

# THE Charlottetown Guardian

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 1ST, BEING NEW YEAR'S DAY, AND A STATUTORY PUBLIC HOLIDAY, THE MORNING GUARDIAN WILL NOT BE ISSUED ON MONDAY. THE EVENING GUARDIAN WILL NOT BE ISSUED ON SATURDAY, BUT WILL BE PUBLISHED AS USUAL ON MONDAY. ADVERTISERS PLEASE NOTE THESE CHANGES.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1915.

## STARTLING FIGURES

In Great Britain during the recruiting campaign for the present war one million men were rejected because of physical defects. The number is startling and has elicited a good deal of comment. Dr C. W. Saleeby, a noted British expert, attributes this state of affairs to the absence of medical inspection in schools. The defects were largely preventable, had they been discovered in childhood and the necessary steps taken to prevent their becoming a disease.

A Toronto exchange informs its readers that during the recruiting campaign in that city 40 per cent. of the volunteers were rejected, and it also attributes the condition to the fact that "during the school days of the men now fighting the Empire's battles the school administrators confined their efforts to teaching. Suggestions of dental clinic and medical inspection, also feeding poor pupils, were spurned. The result is that 40 per cent. of the school children were forced through school suffering from preventable defects."

When we realize the fact that because of neglect, because of the laxity and indifference of school administration Great Britain was robbed of an army of a million men, an army capable of turning the tide of battle, capable of satisfactorily settling the Balkan muddle, capable of smashing its way through the German trenches in the western theatre, the enormity of the cost of our neglect is apparent.

We do not know definitely the proportion of defectives in our province or, for that matter, in our sister provinces. We only know that, judging by the results in Toronto, where statistics were kept, the proportion is fearfully large and, that we are doing practically nothing to better the conditions. Time and again medical inspection of schools has been recommended, but the twentieth century bugbear—the cost—has intervened and we let our children go to school absolutely ignorant as to whether they are in a physical condition to study, absolutely ignorant as to whether their school work is preparing them for the grave, for the insane hospital or for usefulness in the world.

In a recent issue of the Guardian we referred to the prudent and costly care we bestow upon our animals as contrasted with the go-as-you-please and cheaper care we give our children, and to-day we find that our British Empire has on its hands enough physical defectives to have turned the catastrophes and the regrettable incidents of the war into glorious victories had they been given the care in childhood that we give our cattle.

Medical inspection in schools, more intelligent care of our children, stringent legal measures to prevent the reproduction of the mentally and physically unfit are steps that must be taken and taken at once if we are to be saved from decadence. The war with its call for physically fit men; our insane hospitals peopled with lineal descendants of former patients; our jails similarly peopled are symptoms which we cannot longer afford to ignore. Most of our physical defects are preventable, most of our mental defects are preventable.

## TEACHERS' MAGAZINE

The first number of the Teachers' Magazine, issued by, and in the interests of, the teachers of Prince Edward Island, has been received. Mechanically the magazine is neat, well printed on good paper and of convenient size. Editorially it is creditable to the management, while the contributions from teachers and inspectors are interesting, timely and helpful, not only to the profession, but to the public.

The Teachers' Magazine is, to quote from its leading article, designed to provide the teachers with a "medium whereby they might exchange views on the many complex questions in teaching," and in pursuance of this design it is divided into departments: Methods of Teaching, edited by Mr Leo Nelligan; Rural Science, edited by Prof. S. B. McCready; English, edited by Prof. G. D. Steele, M.A.; Mathematics, edited by Mr S. K. Donald; Short Stories, edited by Miss Cordelia Munn; Inspectors' Department, edited by Inspector Boulter, and a humorous department, edited by Mr D. F. Tierney.

For an initial number and considering the difficulties to be met and overcome in any new venture, the

magazine is a distinct credit to those responsible for its issue. We trust that not only the teachers but the public at large, who should be equally interested with them in the undertaking, will extend to the new venture their patronage and their assistance. The Teachers' Magazine should be not only a medium whereby the teachers may exchange views, but one also whereby the parents and the homes may be kept informed as to what is going on in the schools.

It should not be forgotten in any undertaking for the benefit of the schools that the process of education must include the parents as well as the pupils. Some of the parents require to be taught many things with regard to the education of their children; others require to be brought into closer relation to the school; the homes and the schools must be brought nearer to each other. The Teachers' Magazine aims at this closer union and the parents throughout the province will be doing much for themselves and their children when they give the magazine every possible encouragement. We wish the venture every success.

