

THE Charlottetown Guardian

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London Office, Marconi House, Strand W. C.

President.....A. A. Bartlett
Managing Editor.....J. R. Burnett

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28th, 1914.

THE FOX INDUSTRY

In a recent issue we published a report sent us by the secretary of a meeting of fox breeders and their representatives, held in Boston, at which it was resolved to form an organization to advance the interests of the fox industry in the United States. At that meeting a committee was appointed, with Mr. J. C. Gordon as chairman, to draft a constitution and report to a later meeting. This adjourned meeting was held in Boston on the 18th inst., a report of which was ordered to be sent to the Guardian and which appears in another part of this issue.

It will be seen that the committee considered the best possible ways and means for fostering and developing the fur farming and fox breeding industry in all its branches, in the United States and Canada, and recommended that the fur farmers and fox breeders in the United States and Canada unite in forming the "Fur Breeders' Association of North America," for the purpose of securing co-operative action in advancing the common interests of all reputable men engaged in the industry, and to institute such effective measures as will dispel the popular prejudices and misconceptions existing in the mind of the great investing public concerning the fur farming and fox breeding industry.

This is a commendable action and is likely to be fraught with decided advantage to the industry both locally and abroad.

What the industry requires most at the present time is publicity regarding actual facts and conditions. So far it has been left almost exclusively to the Guardian and The Silver Black Fox Magazine to consistently advocate the claims of the industry on investors and the public generally, but, after all, the circulation of The Guardian has its limits and it is necessary that other newspapers circulating abroad should be brought into requisition.

Owing to circumstances which we need not enter into here, a certain section of the financial press of the United States has either "knocked" the industry or, at best, ignored it. We are pleased to learn from a reliable authority that this attitude is likely to be changed within the near future, so far as New York is concerned. The New York World, one of the most influential metropolitan dailies, has become so far interested in the industry as to delegate a representative to make personal investigations and, as the result of these the World has resolved not only to throw open its columns to advertisements of reputable fox companies, but to devote a considerable portion of its space to educating readers on the history, present conditions and prospects of fox breeding and fur farming in Prince Edward Island.

Our inquiries regarding the "knocking" propensities of certain American financial papers indicate that the opposition is due, almost exclusively, to the fact that the controlling powers have other financial investments which, naturally they do not wish to see hampered by the competition of the fox industry. It has been further brought to our notice that a certain bearish movement in the fox market is due largely to the manipulations of the same clique of interests. A number of inquiries for foxes have recently been received locally and representatives from New York have visited the Island in connection with proposed purchases, but options have not been taken because the parties concerned have suggested that the present market price is too high. The feeling of the best informed fox men is that this is an attempt on the part of the New York financiers to get into this most profitable industry on the ground floor of ten years ago and at prices of ten years ago. This would simply mean that the Island fox breeders would give away their advantage in order that New York financiers should reap the benefit. Prince Edward Island breeders would be ill-advised to do anything of the kind. Those who have got the original strains of P. E. Island are as safe in their investment as the Bank of England. They have the goods and it would be folly for them to sell below market value. Young foxes of the original strains are worth today \$10,000 per pair if they are worth a cent. Those who would part with their foxes below this price are giving purchasers reason to doubt the quality of the animals they have in their ranches. Some well-known fox men, who may have entered the industry purely as a speculation, may be tempted by the bearish movement originating with the New York financiers, but we feel confident that no fox man, having confidence in the future of the industry and possessing the strain of foxes, the pelts of which in the past have realized the record prices in the London markets, will pause to consider an offer which does not reach a minimum of \$10,000 per pair for this year's pups.

In saying this we do not wish to disparage the value of foxes which have not the benefit of the Island lineage. There are many fox owners who have progeny from imported foxes which may in time develop the peculiarities of the Island breed. First year pups from imported foxes may, and probably will, be sold below the standard price and the purchasers, if they have Island ranches, may as Mr. Rayer pointed out at the recent meeting in Charlottetown, build up in the course of a few years to the Island standard.

