the Munitions Board would have been only too glad to give contracts for as much munitions as our contractors would undertake to deliver. The Board had not found it necessary to go looking for manufacturers; contractors were continuously "sitting on the doorstep" asking for contracts, and contracts were handed out to every concern that would undertake to supply munitions. This we did not do. We knew that contracts for munitions were available; that all we had to do was to undertake the work and we would get all the contracts we could handle. But we were afraid to risk the necessary capital and we lost the opportunity. It is now, in all probability, too late to talk munitions.

The question of the construction of cars in the railway shops at Charlottetown is simply another business proposition and it is wide open to us. We claim that cars can be built as economically in Charlottetown as in Moncton. All we have to do is to submit figures to justify our claim and our railway shop will be opened. It is gratifying to note that the delegates are inviting information on this point. The matter should be gone into thoroughly and the results submitted to the Minister of Railways. We have his promise that if this business can be as economically carried on here we shall have it. The establishment of such works here would be of incalculable benefit to Charlottetown and to the province. It is worth taking pains to find out, even to go to considerable expense in finding out. Then, when we are able to submit a definite proposition to the Department, we are assured of the establishment of this much needed work here. One thing we must keep constantly in mind: the government is not going to open our railway shop as an act of charity or in order to give employment to our people. They are going to build cars in the most economical way possible and if we are in that way we shall get the job—otherwise we shall not. We trust the delegates will push this matter to a definite conclusion and settle it one way or the other. It will save us many useless and meaningless resolutions and hot air in days to come; it may, and we trust it will, result in the inauguration of a great industry in the province.

Another proposition was taken up by the delegates, namely, the manufacture of glass in the province. They were told by the Department of Mines, and were given ocular proof of the fact, that our Island sand was in quality, equal to the best sand obtainable in Belgium for the manufacture of glass. Here is another opportunity, another straight business proposition. The Department of Mines is not going to build a glass factory for us. If we want one we must build it ourselves. Such a factory would give employment to many; it would give the province a start in the industrial world that few other undertakings could do, for sand suitable for glass making is to be found only in a comparatively few places. The thing here is to obtain definite information, to find out how much suitable sand is available, where a suitable site could be obtained, what the thing would be worth as a business proposition, and organize a company to carry it through.

Our shipbuilding comes under the same category. On this subject we have "resolved" wisely at public meetings. If we have the courage of our convictions let us get down to actual figures and a definite business proposition. If we can build ships profitably and there are those who claim we can, who claim we have the lumber and the labour—and there is every reason to believe we have, let us put it in the form of a straight business proposition and invite the necessary capital. We have the money.

It is quite safe to say that one live promoter, a man with vision and courage, could within a few months establish any one of the industries mentioned or any one of the many others that have been discussed and secure all the money required right here among our own people. But we must remember that a straight, definite business proposition must be submitted before any one of our frugal moneyed men will take any chances with it.

The delegates are to be congratulated on the excellent report they submitted and on the results generally of their mission. They came in touch with the heads of the different departments of our government and in their conferences gave and received much information that cannot but be of benefit to all.

CHANGES IN AGRICULTURAL DEPT

Nearly everyone in this agricultural province will read today of the promotion of Professor W. R. Reek, as announced elsewhere in this issue, with mingled feelings. Professor Reek has received preferment in the Province of Ontario where he will occupy a very important position in the Department of Agriculture, enjoying a considerable increase in emoluments. Professor Reek has been in the province only two years but during that period his ability, energy and enterprise have been such as to leave a lasting impression upon our agricultural and industrial development. It was in February, 1914 that Professor Reek took up his duties as Director of Agricultural Instruction under the Dominion Agricultural Aid Grant, the first

