

The Charlottetown Guardian

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COLONEL DAVISON'S ATTITUDE

The Patriot of Wednesday publishes on its front page, with considerable display of capitals, a letter "received by one of the Liberal Federal candidates from Colonel Davison." The letter is dated London, December 30th, four days after arrival in London, the party having arrived in Liverpool on Christmas Day and in London the next.

In this letter Colonel Davison says "we were pleased to learn, on our arrival, of the result at home and we hope your majorities are large enough to keep you safe." This sentiment the Patriot displays in black type.

We do not know what the Patriot's object was in publishing this letter. It is well known to Patriot readers that Colonel Davison left this province as one of the official representatives of Laurierites in Canada; well known that his sympathies were with the Laurierite candidates in Prince Edward Island and elsewhere in Canada. These were his sympathies on leaving Prince Edward Island and after landing in England; he was naturally pleased that the candidates of his party had apparently been elected by the home vote and he naturally hoped their majorities were sufficiently large to ensure their safety.

A month after this letter was written, or to be exact, on the 27th day of January, 1918 after a month's intercourse with Canadian officers and soldiers, after a month's association with officials in England and France, Colonel Davison had learned the truth of the situation and had the courage and the manliness to admit it in a letter which has already appeared in the Guardian, and in which he says:

"THE RESULT OF THE ELECTIONS IN CANADA HAS DONE MORE GOOD FOR CANADA THAN OUR PEOPLE AT HOME CAN IMAGINE; IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A SERIOUS BLOW TO OUR CANADIAN FORCES HERE IF IT HAD BEEN OTHERWISE.

It is quite true, as the Patriot evidently wishes its readers to understand, that Colonel Davison changed his mind between the time of his leaving home and the end of a month's association with the soldiers. This, however, should not surprise the Patriot for at least once in its own history it has had a similar experience. The Patriot was, not many moons before the election, unwaveringly in favor of conscription, but later, for partisan reasons changed its mind on this vital question. The only difference between the Patriot and Colonel Davison is that the former recanted its patriotism, whereas the latter realized what true patriotism demanded.

A KYTE THAT FAILED

It is a fitting coincidence that on the day the defeat of Mr. Kyte in Richmond, N.S., was announced, official figures should be published showing that through the Imperial Munitions Board orders have been placed in Canada for \$1,100,000,000 worth of munitions, and the sum of \$875,000,000 already expended in respect of these orders in plants established in every province of Canada outside of Prince Edward Island.

The Imperial Munitions Board is the organization that carried on and developed the work begun by the small commission appointed and inspired by Sir Sam Hughes, presided over by General, now Sir Alexander Bertram. That small commission was appointed within two months of the declaration of war in 1914, and six or eight months before the British Government woke up to the need of special organization of the country's industrial resources for shell making. The Canadian Commission had a tremendous task in inducing Canadian manufacturers to start making shells. Appeals and arguments would have failed but for the financial inducements that the Commission finally offered. Then the new industry was threatened with wreck because the War Office would not take unfinished shells, and in Canada there were no facilities for the manufacture of fuses. The Commission again was forced to offer generous financial inducements to United States manufacturers of fuses in order to relieve the situation. This was Mr. Kyte's opportunity for

notoriety. In language direct enough to create alarm throughout the country among Conservatives as well as Liberals, but vague enough to enable Mr. Kyte's counsel subsequently to declare that Mr. Kyte had "made no charges," the member for Richmond, N.S., from his place in the House made a speech that enveloped the Dominion Shell Commission and Sir Sam Hughes, the Minister of Militia, in an atmosphere of criminality. The House and the country were shocked, Mr. Kyte was famous, General Bertram and his associate, already tired out through overwork were made the target of the most shameful attacks in Parliament and press.

Sir Robert Borden rose to the occasion. He immediately ordered a judicial commission to investigate. After the most thorough inquiry, Sir Sam Hughes and the members of the Shell Commission were absolved from all the vague charges, nothing was found in these charges except that certain Americans had made a good thing out of the extremity in which Canada found itself because of the imperative and immediate need for fuses, and some small though belated public recognition was given to the splendid work of the Shell Commission.