A NOTABLE CONVERT

The Rev. Dr. Dwight Hillis, the successor of Dr. Ward Beecher in Brooklyn, has just "turned down" the Kaiser and come over to the side of the Allies. Among the few public men of the United States who openly sided with Germany, Dr. Hillis was probably the most outspoken, and undertook a lecture tour in the interests of Germany. On Sunday, however, he preached a powerful sermon on "The Verdict of the People" in which he admitted that he had been wrong in his sympathies, and retracted much of what he had previously uttered in favor of the Kaiser.

Not only did Dr. Hillis come out with the statement in his sermon, but, in an interview he asserted that he had told but little of what he had come to believe about Germany. This position, he said, was that America and all the world must hope for German defeat, and must see that

Germany was in the wrong.

"I was for Germany five months ago," said Dr. Hillis. "I have been lecturing for five years about the lessons we might learn from Germany. Five months ago, it may be remembered, I gave an interview, in which I praised Germany and in which I took the part of the German people in the dreadful war that had come.

"But I have changed my mind. I have seen that I was mistaken. I have given instructions to my lecture bureau to withdraw my lecture, 'The New Germany,' from my list. That was about the middle of September, and it was only then that I realized what a German success would mean to the world—how there could be nothing else but a world of armed camps, how we in this country, too, would have to adopt militarism in order to live.

"Just prior to that time, in the first of my Sunday evening sermons in this course, I had praised the Kaiser. I believed in the German ideals; I believed in German progress, German inventions, German principles. But I was wrong. I have now become convinced of what I never imagined before—that in the German viewpoint the only sin against the Holy Ghost is military impotency, and, to use Treitschke's words again, the only virtue is militarism."

In his frank avowal of his position regarding Germany and the Kaiser, Dr. Hillis admitted, too, that his sermon had contained more than appeared on the surface. When he stated in the sermon that no man or ruler should ever adopt the view of the peasant and the cave man, and try to make the Eternal God a tribal God, he had the Kaiser in mind, said Dr. Hillis. The sermon will be published in full in next Saturday's Magazine Guardian.

SIR WILFRID SURPRISED

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has become intensely patriotic since the outbreak of war, and in a letter to Sir Gilbert Parker, published in the London newspapers, says: "I am surprised at my own sentiments." This is news indeed. Like Dr. Dwight Hillis, of Brooklyn, Sir Wilfrid has come to realize that this war is "a contest between civilization and barbarism." But what chance would "Civilization" have had with men like Sir Wilfrid at the head of the British Empire? Commenting on Sir Wilfrid Laurier's attitude at the Imperial Conference in 1911, Sir James Finlay, Attorney-General of New Zealand, addressing parliament, said:

"There undoubtedly seemed to me in Sir Wilfrid Laurier's words and attitude in the Conference a certain aloofness from the family circle, a civil or rather courtly coldness to the claims of the relationship and to any proposals for a closer co-operation."

"I am certainly safe in saying that the future of Canada and some of the policies of the Laurier Government affecting that future—notably the treaty of reciprocity with America, and Canada's separate naval policy—give British Ministers more concern than the future of any of the other Dominions."