appointment of the kind in the province. Professor Reek quickly adapted himself to the conditions here and planned out a scheme of agricultural education from the elementary to the advanced stage which has received the highest commendation from agricultural authorities throughout Canada and especially from the late Mr. C. C. James, head of the department at Ottawa. It is to Professor Reek that credit is due for the introduction of rural science teaching, as part of the ordinary curriculum in Prince of Wales College and it was at his instance that Professor McCready, one of the greatest teachers of rural science in the Dominion, was appointed to inaugurate the system, a system which is being admirably continued by Professor McLarty. Professor Reek was also instrumental in inaugurating school fairs and in developing the Short Course system of agricultural instruction for farmers, held at different centres throughout the province. The work he has done in connection with dairying and cheese making has been highly commended not only by progressive dairy farmers here but by authorities elsewhere, and the full fruits of the innovations and improvements he has been responsible for in this connection are still to be reaped. Professor Reek is an out-and-out believer in co-operation in the placing of farm produce on the market. When Mr. Benson was here the two worked hand in glove in furthering the co-operative system in the marketing of eggs, and when opposition reached such a stage that the prices of eggs and butter showed a tendency to drop, to the discouragement of farmers, Professor Reek undertook a special mission to wholesale firms in Nova Scotia and Montreal with a view to counteracting the effects and steadying the market. So successful was he that there was immediate improvement in the demand for Prince Edward Island dairy produce, a demand which has been maintained ever since. Encouraged by the success of his service in this direction Professor Reek undertook to introduce the co-operative selling of wool. Heretofore the farmers sold their wool in bulk in the open market and took what they got for it. Professor Reek, with the able assistance of Professor Reid, advocated in Prince County the introduction of the co-operative plan and showed that by grading their wool the farmers could obtain the highest prices obtainable in Canada. There was some opposition to begin with but the results were so satisfactory and the advantages so palpable that grading and co-operation in the wool industry are already established facts.

It is hardly necessary to refer to the prominent part played by Professor Reek in the establishment of the brick and tile industry here. He showed the enormous advantage that would accrue to the farmers by the introduction of sub-soil drainage and in reply to the criticism that the cost of importing the tiles made under-drainage practically prohibitive, urged the making of bricks and tiles from the clay which lay in abundance at our doors. He was not satisfied with merely urging this but he sent samples of our clay to Ottawa for analysis and experiment and proved that we had the best clay for the purpose probably in Canada. He then interested himself in the formation of a company to manufacture brick and tile and this materialized in Prince County. Legislation was passed last session providing ways and means for making subsoil drainage practicable and already a large area has already been mapped out for such treatment.

As a lecturer and speaker on agriculture and kindred subjects Professor Reek has few equals. He understands his subject thoroughly, is in deadly earnest and has one ambition only, to succeed in bettering the agricultural community in which his lot is cast. Last year when the Secretaryship of Agriculture was practically dispensed with Professor Reek assumed a large portion of the duties formerly discharged by Professor Ross and in the manner in which he discharged these brought him the highest praise and commendation from all quarters. It is not too much to say that the loss of the services of Professor Reek to the province at the present time is greatly to be deplored, but we are not in a position to be able to compete with such wealthy provinces as Ontario for the services of such highly efficient and competent officials as Professor Reek, and in this instance it can conscientiously be said that our loss is Ontario's gain.

The government is to be congratulated on the choice it has made in the successor to Professor Reek. Professor Reid, the new occupant of the position has been for over four years well and favourably known in the province. He came here with high credentials from Ontario as Animal Husbandman and quickly showed such a keen and lively interest in agricultural development generally that his services were taken advantage of in connection with the various departments of Agriculture. He ably seconded Professor Reek in his progressive forward policy and could be thoroughly relied upon to further the best interest of the Department and to advance the general good of the farming community.

When the Department was re-arranged two years ago Prof. Reid, who is married to a daughter of Dr. Carruthers of this City, was sent to take charge of Agriculture generally in Prince County, with headquarters in Summerside. He has done a great deal of efficient and valuable work there which has been highly appreciated by all concerned. He has an excellent grasp of the agricultural situation and the plans which the government intend carrying out and should prove an excellent successor to Prof. Reek as Director of Agricultural Instruction.

The vacancy in the representation in Prince County, caused by the promotion of Professor Reid has been filled by the transference of Prof. Tennant from the head office to Summerside. Prof. Tennant made a good record as agricultural representative in Kings County and has done excellent work since being attached to the head office in Charlottetown and we have every confidence that he will make good in his new appointment and continue the work so well begun by his predecessor.

The Speaker of the Senate, Hon. A. Boldre, entertained at luncheon on Tuesday of last week a number of the guests mentioned was Senator Murphy of Tignish, who has since returned from Ottawa.

