

The Charlottetown Guardian

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15th, 1917

A WAR FRANCHISE

A beginning has been made with a War Franchise. All soldiers employed in a military capacity overseas will be enfranchised, as will also nurses engaged in Red Cross work. This is a good beginning. It means that those who are "doing their bit" are going to have a say in the government of the country they are fighting for or serving. It matters not whether they be boys or girls in the eyes of the civil law; in the eyes of the country in the throes of a life and death struggle they have assumed voluntarily the ultimate duty of every loyal citizen and are entitled thereby to a voice in its government. The machinery for bringing the new law into operation will be somewhat intricate, but Sir Robert Borden with that foresight and eye to detail, for which he is distinguished among statesmen, has already made the necessary preparations, and immediately the new franchise is enacted the lever to set it in motion will be ready to be pulled. In order to make the conclusion of the voting synchronize as nearly as possible, the polling will commence at the front twenty-nine days before the date fixed for the election in Canada. A special returning officer will be sent to England and France for the purpose, and the results of the soldiers' votes in each constituency will be cabled immediately the counting has concluded, which, of course, will not be until every soldier has had the opportunity of balloting. It may be sometime after the election day in Canada before the soldiers' votes are available, but no candidate will be entitled to claim a seat until the cabined result of the soldiers' vote has been received.

So far as we can ascertain at the moment, there will be roughly about 1,400 soldiers votes to be polled for Queen's County, about 1,000 for Prince, and about 500 for Kings. The effect of this on the civil vote will be very considerable in each instance. The pity is that soldiers at the front should have their attention distracted from fighting their country's enemies to decide whether or not Sir Wilfrid be permitted to let Canada "sneak out of the war."

A PEERLESS PARLIAMENTARIAN

The Patriot makes a poor show in attempting to give the semblance of reality to the Liberal report about a desire among Conservatives to shelve Sir Robert Borden. Every Conservative and a large percentage of Liberals are loyal to the backbone to Borden's leadership in the war. Thoroughness—that is the distinguishing characteristic of the Prime Minister. He has a marvellous memory, and this, coupled with his prodigious industry makes him master of his work. He anticipates everything that may be demanded by the House and is ready. The preparedness which he urged for the nation he has ever practised for himself. Accuracy of statement for which he is noted is the result not so much of a wonderfully retentive memory as it is of ceaseless industry and assiduity. Officials who sit in the gallery and hear him present to the House a statement with respect to matters with which they are familiar have often expressed astonishment at his grasp of the subject and the accuracy with which he handles dates, figures and other detail. Contemporary parliamentarians cannot recall one instance of indiscreet utterance upon his part—that too is the result not only of sound thinking but of the untiring industry that makes for accuracy. Taken all in all, it is doubtful if there is a greater man in public life today in this or any other country. Certainly Canada may be proud and grateful that her interests are in the hands of so safe and sane a statesman. There are Liberal members who think so. They know his worth and work. Unfortunately the enterprising authors of detraction have made other Liberals who are unacquainted with his worth and work, skeptical as to this. Their campaign is made all the easier by the fact that, like other big men, he does not advertise. The most unkind criticism of the Prime Minister of Canada is that which represents him as desirous of an extension of the parliamentary term so that he may

the longer hang on to office. Those who know him best know that nothing would suit him better than a release from the cares and worries of office, and that nothing but a stern sense of duty keeps him at his post. Canada under his guidance entered into an ambitious programme in connection with the war. He desires to see it through and is not sure that his successor would be so disposed. Honors and a place high up in Imperial councils, no doubt, await his retirement from the Premiership of Canada, but his duty is here. They have a curious bent of mind who think that the task of a Prime Minister in war time is one which Sir Robert would hold from any other reason than a sense of duty.

BUT NOT IN QUEBEC

French-Canadians in the United States have answered the call to the colours in the republic across the line quite as loyally as any other nationality. This fact was effectively demonstrated by Hon. Albert Seigny in the course of the debate on the Military Service Bill. Mr. Seigny read some interesting letters from prominent United States citizens of French-Canadian birth.

"UNANIMOUSLY AND HEARTILY" was how Mr. L. N. Asselin of Biddeford, Maine, wrote.

"LOYALLY AND PATRIOTICALLY" wrote Hon. A. J. Pothier, of Rhode Island.

The editor of L'Opinion Publique, of Worcester, Mass., expressed himself as follows:

"Our French compatriots have answered the call of the country with loyalty and unanimity, which deserves the admiration of all. We exceed all other elements of the population for the figures of enlistments."

The Acadians in the Maritime Provinces have rallied to the colours.

Then what is wrong with Quebec?

