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 4087 THE PROMENADE

Charles Dalton, President. J. R. Burnett, Editor and Publisher. D. E. Currie, Associate Editor.

Morning Daily (founded 1887) \$3.00 per year (delivered) in advance. \$3.00 per year (mailed) in advance in Canada and \$4.50 to U. S. A.

**PROHIBITION PLEBISCITE**

It is understood that a plebiscite on the liquor question is to be held in this province at an early date, probably in January. If we are to retain—or rather to regain—the reputation we once held as a prohibition province—it is vital that necessary preparation be made for this plebiscite. As intimated in recent issues of The Guardian a meeting of the Temperance Alliance is to be held in the Y. M. C. A. rooms this city, tomorrow, Thursday at 11 o'clock, to consider the matter.

For some time past an insidious propaganda has been in progress in this province and elsewhere in Canada with a view to undermining the faith of the people in our prohibitory laws. It is pointed out that liquor is still being sold and that the government is reaping no benefit from it; that with such regulations as are in force in the province of Quebec the liquor business would be kept under control and at the same time the provincial government secures an addition to its revenue, thus making it possible to reduce taxation. It is a poor argument, a poor excuse for negligence or studied indifference on the part of the authorities. No responsible person wants to see the saloon opened again in this province even for light wines and beers; no one but the rumrunner and the drinkers want to see it made easier to get a bottle of liquor. Prohibition prohibits if those in authority want to enforce it and even when only partially enforced it puts liquor drinking under a ban and on a level far below respectability.

We have an effective prohibitory law, just as effective as the law which prohibits murder and thieving and incendiarism, but while those in charge of the administration of justice wink at the violation of these the effectiveness is lost and the laws are violated. The great trouble is that too many of us are "politically dry and personally wet." The combination may work well for electioneering purposes but it makes our laws a laughing stock.

What we need now is an overwhelming pronouncement on the whole liquor traffic and the plebiscite about to be taken will afford an opportunity for this. The plea of permitting the evil because we cannot absolutely prohibit it is as applicable to each one of the ten commandments as to the prohibition law, yet few would advocate the repeal of the decalogue because we have an occasional murder or theft or any other of the crimes forbidden. We frankly admit that bootlegging and drinking are disgracefully prevalent among us but this is not the fault of the prohibition law, it is the fault—the criminal fault—of those entrusted with its administration. We need reform, not of the prohibition law which embodies every strengthening amendment proposed by the Temperance Alliance, but of reform of those whose duty it is to enforce it.

These matters will all, doubtless, come up before the meeting to be held on Thursday and we trust the province will be well represented. There is a well organized opposition to our prohibition law, the liquor manufacturers, the liquor sellers and the liquor drinkers are fighting both in the open and in secret. Let our temperance people, our churches, our lovers of law and order not be caught napping.

**"FLOWER OF REMEMBRANCE"**

There is an added reason this year why we should more than ever make use of the Flanders Poppy. This reason is that the poppies this year are being manufactured by returned Canadian soldiers who had been disabled in the war. It will be remembered that the poppies used last year had been made in France. Since then the business has been taken up, by our own men and their dependents and the workmanship is in every way equal to that of the French product. Arrangements have been made by the G. W. V. A. here to place the poppies on sale in the principal and most central stores so that there will be no trouble in procuring a supply.

The primary purpose in wearing poppies on Armistice Day is to pay a tribute to the memory of the 60,000 young Canadians who fell in the Great War. Of these over 500 were natives of this province. There are many reasons then why every red blooded citizen should wear a poppy next Saturday. It is a tribute we owe to our beloved dead, an obligation we owe to our returned soldiers and, we may add also, a duty we owe to Canadian industry. With the families of 60,000 men directly and personally interested, with a growing population of nearly nine millions of people proud of the achievements of their country in the Great War, there is no reason why the manufacture of these "flowers of remembrance" should not become a great national industry capable of making life easy for the men who lost limbs and health in making the name of Canada great. The industry is confined exclusively to returned soldiers and their dependents and the profits of the sales go to a fund for their support. Moreover, as long as the spirit of fair play lives in Canada the field will not be invaded by outside speculators or monopolists.

