

The Charlottetown Guardian

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MONDAY, MARCH 12, 1917.

LIVE WIRE WANTED

To the thoughtful man or woman the reports read at the recent annual meeting of the Prince Edward Island Commission should be an eye-opener and an inspiration, and it is hoped that at the earliest possible opportunity the reports, in pamphlet or other convenient form, will be made available to the province at large. We are living in the midst of unbounded opportunities; we have unlimited wealth within easy reach, but, through fear of leaving the conventional paths followed by our pioneer forefathers, we have ignored our possibilities, struggling along, content to import what we should produce for ourselves, to allow our natural resources to be undeveloped while spending much of our time and our labour in building up the industries and developing the resources of our sister provinces and of foreign countries.

The report of Mr. W. P. Callaghan on the growing and canning of small fruits and vegetables, published in The Guardian Saturday, is one which, if acted upon, would unquestionably add hundreds of thousands of dollars to the wealth of the province. He reminded us that there are thousands of acres on which wild berries grow naturally and which are available for the mere cost of picking. These are blueberries and cranberries, both of which grow abundantly. Cranberries are being cultivated extensively and successfully in some sections of the province, while it is known that the yield of blueberries also can be greatly increased by care and cultivation. This latter has not, so far as we know, been attempted in this province although blueberry cultivation is being very successfully carried on in the United States.

The point that Mr. Callaghan makes, however is that these wild berries should be canned or preserved here, instead of being shipped abroad or, as is most generally the case, allowed to rot where they grow.

His observations on strawberry culture also are worthy of careful consideration. Those who have engaged in this industry have found it very remunerative, and there is no reason why every farm in the province should not have from half an acre to several acres under strawberries. Whether shipped abroad as fresh fruit, or preserved or canned or bottled, strawberry culture would pay better probably than any other line on the farm. This is true, as Mr. Callaghan points out, of small vegetables and other small fruits. We are importing tons of beans, peas, onions, cucumbers, tomatoes, etc., either whole or manufactured, all of which we can grow as well as they can be grown elsewhere in Canada. Why could we not grow and manufacture them here instead of importing them?

The fact is we are lacking in enterprise, we are overlooking our possibilities and following along with but slight variations, in the grooves that suited our pioneer days. Our people are gradually beginning to realise this and are prepared to take hold of any of these innovations provided it is placed before them in concrete, business form. As frequently stated in these columns the one great need of our province is an enterprising, reliable promoter who will go minutely into these possibilities of ours, place the prospects fairly before our people, solicit their financial support and get it. We have no doubt that a canning and preserving factory could be floated in this province and operated successfully both to its shareholders and to the province. Enough farmers could be induced to grow strawberries, onions, beans, etc., to ensure continuous work for a large sized factory which would not only give employment to many of our own people but would be a source of wealth to the province. The time is now ripe for such an enterprise; there is abundant money lying idle in the province to float such a factory. All that is needed is a live wire to connect our well known love of money making with the resources that we have in abundance for making money. Where are we to look for the live wire?

DURATION OF THE WAR

As doctors differ, so also do the military experts differ as to the probable duration of the war. The wish that the war will end shortly is probably father to the thought that it is to end during the present year. This wish is as prevalent in the lines of the Allies as in those of the enemy, both are hungry for peace.

In our recent telegrams the opinions of some British statesmen, notably Winston Spencer Churchill, were given as showing the wisdom of making preparation for a 1918 campaign. This would indicate that the end is not yet clearly in sight of these, but opinions differ. Mr. Stephen Lauzanne, editor of the Paris Matin, and who has kept in close touch with movements in France, is at present in New York. In an interview with the New York Tribune the other day, Mr. Lauzanne said:

"France has completed preparations for a great effort to make this the decisive year of the war. Despatches which I have received from Paris indicate that

the country will go into the great spring drive with larger supplies of munitions ready, and with the military and civil governments more efficiently organized than in any previous spring of the war.

"The nation, for war time, has been unwontedly prosperous during the winter, except for a coal shortage. This is now no longer serious. Preparation for the spring has consumed the winter months. The first fruits of this preparation are already shown in the gains on the Somme."

Referring to the German activities in the United States, Mr. Lauzanne said: "France and the Allies feel that Germany, through her plots against the United States, is now shown—perhaps for the first time—in her true light before all the world. To the Allies, through this exposure, has now been given unqualifiedly the moral support of all civilized nations.

"No one wishes to bring to the United States the horrors of war. Yet it is good to know that this country, standing as it does for ideals of truth, liberty and justice, and having no party which wants war, has had sharply revealed to it those qualities in the German nation which made the Central Powers the enemies of the Allies. Denunciations of Germany originating among the Allies have been received in this country with a grain of salt. France is glad that the exposure of a definite Teutonic plot forces the United States to see Germany as she really is.