## U. S. AND AUSTRIA

The Brooklyn Eagle believes it will not be long before there is a settlement of the question whether there is to be a continuance of good relations between the United States and the Dual Empire. The full text of Secretary Lansing's second note says of the sinking of the Ancon that the admission of the Austro-Hungarian Admiralty alone is sufficient to fix upon the commander of the submarine the responsibility for having willfully violated the recognized law of nations, and entirely disregarded those humane principles which every belligerent should observe in the conduct of war at sea.

There is, therefore, nothing to debate. The Secretary submits that in view of the admission, the weight and character of additional testimony corroborating the Admiralty's report, and the number of Americans killed or injured are in no way essential matters of discussion. He declares that this country finds no other course open to it but to hold the Imperial and Royal Government responsible for the act of the commander, and to renew the demands already made. Of these demands, he hopes that Vienna will perceive the justice.

All the terms used are those of absolute simplicity, but no loopholes are left. The net effect of the supplementary note is to limit Vienna to one of two courses. The Minister of Foreign Affairs must choose between compliance and a severance of relationship. He may, of course, repeat that the American interpretation of the principles of international law does not conform to his own, but there is not the remotest possibility that Secretary Lansing will be drawn into any such discussion.

There is a precedent for the course the Imperial and Royal Government is asked to pursue. It is almost covered by the statement that whereas Von Tirpitz was once greatly glorified, he is now in almost absolute obscurity. He, also, espoused the cause of a certain submarine commander. He also justified murder on the high seas. He condoned, if he did not commend, and he is heard of no more. It is that sort of history, says the Eagle, this country insists shall be repeated. More than that, it demands not only disavowal, not only repudiation and reparation, but punishment. There is a point at which analogy ceases.

Continuing the Brooklyn Eagle says: Of one other point sight should not be lost. The commander of the submarine by which the Lusitania was sent to the bottom might well have supposed that the leviathan would have floated longer, no matter how vital the spot torpedoed. Of the commander of the Austro-Hungarian submarine, nothing of the kind can be said. He was ravenous enough to recall: "Murder most foul as in the best it is, but this most strange, foul and unnatural." It should not be difficult to disown such a rara avis. It should be difficult to find in what he did anything any country would not prefer to forget—if possible.

In short, compliance will be creditable to those who acquiesce. It will add to rather than impair prestige. It will give notice to the civilized world that a nation reputed to be civilized does not regard everything as fair in war, including the cold-blooded murder of men, women and children, seeking to escape death by drowning. The case of this country can have no firmer foundation. It is the solid rock of humanity upon which that case stands. The Austro-Hungarian Admiralty sought to give a certificate of high character to a butcher. It should have ordered him to hide his diminished head in shame.

The world will regard with interest the action Austria will take on the announcement of a case that has now gone too far not to be settled definitely.

## NOTES

Canadian hay has been added to the list of Canadian products upon which the Allies are to have first call. Every little while the Canadian Government finds a new way of helping to fight Germany, and uses it.

The financial statement of the Dominion shows that, apart from the war account, the revenues are going up and the expenditures are going down. Puzzle: Find a Grit newspaper willing to admit that some credit is due to the Government for this result.

If Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux has been reported correctly he told an audience in Toronto that in the naval debate duplicity won and Canada lost. This is a confession which comes at a late hour, but which indicates Mr Lemieux's final realization of the shameful part played by him and his political associates on the occasion of the naval debate. But when he describes the Opposition performance as duplicity he uses far too mild a word. There is another that would suit the case better.

## LOCAL OPTION

Sir:—The good effects of Local Option in Canada are so wonderful that if they were thoroughly understood people would rise in a great wave of rebellion against the enormous burden of the liquor traffic. We don't need to depend on any man's say or the statement of persons who might be prejudiced. The last census report 1912 gives facts that would convince any one whose mind is open to conviction.

That report gives the following number of convictions for crime per thousand population in each Province. Prince Edward Island, 1.1; New Brunswick, 3.8; Nova Scotia, 14.8; Ontario, 25.5; Manitoba, 27.9; Alberta, 40.6; British Columbia, 42.3. These figures show that Alberta and British Columbia which had no local option had nearly forty times as much crime as Prince Edward Island which had no license and over eleven times as much crime as New Brunswick, our next driest Province. More notable still is the fact that the number of convictions for crime in each province are in almost exactly inverse proportion to the amount of Local Option. The more Local Option the less crime, the less Local Option the more crime. Finally they prove conclusively that the cause of nearly all the crime is drink.

These are startling facts but there are many others which show what fools and blind we have been to submit to be bossed by this tyrant that defies all governments and has shown its willingness to sell the Country to the Germans rather than give up their gains.