We trust that there shall be a general display of poppies on Saturday; that there shall be undisturbed purchasing and that the anxious days of 1914-18, and all that they mean for us still, will be remembered, not with empty gratitude alone nor with unavailing sorrow alone but with grateful hearts and generous hands. In this way we shall fittingly remember our dead, fittingly do our duty by the living.

**PAST AND PRESENT**

Some idea of time's changes in this province may be had from an inconspicuous item in The Islander of August 20, 1847, a few copies of which accidentally came to our hand a few days ago. The item records the launchings of the previous week as follows:

July 28th from Vernon River the Brigantine Irene, 150 tons; July 24th from Wheatley River, the brigantine Ino, 184 tons; from Rustico July 24th the schooner Greyhound 179 tons; from New Glasgow, July 31st a copper fastened barque, 412 tons; from Lot 48 on July 24, a barque 462 tons; from Milford shipyard the copper fastened barque, Josephine, 335 tons; from St. Peters Bay July 23rd a copper fastened brig 150 tons; from Head of Hillsborough 27th July, the schooner Violet, 170 tons.

This, we infer, was the record for the vicinity of Charlottetown, only Summerside, Port Hill, Alberton, Georgetown and other places were engaged in the same business. To us of the shipless days of today the week's record is an astounding one, the record of a business that is gone forever.

**EDITORIAL NOTES**

Why do potatoes left in the ground all winter retain their soundness and vitality while those from the same field rot when in the cellar? This is a matter for the scientists to explain. Does the ground afford safer storage than the cellar or warehouse?

**Notes By The Way**

**Circulate in Russia**

The first authoritative statement by the Russian Soviet Government, touching its fiscal matters, and that was at all comprehensive and in official writing, was that which was made to the Hague conference of Allies and the representatives of other belligerents. The most striking feature were the admissions that on July 1, 1922, there were in circulation 271,236,000,000 of paper rubles, and that the cost of living in all of Russia on the average, based on the 1913 prices as a 100 index number, had by April 10, 1922, risen to 257,394,138; or, in other words, had increased to slightly more than 257,394 times the 1913 prices. The figures staggered the financial experts who received them and who have attempted to digest them. The sum of paper money in circulation is, of course, beyond human understanding. A mere reading of the figures does not convey to the mind its immensity. The experts resorted to various means whereby to render them intelligible. The 271,236,000,000 of paper rubles were 271,236 times one billion. They were 271,236,000 times one million. They were 300,000 times at their face value, the entire stock of gold in the world.

If it were at Par.

If Soviet Russia possessed every ounce of gold which has been mined since the human race began—estimated at \$18,000,000,000—the Russian circulating medium would have so flimsy a gold basis as to render it worthless. It would, if at par, be enough to buy out every nation in Europe, the United States, the remainder of the world, and purchase some of the Dominions of the sky. Factions as these observations may appear to be, it was only thus that the Allied experts might clarify to their own minds the gigantic problem of dealing with the Russian situation. As to the tables showing the rise of the cost of living, although previously the world had known it was immense, the actual admissions by Soviet delegates, in the form of an official report in writing, again staggered the experts. While the circulating medium had run into the trillions, the cost of basic necessities to the people had risen to such hitherto unheard of levels as to render it necessary to have a laborer to work 257,000 years for his year's food on the basis of 1913.

**HYPOCHONDRIASIS?**

Sir—The letter entitled "What is the matter with P. E. Island?" by J. D. McIntyre, Boston, printed in the Public Forum column of the Guardian some time ago deserves more than passing notice. Taking for granted the writer to have been a native born Prince Edward Islander, it would be natural to conclude that the cause which animated him to write, would be concern for the welfare of the people of P. E. I., but if John D., ever had a burning desire to alleviate the sufferings of an (imaginary) benighted people, he most certainly allowed his zeal to get the better of his judgment. To people who know Prince Edward Island and its people and who are able to judge by comparison with other countries and peoples, his assertions are ridiculous.

To foreign peoples, John D.'s misguided letter perpetrates a slander and libel on this fair province. Tourists who have visited this island will naturally not be affected by those melancholy effusions but intending visitors, who plan to spend their vacations in a different summer resort each year, may find it more conducive to their sense of security to go to a resort the beauties and advantages of which are extolled by fine pictures and fine literature.