The members of the Shell Commission, worn-out by their previous exertions and harassed almost to death by the vicious campaign of slander started by Mr. Kyte, gave way to a new organization, the Imperial Munitions Board, but not before they had placed orders in Canada for five hundred million dollars worth of munitions. The industry they started was continued, the campaign they inaugurated against great odds bore fruit, and the orders placed in Canada for munitions have now reached a total so fabulous as to be beyond human appreciation. Eleven hundred million dollars!

By the votes of Canada's fighting men in France Mr. Kyte has been turned out of Parliament and the country has reason to rejoice.

IT IS TO SMILE:

Patriot readers will smile at its effort in its yesterday's issue and at the consolation offered by its friend, "Simple Simon," who applauds its scolding because the Guardian had insulted "our mothers and sisters by calling them 'females.'"

The Patriot as usual takes the role of injured innocence. After a week's outpouring of billingsgate and finding itself worsted in the end, it whines that the Guardian began it and even intimates that through fear of the Patriot's wrath it has been "driven to cover." It is not usual for the victor to take to cover. With two out of three constituencies in the Province to vindicate its political attitude we cannot conceive of any reason why the Guardian should take to the woods. The country is safe; the Patriot made one of the most serious mistakes in its history by abandoning the Liberal party in which it was once a figure of some importance but the fact that it did so is no reason why it should pour out the vials of its pretended wrath upon the Guardian.

Now that the Patriot has made such a sorry mess of its political career would it not be best for it to cork up its little vials and lay them away carefully to be used when occasion requires it. The Guardian is quite satisfied with the situation as it is; it is in good company, the company of the best Liberal and Conservative newspapers in Canada, the United States and Great Britain. The Patriot was in quite respectable company once, the company of Canada's leading Liberals and Liberal journals. Had it taken the Guardian's advice it would be with them still but the fact that it chose another course will not justify the virago screaming that has disgraced its pages since the result of the election was announced in order to cover up its traitorous sacrifice of its "unswerving" convictions.

WAR IN THE AIR

There is official denial of the story that French politicians stopped Nivelle's offensive. It is said that it stopped itself because it was a failure. Explanations and counter-explanations after the war will be more voluminous than the history of actions in it.

The German offensive on the Western front is a long time coming, and it may never come. If it were coming as promptly as suggested, why should it be so widely advertised by the Germans? To stay on the defensive on the West—maintain an impregnable front—while they develop their gains in Russia might very well suit the General Staff. Germany can now afford to wait throughout 1918 about as well as Britain and France can. She has Russia as a source of food supply.

MORE BUT BETTER POTATOES

R. E. GOSNELL

IX

(Continued.)

The differences in price quoted on the New York market are accounted for not only in quality but in grading and appearance. Large quantities of potatoes are shipped to New York and other markets which have to be graded by the dealer. The grower loses not only 5 to 15 or 25c a bushel which he had to take less per bushel, but he loses sometimes as high as 33 per cent of the potatoes sorted out which he might have kept at home and used as feed. Mr. Talmage sums it up as follows:

"First, the grower takes a lower price because his potatoes are not properly graded and has to pay the high priced city dealer to sort his potatoes; second, he has to pay freight on a lot of potatoes that are worth little or nothing in the city market; third, he loses the feeding of these potatoes, which he might have had if they had been kept at home, the feeding value of four bushels of potatoes being comparable with one bushel of corn; fourth, owing to the rejection of cars because of poor grading, the market is demoralized and those having properly graded stock suffer as well.

"Taking all things into consideration I do not think that the good potato grower and former president of the New York State Potato Growers' Association, Daniel Dean, was very far wrong when he said that if the growers of New York would sort carefully and send 60 per cent of their potato crop to market, and keep the other 40 per cent for feed, they would get more money from the 60 per cent and have the balance to feed to farm animals at home. This would be especially true during a season of low prices like the year 1914. Mr. Talmage goes on to elaborate this feature of the business.