BACK TO THE BIBLE

Certain of our wise men of today, (says Harper's) have shaded away sin till it becomes an expression of temperament. They tell us that we sin because our grandfather sinned, and because our home is situated in the wrong block. These are clever words of clever comforters, and surely they ought to wipe away forever the tears from our eyes. But they do not speak to human need. They leave the life blighted and the heart ashamed. They leave the sinner one to continue in despair. He does not ask that his sin shall be explained away. He wishes forgiveness and a fresh start. In the Book, which is not read as once it was, there are no soft words about sin. But the way out is shown. And not only is forgiveness offered in this Book, but man's need of comfort is met. There is comfort in plenty. These writers knew the human heart. They saw man broken by his toil and his grief. And for this, too, they had the answer. They told of a Being of love, hidden just back of this rude and temporary universe. This love, they said, is conscious of how the littlest child and the old man are sick at heart for one to come close to their loneliness. When again will any company of writers say the things they know in such telling words, such pictures of humble life—the boy far away from the faces of his home and far gone in shame—such true stories of lowly devotion breaking through into beauty? Much is swept away between us and them, but not one accent of Naomil's voice is lost to us, and still the "Turn again, my daughters," is as wistful as when it breathed through the alien corn. What richer consolation. Are we hungry for that we turn from Judea? Has the human heart changed under the wear of the centuries, so that sin no longer seeks forgiveness, and grief has no need of a comforter? Have our ships sailed so far that they have revealed to us a braver continent than the fields where pain once reigned? Is our science so acute that it has banished failure from man's life? Is man's heart at last self-sufficient and all-sufficing?

SUFFERING POLAND

In the course of an article in the Times describing the suffering of the soldiers on both sides and the non-combatants in the struggle for Poland, Mr. Stephen Graham writes from Warsaw:

"The condition of the peoples of Poland is almost as bad as that of the Belgians. There is only the difference that Belgium was a prosperous and happy country to start with and Poland for the most part was miserable and poverty-stricken."

When the Germans first invaded Poland they gaped at the filth and the poverty of the ghettos, at the little shops where was nothing worth stealing, at the wretched houses crammed with humanity but devoid of wealth and luxury. They surveyed the ragged, shivering, skin-diseased, eye-diseased Jews with horror, and rather than loot their houses they set them afire. In the first month of the war Poland suffered more from fire and looting than from robbery. Indeed even the border frays ceased for a while, and all German attention was given to the Russian invasion of Eastern Prussia.

It was only after the defeat of the Russians that Poland began to suffer seriously. Many thousands of people left their homes and fled, without plan, without counsel, into the wild country.

Of those who have remained behind or who have been overtaken by the German invasion many have been killed, many maimed by the bursting of shells. Many have had their houses burned over them. Many have been executed by the Germans as spies. Many have died or become crazed through fright. In several towns the Germans fixed up at the street corners corpses of well-known citizens, in order to warn those who remained behind against betrayal. At Czestochowa the soldiers cut out the famous picture of the Virgin there and put a portrait of the Emperor William in the ikon-frame. This is an example of grim German perversity. They have hanged alleged spies on the roadside crosses and peasant shrines of the highway. And they have also scattered from aeroplanes proclamations to the Poles to the effect that the Poles should trust them. But the Poles having fallen among thieves have little difficulty in deciding who is truly their neighbor. Russia is doing all she can to help this poor stricken people.

FROM SALISBURY

The following letter was received by Mrs. Louis Hestie from her son, Wilfrid, at present with the 90th Regiment from Winnipeg at Salisbury Plains:

Salisbury Plains,
Dec. 2nd, 1914.

Dear Mother.—Just a few lines to-night to let you know I received two letters from you this week. I am glad you are all well at home. Since I wrote you last I visited London. I had only five days off, so I made the best of my time, and saw as much as I could. I was with a 42nd Highlander, of Toronto. We visited first the Tower of London, and were kindly shown all through it. Next place of interest we saw was the British Museum, far superior to any we see in our country. Sunday I visited Westminster Abbey, where all the old kings and queens are buried, and I heard the great organ of St. Luke playing. It fairly shook the great building. We were over London Bridge three or four times and on the different railroads underground. We had certainly a grand time. Those who live to see the whole thing from beginning to end will have such a trip and such experience that they will never forget them.

The weather is getting cold here now. We are going to a place called Lerk Hill, and there live in huts till the call comes for us to leave for the front, and as yet we don't know when that will be.

The people over here are very kind to us Canadians. We travel on their half-fare, and get to their theatres for half-fare.