"Many things show how France rejoices at having received the moral support of America. Demonstrations in the streets of French cities and rejoicings in the trenches upon receipt of the news of the diplomatic break between Germany and the United States, the welcome given the Orleans and the Rochester upon their arrival in French ports—these are but a few of the incidents indicative of the gladness with which France receives the moral backing of America."

LIBERAL MISCONSTRUCTION

In a recent issue the Toronto Globe raised a howl on a purposely misconstrued address given by Mr. R. B. Bennett, M. P., Director General of National Service, before the Saskatchewan Legislature. The howl was promptly taken up by the smaller fry of Liberal newspapers, including the Patriot. By quoting disconnected extracts from Mr. Bennett's address the impression was sought to be made that he stated there was no need of sending more men from Canada to the battlefields, that what was really needed was more food production. Needless to say Mr. Bennett made no such impression upon his hearers. While speaking along the general lines of national service he particularly emphasized the need of more food production although in no way minimizing the need of men.

The Liberal organ in Regina, The Leader, reported Mr. Bennett as follows:

"Mr. Bennett declared that it was not a military crisis which existed today, for Great Britain had an army of two million first-rate troops in France. The crisis was in the German submarine campaign, which sought to destroy all the freight and passenger ships which were taking supplies from the extreme ends of the Empire to the Motherland. Not only had the civil population to be fed, but the troops in France and other theatres of war had to be provided for. If the German campaign was sufficient to destroy the ocean traffic the war would end by starvation, as Germany planned, and the silent power of hunger would bring about capitulation.

"Canada's proximity to Great Britain, as compared with the other portions of the Empire, placed the burden of responsibility on her, and the Dominion was looking to Saskatchewan, the greatest wheat and cereal-producing province of the Confederation, to do her part and secure a maximum production. The thought which he wished the legislators to take home to their constituents, where they were the shapers of public opinion, was that in the production of this province would the power of Canada to assist the Mother Country be shown."

NOTES

Are the American people who are tamely submitting today to the German embargo any kin to the American people who two and a half years ago applauded the Belgians because they wouldn't—Boston Transcript.

Germany's present idea of the situation is, no doubt, correctly summed up in the following words which we take from the speech of one of her leading men, made a few days ago: "Germany's aim is to issue from the war victorious. With victory she will have won all; without it she will have lost all." We have no doubt that Germany has meant this all the time; and President Wilson might find in those words some food for reflection when he is inclined to sigh for the fate of his "peace without victory" proposal.

More and more do the astounding financial operations of England stagger the human mind. Upon the dizzy top of a sixteen billion dollar debt that country swiftly and with apparent ease places another three and a half billions. The world has witnessed nothing in the past like these stupendous loans. In a day Great Britain floats a larger debt than the total debt of the United States at the close of our four years of civil war. In a day its people purchase as great a bulk of debt as England's debt was when this awful war began. There seems to be no bottom to the British purse, and the mighty war loans doubly prove the Briton's boast in the past of his country's fathomless wealth.—Philadelphia Ledger.

STEWART LYON

THE CANADIAN WAR CORRESPONDENT

(By Newton MacTavish, in Canadian Magazine.)

Stewart Lyon, editor of The Globe Toronto, set aside for the present at least the foremost position in journalism in Canada to become what is known as a war correspondent. Not a war correspondent in the ordinary sense, for he virtually goes to the battlefield to report officially for all the people of Canada, or at least for all of them who read newspapers. About the time that Canadian soldiers began to operate at the front the Government appointed Sir Max Aitkin official eye-witness. Sir Max made records for the Government and later on he published a book, a very good book entitled "Canada in Flanders." He had in a staff of helpers more than his own two eyes as witnesses. Lyon goes the other hand, goes unaided. He has the consent of the Government, but not its assistance. And although his mission, which is supported wholly by the Canadian Press, Limited, is in many respects as important as a "commanding officer's, he does not command as much as a corporal's guard, an orderly, or even a company bearer. He goes alone, relying on his own resources to carry him through all the vicissitudes of an unattached man at the front.

A Glasgow Boy

Stewart Lyon is fifty-one years of age. He was born at Port Glasgow, Scotland and here he went to the editorial chair of The Globe with all the traditional Scottish qualifications. George Brown, the great founder of The Globe, was a Scotsman. John Cameron, his immediate successor, had the name and half the characteristics of a Scot. S. Wilson, another Scottish parentage, and J. A. Macdonald, the next to follow, has boasted ever since that the blood of the Cameron of Lochiel and of the Grant of Craig Elsie and of the Macdonald Mohr himself that mingles in his veins is to this day untouched and untainted by any Lowland or Sassenach or alien blood of any kind.