There is another evil of the business which he points out and that is the mixing of potatoes. Farmers in a neighborhood insist on growing their own varieties and in shipping to make up carload lots which are dumped together. He says:

"There is a simple remedy for this trouble. Plant only potatoes grown from selected seed; and raise only one variety in each community or at least confine yourselves to one type. On Long Island we raise only one early and one late type of potatoes; the Irish Cobbler and the Green Mountain, both of which are round, white potatoes. We can not, however, mix Cobblers with Green Mountains and get away with it. Our farmers would not accept seed as a gift of any other type.

"The next thing to do is to raise potatoes of uniform size and shape. You will say, as one of our farmers did: 'Do you expect us to grow in a mould?' And I say, 'Yes!' In Holy Writ there is a passage which reads something like this: 'What a man soweth that shall he also reap.' If you should breed a Jersey sire and dam would you expect the progeny to be

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louson

LIFE.

Are you lonely and do you feel That Life has no place for you, That the happiness and joys of Life Sail by as a dream in the night? Listen then to this I tell: Life has a place for everyone. Happiness is not easily won; It is earned by work well done; Not purchased by the wealth of man. But on a higher, mightier plan. Nothing comes to us by chance And this is the reason why— So many miss the joys of Life By not getting into the midst of the strife. But sitting aside and wondering why The joys of Life on others are piled. Everyone has by a right divine All the wealth of a wealthy mind, But if not tended and cared for right It soon loses the true joys of Life. Sow beautiful thoughts of others in need. Weed out self, which is really greed— Sprinkle a little kindness here and there. And scatter your love over everywhere— Gather up the thorns when they come your way But let them not hurt or with you stay— Reap from them bravery for lessons to come And through it all will shine the sun. Soon you will reap what you have sown And a wealth of Happiness will be your own. R. W.

a Holstein? The same laws of heredity apply to potatoes as to cattle. Plant potatoes that have been selected for several generations for their uniform size and shape, and plant them thick enough so they will not grow too large, and you will be surprised to see how uniform they are in size and shape. Keeping the ground in good, mellow condition will help very much in growing good shaped potatoes.

The moral of all this is obvious. Good potatoes well grown and properly graded are profitable. Otherwise potato-growing is an extremely variable industry. The weaknesses of the system, or lack of system, pointed out by Mr. Talmage, are only too apparent in Canada, and especially in the lower provinces. Efforts have been made by the Department of Food Control to get the farmers, through the Department of Agriculture to standardize their industry, not only to demonstrate uniform methods but to insist upon them in order that potatoes should be marketed, properly graded, and to prevent the waste of food.

From a commercial point of view there are many advantages, as there are in handling grain and fruits, to the farmer; but apparently a lot of educational work has to be done to overcome the prejudice against methods which long ago should have gone into the discard.

In food, the farmer holds the key of the situation. He is asked as the King Pin or the Key Man to do what he can and all he can. The more he produces and the better he produces the greater will be his profits, and no man is more entitled to what is coming to him than the farmer. If he spurs his desire for production and profit with a large mixture of patriotism the better it will be. His greatest reward after all will be victory for the Allies. Reverently paraphrasing Scripture: What would it profit him if he gained the whole world in the coin of potatoes and lost his own soul.

GERMANS DIARIES REVEAL ATROCITIES

When those who prepared the field service rules of the German army advised each soldier to keep a diary they over looked the possibility of these human documents falling into the hands of the enemy, thereby convicting them, as if by their own lips, of the atrocities that have followed in the wake of the invading Hun. The United States Government is in possession of many of these diaries, taken from German prisoners, and they have been published in a pamphlet in which the war practices of the Germans are set forth. Here are some extracts, printed in the Chicago Tribune which reveal the varying sentiments of the writers as they compiled the record of each day's horrors:

"A horrible bath of blood. The whole village burned, the French thrown into the blazing houses, civilians with the rest." (From the diary of Private Hassemmer, of the Eighth Army Corps.)

Burned in Their Houses

"On the night of August 13-19 the village of St. Maurice was punished for having fired on German soldiers being burned to the ground by German troops (two regiments, the 12th Landwehr and the 17th). The village was surrounded, men posted about a yard from one another, so that no one could get out. Then the flames set fire to it, house by house. Neither man, woman or child could escape. \* \* \* Any one who ventured to come out was shot down. All the inhabitants left in the village were burned with their houses." (From the diary of Pte. Karl Scheufele, of the Third Bavarian Regiment of Landwehr Infantry.)