The only possible answer is that the present situation is the direct result of the anti-British and separatist teaching of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Henri Bourassa. The fruit of that teaching is now being gathered, much to the disgust of the rest of Canada.

RUSSIAN SITUATION

Unfortunately the very encouraging news from the western front continues to be offset by the discouraging reports from the east. The Russians have not stopped in their retreat and, except for occasional resistance here and there, appear to be bound for the Russian border as rapidly as possible, although the route has now taken on the semblance of more orderly withdrawal.

The evidence of the completeness of the Russian disaster is found in the relinquishment of Czernowitz, the capital of Bukowina, and a very desirable possession. This city has changed hands several times during the war but has been held by the Russians since its capture by General Brussiloff last year. It appears to have been surrendered without resistance. As Czernowitz is 165 miles southeast of Lemberg, to which the Russians had almost penetrated prior to their retreat, the extent of their withdrawal is shown. And it is a withdrawal which reaches away to the Carpathians.

VICTORY BY SURRENDER

Who says that Laurier was actuated by a true patriotism when he opposed conscription? He himself says and has made some of his followers believe he did it rather than leave Quebec to the tender mercies of Bourassa.

Cornwallis did not defeat the Americans at Yorktown. Burgoyne did not defeat them at Saratoga. Hull did not defeat the Canadians at Detroit. Lee did not defeat Grant at Richmond. Bazaine did not defeat the Germans at Metz.

You cannot defeat an enemy by surrendering to him.

Bourassa is none the less a danger because Laurier is on his side.

NOTES

Mr Elihu Root, back in the United States from his mission to Russia is reported as saying the war will need a long hard pull on the part of the country which last entered upon it. This is in keeping with what is being said by men in Europe even better informed of the facts than Mr. Root. The new army to be created by legislation before Canada's Parliament may well have a chance to fight as well as to train.

CANADA'S EFFORT THE DOMINION IN THE GREAT WAR

"What stronger breast-plate than a heart untainted? Thrice is he armed who hath his quarrel just, And he but naked though locked up in steel, Whose conscience with injustice is corrupted."

Reviewing all that has been accomplished during the last thirty months, it is no vain national boast that the Canadian people have far exceeded the expectations laid down at the outset—Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

IV.

SOLDIERS' ESTATES.

In its care for the officers and men of the Canadian army, the Militia Department collects the personal effects of deceased soldiers from the field of battle, or wherever else these may be found, and forwards them to the next of kin. By this means, wherever possible, the relatives of the dead men are placed in possession of many articles which often may not have much intrinsic value but will long be treasured in memory of those who have bravely died for the country. The Estates Branch, which manages this delicate business, is one of the most striking developments of the war in Canada. Organized by Major H. S. Relf, a returned officer of the Princess Patricia's, it is manned exclusively by officers and men who are lawyers by profession and have seen service at the front. The staff includes a personnel of 56. The procedure is simple, though infinite pains are involved in carrying it out. On the death of a soldier while on active service in France the fact is communicated, by cable, to England, and then to Ottawa; his personal effects are collected, placed in a package, and forwarded to the Base. There they are checked and an inventory is sent with them to the Pay and Records Office in London, England, where they are again checked and re-wrapped for distribution. If a man has left any belongings in England before going to the front, these are collected and forwarded to the London office and the whole of his personal effects are thence sent to the Estates Branch, at Ottawa—that is, if the beneficiary or next of kin resides in this country.

The deceased's pay account is closed as soon as his death is officially reported, and it is then known as his "non-effective" account. A lapse of four or five months is necessary before a non-effective account can be properly certified as correct, and in some cases six months. If the next of kin, or beneficiary, resides in this country, the account is forwarded here for settlement. The pay books are sent to the London office, and if they contain wills these are extracted and placed on file for safe-keeping and properly indexed. When the non-effective account, personal and surplus effects, reach the office of the Ottawa Estates Branch, the legal domicile of the deceased is carefully ascertained, and in case of intestacy the military estate is distributed according to the law of the province or country of the deceased's domicile.

The ordinary military will, made in camp or field, governs the disposal of personal effects. It does not determine the disposal of real estate, and for this reason the Estates Branch has distributed to all military districts, free of charge, a printed will form which stands the test of law anywhere. Every soldier is urged to make use of this form before going overseas, as in case of fatality the task of winding up his affairs will be greatly facilitated. The Canadian Estates Branch has already taken about 9,000 estates in charge and it has 60,000 wills in its safe keeping. The storerooms of the Branch at Ottawa are constantly filled with carefully packed and labelled personal effects of officers and men in process of distribution.