Few seem to understand the immense burden of taxation that is imposed on us by this brutal business. It has recently been shown that the taxes collected in the nine wettest States are more than twice as high as in the eight prohibition States. Think of it, sixty per cent. of the taxes going to produce more poverty and crime. Suppose we say that in Canada it is only half of that, why do we submit to it? In 1912 it was shown that the liquor traffic cost the country nine times as much as the revenue received from the business and although they had been freely published no one has attempted to deny the figures. In several places it has been shown that the criminals, paupers, and orphans caused by the liquor traffic cost five times as much as the revenue received from the business.

We must respectfully urge that active measures be taken without delay to spread the truth and so counteract the flood of falsehoods being spread by the liquor traffic. What about a Lincoln-Lee Poster Campaign?

I am Sir, etc.

H. ARNOTT, M.B., M.C.P.S.

## RELIEF MONEY IS SPENT IN CANADA

Cash Donations Made to Committee "Fight Their Way Back Into Canadian Pockets"

There was never a more apt application of the old saying, "East they breed upon the waters, and West shall return unto them," than the relief money given to the Belgian Relief Committee which is now being spent in Canada.

First, it is literally bread that is wanted in Belgium. Bread that every one wastes so much of each day. Of bread cannot be sent from Canada because the wheat there is the two things that the Belgian Relief Committee wishes most. If money is received by the committee (and many donations of \$2.50, the price of one bag of flour, are expected) this money is spent in Canada, returning to those who have given it. The money given to the Belgian Relief Committee is money spent in Canada but at the same time it is more than that—it is one or more lives saved as a part of the payment of Canada's debt to this little nation.

## SMALL COST OF BELGIUM'S RELIEF DISTRIBUTION

From Oct. 22, 1914 to March 6, 1915, the cost of distributing relief to the extent of \$15,000,000 from London to the Belgian branches of the Belgian Relief Committee was approximately \$25,000, an incredibly small sum when the volume of work is considered.

## PRaise FOR ISLAND OATS AND SOLDIERS

Mr. John Driscoll of Cape Traverse has received the following letter from France:

Headquarter Staff  
Dear Sir:—No doubt you will be surprised to hear from me, but on opening a sack of oats, somewhere in France I came across a few lines signed by you. Besides thanking you for a few words in connection of the fine Canadian troops we have over here with us, and everyone of you should be proud of them, as we are. They are the finest lot of ideal soldiers I should think ever got together and they are not simply toys. For when it comes to fighting, they are made of the finest stuff and they are as brave as the wind. I am, Sir, your devoted friend,  
I will close with best wishes for the further success of your troops, also the Allies.  
Yours etc.

## ONE OF THE KHAKI BOYS.

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. Louison.

## COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS.

For morning and the hopes of day;  
For hours to work and hours to play;  
For courage and contentment here;  
For Trust to strengthen, Joy to cheer—  
We praise Thee, Lord.

For evening and the duties done;  
For every strife and contention won;  
For hours to dream and hours to rest;  
For all Thy love made manifest—  
We bless Thee, Lord.

For home and those who love us there  
For friends and kindred everywhere;  
For life and for the life to be,  
Eternal fellowship with Thee—  
We thank Thee, Lord.  
FRANK DEMPSTER SHERMAN.

## LIBERALS AND AN ELECTION

### LAURIER'S EVASIVE REPLIES TO PREMIER

### SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

OTAWA, Dec. 27.—For the past year the Liberal leaders and the Liberal press have been bitterly opposing and denouncing any idea of an election while the war is still in progress.

Now that the life of the present parliament is drawing to a close and what will naturally be the last session, Sir Wilfrid Laurier is apparently refusing to agree to an extension of the life of parliament. With a view to settlement of the question and to eliminate all danger of a new election, Sir Robert Borden made proposals to Sir Wilfrid. Negotiations between the two leaders have been in progress for some time. The replies of Sir Wilfrid to the fair and direct proposals of the Prime Minister have been evasive in the extreme and all hope of a settlement has been abandoned for the present and the House will meet with no agreement reached. A bill will then likely be introduced for an extension of parliament. If the Liberals still object or the Liberal majority in the Senate kills the bill, then there is but one thing for the government to do, appeal to the people, which they will do with every confidence of an overwhelming support.

### The Two Proposals

The negotiations between the leaders have been misrepresented, apparently deliberately, by the Liberal press. Sir Robert Borden made two proposals. One was that Parliament should be extended for one year beyond the conclusion of the war, and the other was that Parliament should be extended for a year, that would be a year from October 7th, 1916, when the life of the present Parliament naturally runs out. Both proposals were moderate. Sir Wilfrid has directly rejected the one proposal, and has equivocated miserably on the other.