"At 10 o'clock in the evening the 11th Battalion of the 178th marched down the steep incline into the burning village to the north of Dinant—a terrific spectacle of ghastly beauty. At the entrance to the village lay about 50 dead civilians, shot for having fired upon our troops from ambush. In the course of the night many others were also shot, so that we counted over 200. Women and children, lamp in hand, were forced to look on at the horrible scene. We ate our rice after in the midst of the corpses, for we had nothing since morning. When we searched the houses we found plenty of wine and spirits, but no eatables. Captain Harnann was drunk." (This last phrase in shorthand. From the diary of Private Philipp, of the 178th Regiment of Infantry, 12th Army Corps.)

Beautiful Sight for Firebug

"August, 23, Sunday (between

Birnal and Dinant, village of Dinant). At 11 o'clock the order comes to advance after the artillery has thoroughly prepared, the ground ahead. The pioneers and infantry regiment, 178th, were marching in front of us. Near a small village the latter was fired on by the inhabitants. About 220 inhabitants were shot and the village was burned. Artillery is continuously shooting. The village lies in a large ravine. Just now, 6 o'clock in the afternoon, the crossing of the Maas begins near Dinant. \* \* \* All villages, chatreaux and houses are burned down during this night. It was a beautiful sight to see the fires all around us in the distance." (From the diary of Matbern, fourth company, 11 Jager Battalion, Marburg.)

Bombardier Wetzel is an emotionless Hun, if one may judge from these impassive entries in his diary.

August 8. First light and set fire to several villages.

August 9. Returned to old quarters, where we searched all the houses and shot the mayor and shot one man down from the chimney-pot, and then again set fire to the village.

October 11. We had no fight, but we caught about 20 men and shot them.

Touched Hearts of Hun

At 5 o'clock we were ordered by the officers in command of the regiment to shoot all the male inhabitants of Nomeny, because the population was foolishly attempting to stay the advance of the German troops by force of arms. We broke into the houses and seized all who resisted, in order to execute them according to martial law.

The houses which had not been already destroyed by the French artillery and our own were set on fire by us, that nearly the whole town was reduced to ashes. It is a terrible sight when helpless women and children, utterly destitute, are herded together and driven into France. (From the diary of Private Fischer, Eighth Bavarian Regiment of Infantry, Thirty-third Reserve Division.)

The inhabitants have fled in the village. It was horrible. There was clotted blood on all the boards, and what faces one saw, terrible to behold. The dead, sixty in all, were at once buried. Among them were many old women, some old men, awful to see; three children had clasped each other and died thus. (From the diary of Lance-Corporal Paul Spielman of the Ersatz, First Brigade of Infantry of the Guard.)

In the night the inhabitants of Liege became mutinous. Forty persons were shot and fifteen houses demolished; ten soldiers shot. The sights here make you cry.

Sacking of Convent and Murder

The following extract from the diary of an officer calmly records the sacking of a convent and the murder of the inmates. Mark how munitions were conserved:

Our men came back and said that at the point where the valley joined the Meuse we could not get on any farther as the villagers were shooting at us from every house. We shot the whole lot—sixteen of them. They were drawn up in three ranks—the same shot did for three at a time. \* \* \* The men had already shown their brutal instincts. \* \* \* The sight of the bodies of all the inhabitants who had been shot was indescribable. Every house in the whole village was destroyed. We dragged the villagers one after another out of the most unlikely corners. The men were shot as well as the women and children who were in the convent, since shots had been fired from the convent windows, and we burned it afterward.

SHORTAGE OF FOOD A SERIOUS QUESTION

Hoover, the United States food controller, has amazed British officials by the manner in which he is doing more than he promised to do. He has announced that there will be millions of tons more foodstuffs for export to the Allies than he had expected. There will be enough food to go round, according to Rhonda, but no more than enough. There must be self-denial, and if this falls there must be denial by authority. In Canada we see little denial of any kind save what is voluntarily imposed by patriotic men and women in whose minds are ever present the sore needs of the men at the front and the civilian population of Great Britain, France and Italy. Our own authorities have been extremely chary in imposing restrictions upon the unbridled Canadian appetite. They have shrunk from price-fixing, and it has been explained that while price-fixing is feasible and necessary in the British Isles, it is not

feasible here. If we get through the war without the suffering that the people in England are enduring there will be little criticism applied to the methods of the Canadian Government in dealing with the food problem. If we do not, the Government will have to bear a heavy load of responsibility. It cannot plead ignorance; folly will be its fitting defence.