AEROPLANE SCHOOLS AND FACTORIES

Young Canadians are serving in the Imperial Air Corps and not a few have won marked distinction. High class aeroplanes have also been manufactured in this country for use in the war. Since the beginning of 1917 a further step has been taken. Under an arrangement between the British and Canadian governments, this country has secured both extensive flying schools and airship factories. The Imperial War Office has, in fact, established in Canada Royal Reserve Flying Squadrons, in which young Canadian pilots are being trained for service in the Imperial Army. With financial assistance from the Canadian Government, the Imperial Munitions Board has erected important aeroplane factories at Camp Borden and other points.

CENSORSHIP AND PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES.

In August, 1914, and from time to time as occasion has required, the Government has adopted Orders-in-Council "for the prevention of the giving out of information calculated to be, or that might be, directly or indirectly useful to the enemy, and for the prevention of espionage and generally for the security of the forces of His Majesty in Canada and for the welfare of the people of Canada." Under the general authority thus taken it is forbidden to publish or communicate news with respect to the movements of troops or ships of war, or to circulate false intimations likely to cause alarm, or to practice espionage. No privately owned cable, telegraph or telephone lines have been taken over by the Government, but all are operated subject to governmental regulations. The Secretary of State, supervises telegraph and telephone lines, while the Department of Militia and Defence exercises authority over the cable companies.

Before the war, the Canadian Government, in collaboration with the Imperial Defence Committee, arranged for censorship of cables and wireless stations, and the system then devised was put into operation during the "period of strained relations" which immediately preceded the war. It came into effect without friction. Owing to the geographical configuration of North America, nearly all the Atlantic cables pass through Canadian or Newfoundland stations. When the war broke, the bulk of the messages between the United States and Europe were carried by these services. But there was also a cable from New York to France, and a cable from New York to Germany. The last named was cut at once by the British navy, so that the whole cable communication between this continent and Europe, outside that of the French-American cable, passes through Canadian and Newfoundland stations. The Canadian censorship controls by far the greater part of this traffic, handling some 10,000 messages daily. The Germans have complained bitterly of the efficiency of the British censorship, while every effort has been made to interfere as little as possible with Canadian and sincerely neutral merchants. The operation of the censorship has brought forth few complaints. With the friendly concurrence of the Canadian press supervision is exercised over all publications in this country. On the whole this has worked with marked success. In so far as can reasonably be assured foreign publications of an injurious

character are prohibited from entry into and circulation in this country.

GREAT MILITARY CAMPS.

Of the many military camps necessarily provided in different parts of Canada, Valcartier Camp, Camp Borden and Camp Hughes have furnished the most remarkable examples of rapid and successful organization. Valcartier Camp was required for the speedy concentration of the First Contingent. Construction work began on August 8th, four days after war was declared, and was practically completed in four weeks. In that time a number of contiguous farms were converted into a vast military encampment, with nearly four miles of rifle ranges and a military population of 35,000. When the Prime Minister visited the camp early in September he found a great military city, equipped with a complete system of streets, water lighting and sewerage services. Railway sidings and landing platforms had been provided, permanent buildings erected and the most modern sanitary conveniences installed. Looking at this, striking evidence of military efficiency, Sir Robert Borden said: "I venture the assertion that the organization and arrangement of Valcartier Camp has not been excelled in any part of our Empire since the commencement of this war."

As the war wore on and the English camps were crowded with the new British army, it was found advisable to carry the training of Canadian troops to more advanced stages before their despatch overseas. It was, moreover, to the economic advantage of Canada that this policy should be pursued. With this end in view the Government provided Camp Borden for the accommodation of a large proportion of the troops raised in Ontario. Approached by several lines of railway, connecting it by frequent passenger services with all parts of the country, the camp presents an attractive appearance. Visitors descend from the train upon a great stretch of platforms, flanked by large and commodious station buildings, which look out upon a tented city extending as far as the eye can reach. The camp occupies an elevated, pine-clad plain, and has an elevation similar to that of Muskoka and other health resorts to which people with means annually resort by tens of thousands in search of strength and recreation.

Even in the hottest weather this plateau is seldom without a breeze. Besides extreme heat in this high, dry region is less trying upon the human system than a similar temperature in Toronto and other places where the atmosphere is charged with moisture. If Camp Borden has its dust, Niagara, Valcartier and Salisbury Plain had their mud. Nowhere can immense bodies of young men be assembled under novel conditions in improvised quarters without some fault finding and possibly real grounds of complaint. But these cease or disappear as they did in Camp Borden, when the men grow accustomed to their environment. A visit to Camp Borden is the best antidote to criticism. Go there and see it and you will not be ashamed of Canada.