Miss Dalton was hostess on Tuesday evening for the Devonshire Bridge Club at her lovely home, St. Anthony's Villa. Miss Bessie Burke was the successful prize winner.

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

Their Majesties, the King and Queen this week visited the Massey-Harris Convalescent Home at Kingswood, where over one hundred Canadians are recuperating. Their Majesties were accompanied by Lady Airle and six Charles Cust. The visitors were received by Miss Harding and the Matron, Mrs. Reynolds. Prior to their departure their Majesties were cheered to the echo by the men, who had gathered in the large Assembly Hall. Acknowledging the reception the King said: "The Queen and myself are delighted to see you this afternoon, and to find how comfortable and well cared for you are. We wish you a very speedy recovery."

Canadians in general were pleased to learn of the appointment of the Duke of Connaught as inspector general of the overseas troops, made public in the London press this week.

The season is fast approaching when spring styles will occupy the thoughts of the gentle sex, especially the new Easter bonnets and it is of course well known that milliners are quite mac. In any case the extraordinary things they do from time to time corroborate that impression. They stick on bits of the most delicate, pieces of leather and scraps of dill, which, if nothing else, serve to make people stare. Just now the thing is adding a touch to lift the thing from the realm of the common place to that of the romantic. Peruvian designs are the latest the most grotesque Peruvian hats showing humorous angles where every line seems to be a novelty, and have curves. Old-fashioned appliques in black or white or colors trim very striking models, while another new trimming is a spray of flowers which looks like clear celluloid but is not. These flowers may be washed with impunity.

Miss Helen Hobkirk who has been on a delightful visit among her friends in Summerside for the past several days, has returned home.

Senator and Mrs. McLean have returned to their home in Souris from Ottawa. Mrs. McLean had intended going south for a few months, but on account of recent developments in the United States has cancelled her Californian visit for the present.

The young lady hockeyists are enthusiastically pursuing and have challenged the Summerside and Alberton teams to a friendly game, which will no doubt come off shortly.

Miss Haviland has hostess for the afternoon Bridge Club on Wednesday, there being quite a large attendance.

The social and parcel post sale in the Hearts memorial hall on Wednesday evening was quite a novelty, and entirely successful, socially and financially. Needless to say the "parcel post" was entirely too small for the patrons, but perhaps others may be held in the future.

Mr. A. A. McLean, M.P., and Mrs. McLean, who are stopping this week at the Russel House, Ottawa, will visit in New York before returning home.

Many Charlottetown friends were interested this week in the engagement made public of Mrs. G. E. Auld and Mr. A. A. Pomeroy, manager of the Queen Hotel, Halifax, the marriage to take place during the first week of June.

The Thursday evening Bridge was at Mrs. Nolan's this week, and was most enjoyable.

Prof. and Mrs. Clark had a jolly crowd of young people as their guests on Thursday evening, entertaining first to a drive, and followed by a pleasant evening's fun at the Experimental Station.

The safe arrival in England this week of Lieut. England and nursing sister Miss Elsie Nicholson, came as a pleasant relief to their families and friends owing to the great danger now experienced in crossing the Atlantic.

Not to be outshone in patriotic efforts the ladies of the Curling Club are dispensing hot soup in the evening at a nominal cost, and the hospital is proving quite popular with everyone—the proceeds going to patriotic purposes.

The Canadian officers who formed part of the Imperial escort at the opening of Parliament on Wednesday last were presented to the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace and entertained at luncheon.

Mr. James McKenna, the popular travelling passenger agent of the C. P. R., who has a wide circle of friends here, regret to learn that he fractured his leg on Feb. 11, and is now in the Jeffrey Hale's Hospital in Quebec.

The Speaker of the Senate, Hon. A. Boldre, entertained at luncheon on Tuesday of last week a number of the guests mentioned was Senator Murphy of Tignish, who has since returned from Ottawa.

Miss Dalton was hostess on Tuesday evening for the Devonshire Bridge Club at her lovely home, St. Anthony's Villa. Miss Bessie Burke was the successful prize winner.

The ladies of St. Paul's church held a nicely arranged tea and sale in the Parish Hall on Thursday afternoon receiving an exceptionally wide patronage.