On one side of our camp are the Fifth Royal Highlanders of Montreal, and on the other is the British Columbia Regiment. Next to the B.C. Regiment is the Fort Garry Horse of Winnipeg, and all the Mechanical Transports.

We were in an old Roman Fort the other day and I just wish you could see it. It is made of earth piled to a height of twenty-five feet, and I should judge about ten across enclosed by it. There is a ten foot moat around it, but there is no water in it at present. This fort is on top of a hill. It is truly a wonderful structure. It was built in Julius Caesar's time, and stands there to-day just the same as when built, only it is covered with grass now. A force inside it could easily keep off five times as many on the outside. The day we were to it the Alberta Dragoons, a regiment of horsemen, were stationed inside it, and our regiment, together with the British Columbia Infantry had to drive them out by skirmishing and working around it. We got them out about three in the afternoon, after a hard day's shanty fight. There are always three judges at our fights, and they decided we were the victorious party. I hope we'll be the same when we get to the front.

Another place of interest just here is an old pile of stones. It was an old Druid's church, and not far from the church are these stones standing end up. On these the ancient Druids used to tell the time of the year by the way the sun shone on these stones.

There is a big monument on the side of the road in a lonely spot about five miles from here, where a wealthy man was held up and murdered for his money. This happened in the fifteenth century, and the stone still stands as good as the day it was put there. You know they have no extreme weather here to decay stones, as we have.

Well, it is handy Christmas. I expect to get a few days off again, and am hoping then to see some more of the country for it will likely be the last leave that will be granted.

It is sometimes hard to get paper here, that is how I missed writing last week, but I have a new supply now, and will write often. I must close now, wishing you and all the rest of the family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Good-night, mother dear, it is late now so I will close.

Your loving son,
WILFRID.

HUTS WERE PUT UP WITHIN A MINUTE

Canadian's Invention for Camps Has Been Adopted by the British Army.

LONDON, Dec. 26.—Much interest was caused by the appearance recently in the Green Park, between Piccadilly and Buckingham Palace, of a number of little huts, and people wondered whether troops were to camp in the heart of London. As a matter of fact, the huts were erected for a War Office test and inspection, and thousands are now being ordered for Salisbury Plains, Aldershot, and other military centres, in order to house the new recruits.

Each hut provides ample space for six men, or for many more in an emergency. The construction is very simple. Roof and walls consist of canvas stretched on wooden frames, with ventilators and mica windows. The wooden floor is covered with matting, and the whole makes a comfortable and weather-tight home as any soldier could wish. Men of the Grenadiers, who have been looking after them, speak highly of the new huts as compared with the old bell tents.

The light weight, together with the ease and speed with which the huts can be erected, are among the points that have commended them to the military authorities. Each hut packs flat, and six can be piled on an army transport wagon. They are put together with bolts and thumb screws, and at a War Office test they were unloaded and erected, by men who had no previous experience, in two and a quarter minutes. Some soldiers were boasting that they had erected one in exactly a minute. Hospitals and stables can also be erected in the same way.

F. P. Aylwin, the inventor, is an ex-member of the famous Canadian Royal Northwest Mounted Police, and the idea of the hut occurred to him in British Columbia, where he made himself comfortable in such a building with the thermometer below zero.

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CANADA'S PART IN EMPIRE WAR NO SMALL ONE

Selected her Place in Wider Field of Operations, where the Future is Being Shaped.

HON. R. ROGER'S SPEECH.

Despite European Upheaval Development Work in Dominion has been Well Maintained.

WINNIPEG, Dec. 24.—Hon. Robert Rogers, Minister of Public Works, told the members of the Adanac Club at a luncheon on Tuesday of the part Canada is playing in the Empire's war, and also of the development of the Dominion, despite the war. He said that in the great emergency Canada had to face, the Cabinet recognized that assistance promptly given was doubly valuable. "We acted not only quickly, but we gave generously, believing as we did, and knowing as we do, that in so doing we had the sympathy, support and the approval of the Canadian people everywhere.