In view of the speeches of Sir Wilfrid and many of his followers, some quite recently, opposing an appeal while the war is on, and the strong statements made by every section of the Liberal press last spring against "the crime" of an election while hostilities are still in progress, it is difficult to understand how the Liberals can have the audacity to oppose the measure the Government has already proposed to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, which it will introduce in the House.

### Preparing For Election

While Hon. Geo. F. Graham and Hon. J. H. Brown, the two sections of the Liberal press, are still denying any idea of content, and intimating that they will not oppose an extension of Parliament, the Government cannot overlook the fact that the political managers of the party are boasting that the present Parliament will be its last, that the Liberal press campaign at Ottawa has not been so active since the war commenced, and that orders for party literature have recently been given on a most extensive scale. The annual subscription price of the official Laurier party sheet has just been reduced from \$1.25 cents per year, and 100,000 copies of its latest issue has been ordered from the printer for widespread circulation.

## THE PRIME MINISTER AND MACHINE GUNS

After the very definite, almost emphatic statement of the Prime Minister, at St. John, N. B., on October 20th no further money should be diverted from the Liberal press campaign at Ottawa but rather thoughtfully Canadian Forces is insufficient. Sir Robert has made it very plain that the Government is fully prepared to make every necessary provision for guns, munitions and equipments and he appeals to the generosity of the public on behalf of the Canadian Patriotic Fund, the Red Cross Society and sister associations. We quote below an extract from the speech in question:

"Regarding machine guns, we realized early in the War the necessity of an abundant supply, and orders have been given from time to time for a very large number. Those ordered during the first twelve months of the War are now being rapidly delivered, and they are more than sufficient to equip two full army corps up to the highest standard of the enemy's forces. During the past summer the provision of machine guns became a matter of vital interest to the Canadian people, as reports through the press emphasized the necessity that our forces should be adequately supplied with all the machine guns that could be utilized. Patriotic individuals offered to contribute large sums for the distinctive purpose. The Government of Ontario made a grant of \$100,000 for the purchase of machine guns, and the country subscribed to funds for this object. During my absence in Great Britain my colleagues endeavored to make it clear to the people that an ample supply of machine guns had been ordered and that the cost would be paid out of the Canadian Treasury. The Treasury of Canada ought properly to bear all the cost of equipping and maintaining our forces in the field, and that has been our policy. Nevertheless, the

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## Wish Everybody

### Happy New Year



## To all our Policy-holders and Friends we extend Best Wishes for the New Year.

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spirit and impulse which prompted our people could not be stayed, and indeed any attempt to stay it would have been misunderstood. Up to date the sums thus received by the Government amount to \$773,327.95.

"In dealing with other needs which will certainly arise, the Government will not fail to remember that these generous and free-will contributions have been made, and in all your splendid generosity do not forget the Patriotic Fund and the Canadian Red Cross Society. They have done a great work, but they have a still greater work to do. Appeals which answered, will not fall on deaf ears; must be made in the early future. See that the response is generous and ample. When you are making provision for the Canadian Patriotic Fund, the Canadian Red Cross Society, the Canadian War Contingent Association and other like patriotic organizations, you may be assured that the Government will not fail to make every necessary provision for guns, munitions and equipments."

## For That Cold Room



### ISLANDER ENLISTED IN VANCOUVER

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Yeo, and family, Kingston have received interesting letters from their son and brother Private George Elmer Yeo, No. 428606, Machine Gun Section 47th Battalion, Bramshott Camp Hants, Eng. Writing to his sisters Private Yeo tells of his trip over to England from Vancouver where he enlisted and the pleasure he had in receiving their letters from home. His general news is nicely covered in his letter to his mother herewith:—

Nov. 24th,  
Bramshott Camp,  
Hants,  
Eng.

Dear Mother:—I have arrived in Old England and it was some long trip from Vancouver to here. We had a pretty good trip as it wasn't very rough coming across the Atlantic. We were all excited and waiting for our escort when we struck the danger zone and when we finally did see two boats coming we didn't know whether they were enemy or friends till they came up pretty close. As soon as we saw they were British torpedo boats we certainly were pleased. They took up positions one on each side and escorted us right into Plymouth Harbour. We took the train there and proceeded to Liphook, and got off there and marched about three miles into Bramshott Camp. Well mother this is some Military Camp, there are about thirteen thousand men here. There is a battalion here from P. E. Island and I didn't see any one that I knew but I sure please to meet some of the P. E. boys. There are boys from all over Canada in fact the whole bunch here is all from Canada. Well mother we will be here three or four months training and then we will go over to France and see how many big Germans I can kill and if I am good at dodging bullets I will be all right, but we have to take chances once in a while.

Well this is some quaint old place,

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