The reference to "untrained teachers" and "brutality to animals" is too ridiculous for comment in a more optimistic temper. There is no need to be alarmed at the number of "auction sales" out themselves. It appears that in 1914 Imperial Russia had in circulation—\$775,000,000 rubles (worth at gold par 51.6 cents) based on a gold guaranty fund of 1,985,000,000 rubles, virtually ruble of circulation for ruble of gold guaranty.

**How Inflation Proceeds.**

The more than 271,000,000,000 rubles in circulation on July 1, 1922, was 1,132,025,109, an apparently insignificant sum, in the light of the immensity of the other figures submitted. But, expressed in Russian paper money values, the Soviet budget would be almost a quadrillion rubles, which passes the conception or imagination of humankind. So rapid had been the increase of the cost of living as expressed in the depreciated currency of present Russia, that it was multiplied by forty from September 1, 1921, to April 10, 1922. On the former date it was 6,308,425, on the basis of 100 as of 1913; on the other date it was 267,329,959 in all Russia outside of Moscow and Petrograd and 257,394,138 in all Russia including those cities.

**When Money Was Sound.**

The Soviet figures were believed in varying frames of mind, according to the national and political slant of the expert perusing them. But they were admittedly for the purpose of advancing the proposal which had been submitted by the Soviet Government, that the Allies grant a loan to Russia, to assist in dragging the Soviet Government out from the economic and financial morass into which it had fallen by the destruction of the former regime and the inauguration of communistic methods in 1917. However, while the experts took every conceivable attitude toward the proposal, they were quite thoroughly agreed that the figures as to rise of living costs and quantity of paper money in circulation probably were correct. When they were subjected to technical analysis they appeared to bear

the same relation to each other as the figures of the cost of living in the United States, when the cost of living in 1922 was 1,132,025,109, an apparently insignificant sum, in the light of the immensity of the other figures submitted. But, expressed in Russian paper money values, the Soviet budget would be almost a quadrillion rubles, which passes the conception or imagination of humankind. So rapid had been the increase of the cost of living as expressed in the depreciated currency of present Russia, that it was multiplied by forty from September 1, 1921, to April 10, 1922. On the former date it was 6,308,425, on the basis of 100 as of 1913; on the other date it was 267,329,959 in all Russia outside of Moscow and Petrograd and 257,394,138 in all Russia including those cities.

**The Public Forum**

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by its correspondents.

**"Islander" Upbraided**

Sir—In replying to "Islander" in your issue of October 31st I beg to say he is breaking the speed laws in regard to respect for others. This is always characteristic of the man or woman who, whenever occasion arises, is ever ready to assail or vilify another under the protection of some deus ex machina. As "Islander's" letter has a visible personal tinge from beginning to end and also the disagreeable atmosphere of the dirty cow stable of which I wrote about in the Public Forum column of the Guardian some time ago, I have taken the pains of placing his rattle brained production in the hands of a character analyst, and as soon as I shall have a report thereon I will reply to his feeble attempt at upholding the dirty, covey stable, the shiftless farmer, and the young boys and young girls who come to our American cities to walk "the great white way" and be patrons of the "red light" districts.

I am, Sir, etc.  
**JOHN D. MCINTYRE.**  
 Boston, Nov. 4th, 1922.

**WE, TOO SHALL SLEEP**  
 (By Archibald Lampman)

No! not for thee,  
 Beloved child the burning grasp of life  
 Shall bruise thy tender soul. The  
 chise and strife  
 And clamour of mid-day thou shalt  
 not see;  
 But, wrapped forever in thy  
 quiet grave,  
 Too little to have known the  
 earthly lot,  
 Time's crashing hosts above thine  
 innocent head,  
 (Wave upon wave,  
 Shall break or pass as with an  
 army's tread,  
 And harm thee not.

A few short years  
 We of the living flesh and restless  
 brain  
 Shall plumb the depths of life and  
 know the strain,  
 The fleeting gleams of joy, the  
 fruitless tears;  
 And then, at last, when all is  
 touched and tried,  
 Our own immutable night shall  
 fall; and deep  
 In the same silent plot, O little  
 friend,  
 Side by thy side,  
 In peace that changeth not nor  
 knoweth end,  
 We too, shall sleep.

I am, Sir,  
**JAMES PENDERGAST,**  
 Kensington, P. E. I., Nov. 6th, 1922 Ask for Minard's and Take no Other

**JOHNSTON AND WARD**

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