"There was only one place for the Canadian people in that great crisis, and we selected that place in that wider field of operations where the best interest of our country and the future is to be decided. We selected that place with all the power, and with every faculty at our command to assist in the protection and in the maintenance of our greatest possession, that of our British citizenship.

Membership of Empire.

"Not only that, but also our membership in the great British Empire. We are endeavouring as best we can to keep these two great possessions unimpaired, not alone for ourselves, but for those who are to come after us, and for the world because we know no greater loss could come to civilization than the crippling of the British Empire, which is the great world force in the protection of our liberty and our freedom, both upon land and upon sea.

"In the present day and in the present hour there is no need, it is true, for alarm as to the possibilities of that great Empire becoming crippled. Nevertheless it is the part of wisdom that we should take no chances; and that is the part that has been taken by the Government of our country, believing there is no part of the British Empire more interested than the Canadian people in the outcome of this mighty struggle. In Canada we have long since recognized the great value of our British connection, and we recognized the great value of that connection in the past, so we recognise it also for the future.

"We are in this struggle with all our power, with all our energy, and with everything that we possess. We propose to see it through in a manner that will reflect credit upon the Canadian people. We recognize that in this great struggle we are fighting for human liberty and for human freedom. In this great task we count not the cost; we only press forward to that great victory which is sure to come, and which will be a boon to civilization."

"Speaking of development work, Mr. Rogers said that Canada had prepared this year by far the largest programme for general National development that had ever been witnessed in Canada. "Notwithstanding the appalling conditions which we had to meet some few months ago, conditions which had shaken and disturbed the very foundations of the system of Government of so many of the great nations of Europe, we, in the closing days of this year, can look with pardonable pride on the fact that we have not only been able to carry out that proud and extensive programme of general National development, but we have also been able to assume our full share of responsibility in the great emergency which we had to meet five months ago."

RUSSIAN REPORT.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 25.—(Official.)—"On Bzura River, near the Chateau of Tuolow, five visits below Sochachew, our troops on the night of Dec. 23 utterly routed strong forces which had crossed to the right bank of the Bzura. A German Regiment was almost completely annihilated and in addition, they lost five machine-guns. We captured 5 officers and 515 soldiers. All through the day of Dec. 23 the Germans made fierce attacks in the Region of Bolnow, but were everywhere repulsed. Very stubborn fighting also prevailed that day in the Region of low-Lodz and below that point. We succeeded in throwing back a German Column which had crossed to the right bank of Pilica. On the 22 and 23 violent fighting took place all along the front from Nida River. It was especially stubborn on the Lower Nida between Wislica and Nowemias-Korzyn.

During these two days we captured to the North of Pinczow 57 officers and more than 3,000 soldiers. To the South of the Vistula we maintained our successes of the previous day. Here we took 1,500 prisoners in East Prussia near Przemysl and in Carpathians no important changes have taken place."



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The Massachusetts Silver Black Fox Company

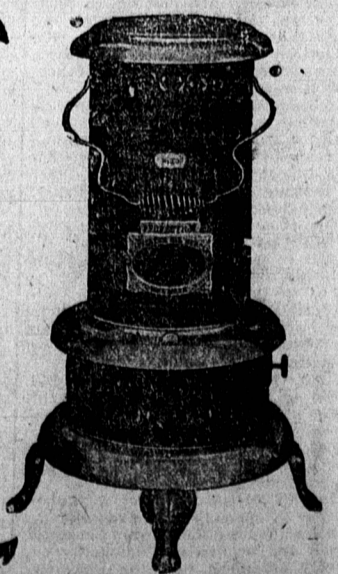
The Massachusetts Silver Black Fox Company has declared a cash dividend of 10 p. c. with more later, and also increased its ranch by four pairs of Silver Black Foxes and added fifty pens for ranching Foxes for another company. The annual report sent to all stockholders shows that the company has made a very satisfactory showing the past year. 8042-12-25M5i.

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