But Lyon has not depended his chances in life merely on the chance of birth. Had he done so he still might be sitting at the saddle's bench where he began. Saddle indeed was his beginning after he left school, but it was far from being the end; for having a radical nature and an open-handed disposition he soon set foot on the soil of the new world, where he began to seek the moulds of public opinion. Among the first available was the open-air meeting, a mould that he had seen used more freely in the Old Country than in the new. He selected the Queen's Park in Toronto and there, until he was stopped by the police he discussed single tax and other social questions. Then he perched himself on the editorial chair of the newspaper, and having made a study of municipal affairs, he was put on the staff of The Globe as city hall reporter. It was while he was still in that position that I first saw him. He was sitting at a flat desk in the reporters' room in the present Globe building, before it was remodelled—a slight, wiry, keen-sighted young man, with wavy black hair, now almost white, and a black moustache. I was told in a whisper that he was the crack reporter of the staff, getting the princely salary of twenty-five dollars a week. Naturally I regarded the crack reporter as a person of extraordinary importance, a more important person, indeed, than Mr. Willison, the editor who had failed to discover on me the shining spots of genius P. A. Acland, the present Deputy Minister of Labor at Ottawa, was city editor, or, rather, he combined the functions of news editor and city editor. It was to him that I had to apply, as I did every day, for a position or a night assignment. He kept on telling me that Willison had made one or two promises, which might not be set aside, and that until they were fulfilled I had no chance. Meantime, however, if I wished to give him a few lines about a farewell to some out-

going missionary or the regular monthly meeting of the Separate School Board, he might find room for them among the items of local interest.

The New City Editor

Then, one afternoon, I went in, as usual, to the city editor's desk, and there I saw the black-haired, keen-visaged Stewart Lyon—the new city editor. I asked for Mr. Acland, and without looking up from the paper he was reading he informed me that he himself, very likely, would be in that chair henceforth for some short time at least. He knew just as well as I knew what I wanted and the one thing I remember is that he was curiously sympathetic. Sympathy, indeed, is one of his attributes, even if at times he uses peculiar means to hide it. He can be sympathetic and yet, apparently, very hostile.

The editorial system of "The Globe" was enlarged when Lyon became city editor, a new position in that office. Previously one man had done the work of two. There was, indeed, a general branching out. An assistant was appointed to the financial editor and the reporting staff was enlarged. Lyon assumed his new duties with immense enthusiasm, and that enthusiasm displayed any appearance of wanting. He was only natural, therefore, when Acland resigned that Lyon should succeed him. As news editor he acted with signal success until after the death of John Ewan, whom he succeeded as associate editor to Dr. Macdonald.

An Amusing Episode

Ewan used to relate an incident that revealed the dissimilar temperaments of Lyon and Macdonald. It should be explained that the news editor has to oversee the arrangement of all matter that goes into the paper. That arrangement is called "makeup," and most of it is done between midnight and three o'clock in the morning. Several others on his staff, representing various newspapers are not affected immediately by news and therefore it is the first to go in for makeup. It so happened, however, that Macdonald, the editor, was sufficiently a Celt in temperament to be absorbed by the editorial he had just written and utterly contemptuous of the mechanical process of getting it to the readers' eyes. Naturally followed that a few nights after Macdonald became editor Lyon suddenly discovered, away beyond midnight, that the editorial page had not gone through. He jumped about four feet into the air, and made a dash along the corridor and up the stairs into the composing room.

There he found Macdonald calmly reading his "leader" aloud to the foreman, oblivious of time or audience, except that he appeared to think he had plenty of both. When Lyon returned to his office, Ewan found him still foaming, but when the comical aspect of the incident was pointed out he began to feel as if the earth was again revolving on its axis.

Lyon has a passion for promptness and thoroughness, and always has been a slave to his position. He has a ready-made opinion for all emergencies, but his opinions, unlike most Scotsmen's can be changed. They are not always necessary to use a sledgehammer, a hand-grenade, or a Jack Johnson.

There have been few Canadian war correspondents. The first was George Ham, who sent to The Mail, Toronto, accounts of the last Riel rebellion. John Ewan was sent by The Globe to Cuba at the time of the Spanish-American war, and he also, as well as Frederick Hammon, represented the same paper in South Africa, but their work was so inconspicuous that it scarcely is worth recording. W. Richmond Smith represented a number of publications during the Russian-Japanese war, and "Kit" sent to The Mail and Empire, Toronto, letters about the Spanish-American war.