Food Rations Now.

After reviewing what he considers some of the follies of those responsible for food production and distribution in England, Mr. P. W. Whitson says in the N.Y. Tribune, that if the American Government is to avoid the shifts and artifices that have been resorted to in the Old Country, it might well put the American people on food rations now. Germany put her whole population on rations early in the war, not because the people were starving, but to save them from starving. The rich were over eating, as usual. Rationing put an end to this in Germany, and will have similar results in whatever country it is imposed, according to the firmness with which the policy is enforced and the number of articles of food it governs. The United States adopted the selective draft as soon as it went to war; Canada followed with the Military Service Act. The United States had headless days. Canada followed suit. If the United States goes on food rations Canada will have to observe the example.

Soldiers Well Fed.

Mr. Wilson says that he came from England with a man who had lost thirty-six pounds through restricted diet. He does not say whether the man reduced from 272 pounds to 236 or from 136 to 100, which is really the important thing, but there is undoubtedly a serious food shortage throughout England, Scotland and Wales. There is no where the people are faring so prodigally as in Ireland. The soldiers at the front are as well fed as ever, the great majority of them better fed than they were before joining the army; but the troops in training in England are now upon a restricted diet. The munition workers are probably better fed, on the whole, than they ever were before. There are certain other industries where such methods as those long adopted at the Sunlight Soap works are spreading. But apart from soldiers, munition workers and other workers, the people of England are not permitted to eat all they want. Even miners, shipbuilders and railwaymen, who are not provided with special canteens inspected by the Government, have to scramble for food surpluses after others have eaten their fill.

Cost of Living Doubled.

The writer estimates that the cost of living has slightly more than doubled since the beginning of the war. The first effort to grapple with the problem was made when wages were raised, but then prices were raised again, so that the wages increase failed of its purpose. The first serious shortage was in sugar, for England had relied considerably upon Germany for her sugar. Ration cards were issued for it. Next there was a shortage in tea, due to an official under estimate of the tonnage required. Then margarine suddenly became scarce, and for some time butter had failed. For a while sugar, margarine and other articles that were hard to get should buy other goods with them; but the Government put an end to this form of blackmail. When meat prices were fixed, farmers undoubtedly held back their stocks, though the fixed prices gave them more than a fair profit. This resulted in many thousands of families going without meat.

New Rationing Scheme.

At Gravesend an interesting ration experiment is now being made, the idea being to ration meat by value, and Mr. Wilson believes that this is the most sensible sort of ration. If the Government calculated what a properly balanced war ration would cost and fixed all prices, then allowed a man to spend so much money a week on food, it could afford to be indifferent as to whether he spent his allowance on cream puffs or oatmeal porridge. Much has been done to relieve the situation by bringing under cultivation hundreds of thousands of acres of land previously used as private parks or pastures. Convalescent soldiers have been of great help in supplying labor. There will be a further agricultural extension this year, and with even an approximation to the imports that are expected from the United States, there can be absolutely no fear of starvation. But there will be some hardships before the 1918 crops and importations are on the market. These cannot be avoided. All that can reasonably be demanded is that the discomforts or sufferings shall be equally borne by the rich and the poor. Moreover, it can be demanded with fairness that, so far as possible, all the nations fighting Germany shall bear an equal share. By the way, Canada is one of the nations fighting Germany.

UNIONIST ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION IN NELSON

THE PAS, MAN., March 7.—In the deferred election, Nelson, Man., for the House of Commons, J. A. Campbell, Unionist, was elected by acclamation.

Boots for Growing Girls Selling Cheap

Patent and Gun Metal Button Boot at \$1.85. Also a Gun Metal Laced High Cut with low heel for growing Girls or Women sizes 2 1/2 to 7 at \$3.50.

GOFF BROS