The concert last evening in the Cathedral was one of the nicest ever given, and was a decided change in entertaining. That there was an abundance of musical talent in this city was clearly shown, and everyone enjoyed the program.

Rev. Benj. Chappell, missionary to Japan, is at present in Pasadena, California, to be near his daughter, Miss Jean, who is attending school. His other two daughters, Misses Mary and Constance, returned from their winter and summer and expect to spend in Canada with their sister, Miss Jean, while Mr. Chappell returns to Japan in August coming east, however, before doing so.

OUR OTTAWA LETTER

(From our own Correspondent.) OTTAWA, Feb. 14.—The session of Parliament, which adjourned the other day to allow Sir Robert Borden to attend the Imperial conference in London was notable mainly for the subject of the Government's conduct of the war to intelligent and searching criticism. While every use was made of the principle that it was the duty of an opposition to oppose the dominant party, poor use was made of advantage to help the country and the men at the front by anything that the most imaginative onlooker could designate as constructive criticism. Constructive criticism is the outcome of investigation and clear thinking, and is welcomed by any Government. This criticism the Liberal party in the House was unable to offer because of failure to get together on a war policy capable of open announcement. One reason for this is seen in the fact that there is in the opposition ranks a large number of representatives from the province of Quebec, and as the speech of Mr. Laurier made it quite apart from the utterances of Mr. Cannon in Dorchester, the policy of the Liberals in Parliament is not one on which the party is united. It is difficult to imagine Mr. Laurier and Mr. Oliver pulling together, even under the benign personality of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Nor is the failure of Dr. Clark, of Red Deer, to take a forward part in the session's work, hard to understand in view of the condition of the party. Frank Oliver was the leading opposition critic, and it may be freely admitted that his conduct was of assistance to Parliament and useful to the country. If that gentleman had not been so diligent, the failure of his colleagues to interest themselves in the grave matters under discussion might not have been so inexcusable. George P. Graham was usually in attendance, leading the opposition in the frequent absences of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, but he displayed an unusual depth of information regarding the business of the war.

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MOTOR BUS.

Sir.—The writer saw for the first time on Thursday, the new motor bus, which I presume is one of the number to run in Charlottetown. It is certainly an up-to-date and comfortable looking vehicle, and seats about twelve to fifteen people. To my mind it is just exactly the kind of conveyance suitable for a level city such as Charlottetown is, and would be a boon to a great number of people who neither keep horses nor automobiles. There are hundreds of our townsmen, tired mothers and children, elderly people and invalids, to say nothing of tourists, who could have an outing to our beautiful park, or a drive around the suburbs for a small fare, and they would also be a convenience to a great number of people who live on the outskirts of the town.

WEARY PEDESTRIAN.

By all means let us have these bus-roads, and I am sure they will prove a great comfort and convenience. I am, sir, etc.

Mrs. MacCreedy very pleasantly entertained on Wednesday afternoon Bridge, dainty prizes being given the successful winners.

As Lent approaches hostesses are changing from Bridge to sewing parties and several very pleasant affairs were held this week.

Two afternoons this week were taken up by the high tea in Notre Dame Academy the attendance being quite large on both occasions.

There was a large attendance at the Saturday afternoon skating party at Government House rink, Ottawa. His Excellency skated during part of the afternoon. Among the invited guests appears the name of Mrs. A. McLean of Charlottetown.

Mrs. John Agnew, who has as her week-end guest her daughter, Mrs. Ralph Fielding of Alberton, entertained quite a number of ladies from the city on Thursday evening to an enjoyable sleigh drive, which was terminated at her son Alexander's farm at East Royalty. There a delightful supper was served and several pleasant hours spent, the drive home being not the least of the evening's pleasure.

The letter to Doctor Reid refers only to matters of customs. When Mr. Russell came back from England, I asked him to come to Ottawa and we held a Treasury Board meeting at which the Solicitor General was present. We asked him for an explanation of the commission of the sale by the Ottawa Car Company. He gave a full, direct and entirely satisfactory explanation and I wrote to Sir George Perley as follows:—

Ottawa, January 5, 1915 Personal. My Dear Sir George.—At my request,

(To be continued.)