The food is prepared in commodious kitchens completely screened from the flies, and refuse is immediately destroyed in standardized incinerators. The old fashioned latrines known in other camps have given place to modern equipment. The "finest water in the world" is turned on to every part of the camp, and a modern sewerage system contributes to a highly sanitary condition. The black dust, incidental to the destruction by fire of waste timber on a sandy plain, diminishes as the concrete pavements gain mileage.

Experienced military officers who have seen service abroad and are familiar with the camps of Europe freely assert that Camp Borden is one of the finest they have ever visited. Its sick list is small and its sanitary record perhaps the best in the world. Its central location and excellent railway connections make it easily accessible from all parts of Ontario. The land occupied being of inferior character, and largely wilderness, was secured at moderate prices. Most important of all, Camp Borden has enabled the military authorities to give troops advanced training in manoeuvres, rifle practice, skirmishing, bombing and trench work.

The increased cost of living that has come with the war has provoked criticisms and possibly caused hardships, but the Government has been able to furnish the soldiers with good food for comparatively little money. Last summer, more than 30,000 men at Camp Hughes were supplied with nourishing and highly acceptable food for about nine cents per head per meal. As satisfactory results have been achieved by the commissariats at other camps through the Dominion.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS. Furnished by W. S. Louson. WISDOM IN A FEW LINES.

Friendship—one soul in two bodies.—Pythagoras.

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good with all men.

Weak men wait for opportunities, strong men make them.—Marden.

Our doubts are traitors and make us lose the good, we oft might win, by fearing to attempt.—Shakespeare.

Example is always more efficacious than precept.—Samuel Johnson.

Our tokens of love are for the most part, barbarous, cold and lifeless, because they do not represent all our life. The only gift is a portion of thyself. Therefore let the farmer give his corn; the miner, a gem; the sailor, coral and shells; the painter, his picture; the poet, his poem.—Emerson.

Consider! Except a living man, there is nothing more wonderful than a book, a message to us from the dead, from human souls whom we never saw, who lived, perhaps thousands of miles away, and yet, in those little sheets of paper, speak to us, amuse us, terrify us, comfort us, open their hearts to us as brothers!—Kingsley.

Loving words will cost but little, Journeying up the Hill of Life; But they make the weak and weary Stronger, braver for the strife. Do you count them only trifles? What, to Earth, are sun and rain? Never was a kind word wasted— Never was one said in vain!—Selected.

NEW POTATOES CHEAPER THAN OLD

(Fredericton Gleaner.)

Within the past few days new potatoes have been coming in in quite a large quantity and the price today is only 60 cents a peck, and prospects are that they will be much cheaper next week, when the farmers have a chance to get to town after their haying operations are finished. The potato crop this year will be a bumper one and prices are expected to be about the same as last fall.

During the last week there has been very little fluctuation in food prices. The chief advance that interests the consumer, just at preserving time, is in the price of sugar. Standard granulated is now selling at from \$9.15 to \$9.20, an increase of fifty-five cents during the week. Last year sugar was selling at from \$7.95 to \$8.00—a difference of \$1.20. Yellow sugar is at present selling at \$8.65 to \$8.70, while last year it was selling at from \$7.55 to \$7.60, \$1.10 lower than this year's price.

Both Manitoba and Ontario flours remained stationary during the week. Roller oatmeal is now selling at \$10.25, an advance of 25 cents for the last few days. Cornmeal has also slightly advanced this week, the prevailing price being \$5.00. Last year at this time corn meal was selling at \$2.05, \$2.95 less than the present price.

For the first time in many weeks the price of bran has not shown an increase; it is now selling at from \$4.00 to \$4.30.

During the week middlings went up \$1. a ton, making the price now \$2.30 a bag wholesale and \$2.50 retail, or \$46 and \$50 a ton. According to advices received from the American millers there will be a scarcity of all mill feeds, especially middlings, as it is being used by the millers to make the whole wheat flour. Oats are also scarce and they are selling at 95 cents a bushel.

NEW BOOTS Women's colored tops in choc Light and Dark, Grey. Also some pretty styles of Black and Dark Brown. Calf high, cut with medium heels just the kind for fall and winter wear. GOFF BROS

COUQUERS ASTHMA.—To be relieved from the terrible suffocating due to asthma is a great thing, but to be safe-guarded for the future is even greater. Not only does Dr. J. D. Kellogg's Asthma Remedy bring prompt relief, but it introduces a new era of life for the afflicted. Systematic inhaling of smoke or fumes from the remedy prevents re-attacks and often effects a permanent cure.