The Man For The Job

To Stewart Lyon has fallen a more important and more imposing task. He will rise to it the same as he has risen to each opportunity as it has come to him in the successive stages of newspaper work from reporter to editor-in-chief. He is well equipped for the work. He writes well, is unusually alert and owing to the demands of The Globe's "War Summary," which he has written since the beginning of the war, he knows thoroughly every aspect of the struggle. He will not be easily upset or misinformed. If he finds it necessary to reveal wrongdoing he will reveal it with unflinching honesty and fairness, and nothing will be done with malice or with a view to making mischief. He will take his work seriously, because it is serious work, and he will not take anything for granted that is too important to be so taken. For he is a strict Presbyterian and a stickler on points of religious observance. He advocates and practises temperance. He never drinks tea or coffee, and only on very special occasions, such as an annual dinner, a twenty-first birthday, or a general

OUR OTTAWA LETTER

(From our own Correspondent)

OTTAWA, March 6.—Mr. O'Connor, the Department of Labor's Cost of Living Commissioner, has concluded his investigation into the business of local dealers. He is now carrying on private investigations on a larger scale into the cost of the necessities of life, going into statistical figures in possession of the Department of Trade and Commerce and other branches of the public service, and enquiring into the business of wholesalers, manufacturers, producers and other persons and corporations concerned. In closing the Ottawa investigation the Commissioner intimated that it might be some time before he made his report to the Labor Department. He repeated the assertion made at the opening of the enquiry that his activities were not in the line of prosecution but were for the purpose of securing information. Butter and eggs were the subject of enquiry at the closing session, and R. G. Dobler, sales manager of Matthews Limited, was the chief witness. Practically the only point of importance discussed was that of cold storage. Asserting that there was no protracted storage in Ottawa, Mr. Dobler advanced the contention of cold storage dealers that storage, contrary to popular conception, did not enhance the price of commodities. He declared that while the storage business advanced prices when there was a surplus of a commodity it lowered prices in the seasons when there was a scarcity. In the case of eggs if there were no cold storage there would be nothing but new laid eggs on the market in the winter season and prices would be higher than they are with storage. Commissioner O'Connor did not dispute this argument, but he advanced against it the assertion of the opponents of cold storage that prices are higher now than before storage was inaugurated. Mr. Dobler, in reply, declared that there had been a general advance in prices. This was particularly the case in the last year or so, increased exports were responsible to a very large extent, he contended, for present prices. In the case of eggs the ex-

ports were four times greater in 1916 than in 1915. The Commissioner took for reference figures supplied by the witness as to cost and selling prices. According to these figures the average profit of the Matthews firm on eggs stored between August and November was only three fourths of a cent a dozen after overhead and other charges had been paid. Butter profits were correspondingly low. The Commissioner, remarked on the narrow margin of profit allowed by the firm, the witness stating that this was possible through volume of business.

"If I were the Government I would but the factory and manufacture what arms the British Government told me ought to be made for the defence of our boys at the front," declared Hon. George P. Graham, ex-Minister for Railways in the Laurier cabinet when discussing the Ross rifle at a patriotic meeting in Toronto the other day. Assuredly the hon. gentleman's zeal for the welfare of the boys at the front does him great credit. It is unfortunate, however that he was not the Government of Canada in 1902 when the question of rifles to arm Canada's soldiers was up for consideration in the Laurier cabinet. At that time, and in the face of a protest from the British War Office the Laurier Government entered into binding agreements with Sir Charles Ross for the supply of Ross Rifles to the Canadian troops, under conditions which made the Ross rifle practically the permanent Canadian arm. Hon. Mr. Graham at the time was in the Ontario Legislature. Consequently when a statement was quoted that he should be chosen to make it. But, it may be asked, why when he entered the Laurier cabinet did he not take up this very important question with his colleagues? His eloquent plea for the defence of the brave Canadian soldiers might have influenced them desirably from the standpoint of Canada and the Empire. Just another point, The War Office has informed the Government here that it would take two years to refit the Ross rifle factories at Quebec to make the rifle it requires; This correspondence was brought down during the last session of parliament and Mr. Graham was informed by it of the facts. If the Ontario Liberal leader is open for a suggestion I respectfully advise that it would be the part of wisdom to leave the deliberate misrepresentation of conditions for party purposes to the smaller men.

The adoption of the territorial plan of military organization for overseas marks the fourth departure in Canadian recruiting. First there was the grand free-for-all to Valcartier which landed thirty-five thousand men there with lightning speed and left the military authorities with a tangle on their hands. That this tangle was straightened out well was shown by the work in France of the Iron Men of the First Division. The next plan was to authorize outstanding men in various parts of the country to raise corps. That

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