ALL ABOUT THE MILITIA

SIR THOMAS WHITE, MINISTER OF FINANCE TELLS AN INTERESTING STORY ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MILITIA DEPARTMENT UNDER SIR SAM HUGHES.

Mr. T. A. Russell, to whom I gave a letter of introduction to you some time ago, appeared to-day before the Treasury Board with reference to purchase for the Militia Department of transport necessary for the first contingent, in view of my cable to you I think it only proper to say that Mr. Russell's explanations were not only entirely satisfactory to the members of the Committee but such as to entitle him to the thanks of the Government for the untiring intelligence and industry displayed by him in arranging the purchase within a period of twenty days of the entire transportation equipment and the first contingent. There has been parties ill-founded criticism by interested parties but we are all satisfied that Mr. Russell's conduct throughout has been wholly exemplary, and a most difficult task to perform at least, with the great ability. As Mr. Griffith saw the great ability, sent you I shall be glad if you will acquaint him with the contents of this letter.

With kind regards to you, Yours faithfully, (Sgd.) W. T. White

Hon. George Perley, London.

That looks as if I were interested in Mr. Russell making commission; the Militia Department, in view of the responsibility of the statement I have made, believe me, I have to say I am sorry for it.

Before six o'clock I stated that I understood the ex-minister had been willing that an overseas minister should be appointed to the position. Mr. Russell was Sir Max Aitken, I accepted the statement that the ex-minister made that that was not his intention, but the statement made in his letter of October 1916, which possibly has been before more than proud to support the proposition, with all my heart and all my power, if you fill in the name of Sir Max Aitken, it is a question of the name and not the office.

Sir SAM HUGHES: Read the next letter.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: Which one? Sir SAM HUGHES: The hon. gentleman must know that if there is one next letter, he writes. Read the town.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: Very well; but, however, I accept the explanation of my hon. friend and I am quite willing to make his statement that he was opposed to the appointment of an overseas minister of militia, which I have cleared up nearly all the matters touched upon by the ex-minister of militia, except the question of delay in the purchase of transports. My own recollection in regard to this is that as a matter of fact, I had very little to do with it, it is there was some delay as to whether Kelly-Springfield or some other truck was the better truck. But my recollection is that the ex-minister of militia appointed a committee for the purpose of determining that, and whatever delays took place were delays inseparable from making a decision on the very important subject of motor transport. That is all I desire to say upon that.

There are one or two observations I desire to make upon the general debate. I do not propose to generalize, but I am sorry and I think many members of this House are sorry, as well as many people of this country, that in some respects this debate has degenerated into a petty political controversy. I have no desire to generalize. I say because I would be unfair. Some notable speeches, some serious speeches, some earnest speeches have been made, but it seems to me that there has been a lot of idle talk about patronage and appointments and Nationalists. Here we are in the midst of the greatest war in the world, a war in which we are engaged as belligerents; the flower of our youth at the front, others of our sons in the United Kingdom ready to go to the front, and thousands in Canada ready to cross the seas. We are at the very crucial period of the war—the third and probably the decisive year, the year in which the greatest battles in the history of the world will be fought, the year in which the greatest strain will be imposed upon the belligerents, the year of defeat or of victory, and yet in this House some of us are talking about patronage, appointments, and Nationalists, and assuring the Government of Canada, have played a great part in the war.

Ascertain and cable whether T. A. Russell whom I introduced to you has been appointed as purchasing agent for British Government, as reported here. I am sorry to state there has been a change in his buying for Militia Department here. If he is purchasing for War Office ask him to see you and show him this cable. Important.

I got a cablegram back from Sir George Perley in which he said that—

Have seen Russell who says he has not been appointed purchasing agent for British Government except that he has arranged through another firm to buy in United States some goods for War Office about which he wrote truly to Doctor Reid but which for war reasons ought not be generally known. I am writing you some particulars by today's mail. Russell has also been asked by War Office report on some large machines when he returns home early in December.

The letter to Doctor Reid refers only to matters of customs. When Mr. Russell came back from England, I asked him to come to Ottawa and we held a Treasury Board meeting at which the Solicitor General was present. We asked him for an explanation of the commission of the sale by the Ottawa Car Company. He gave a full, direct and entirely satisfactory explanation and I wrote to Sir George Perley as follows:—

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